



United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

**Report on the fifty-fourth session
(19-23 April 2021)**

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UNEDITED ADVANCE VERSION

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Commission on Population and Development

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

The fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held in a hybrid format at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 April 2021. Its special theme was “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Burkinabè Abroad, Burkina Faso, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit.

Informal consultations were led by two Vice-Chairs of the Bureau, Cristina Popescu (Romania) and Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon). The co-facilitators convened informal consultations on draft proposals from 29 March to 19 April 2021. On 23 April 2021, the Commission adopted by consensus the draft resolution on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5). The resolution reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); expressed concern about rising levels of hunger and high levels of malnutrition; emphasized that the promotion of sustainable food systems and agricultural production are key elements for the eradication of poverty; recognized the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production; called for equal access of women to land and natural resources; expressed concern about the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on, inter alia, access to sexual and reproductive health services; called for greater efforts to transform food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient; urged Member States to take actions at the national and local levels that aim at enabling access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food and healthy diets for all, including those living in vulnerable situations; encouraged efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes; called upon the international community to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; and emphasized the importance of reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data for the review of and follow-up to the ICPD and for reviewing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Commission also agreed that the theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission would be population, education and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.4). Further, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session in 2022 (E/CN.9/2021/L.2) as well as the draft report on its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/L.3).

During the session, the Commission considered four reports of the Secretary-General.

The report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/2), prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), contains a review of global trends in food security and nutrition. In the report, it is stressed that, while enough food is produced globally to feed the current population, the world is not on track to eliminate hunger by 2030 owing to inequities in distribution and access. After more than a decade of progress, the number of undernourished persons worldwide has increased in recent years, a trend expected to be exacerbated by impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world is also not on track to meet nutrition-related targets of the SDGs, despite some progress in reducing childhood stunting and

promoting exclusive breastfeeding: some forms of malnutrition continue to worsen, including micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity. Moreover, the current global food system is environmentally unsustainable, with major impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and climate. Population growth and rising incomes will be important drivers of increased food consumption in many countries. The report notes that population patterns and trends cut across all five action tracks of the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit: access to safe and nutritious food, sustainable consumption patterns, nature-positive production, equitable livelihoods, and resilience. The report recommends, inter alia, adopting and strengthening policies, including incentives, regulations and dietary guidelines, to encourage people to adopt healthy diets based on food that can be produced sustainably. As policies to make food systems more sustainable may lead to higher food prices, Governments should supplement incomes among the poor.

The report of the Secretary-General on review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/3](#)), prepared by UNFPA, found that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food security worldwide and will likely reverse recent global progress towards ending hunger by 2030. By increasing poverty, disrupting public health and school feeding programmes and undermining major nutrition programmes such as food fortification, the pandemic is projected to increase the number of people enduring all forms of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and issues of obesity and overweight. Substantial consequences related to human health and suffering are expected, including a worsening of maternal and child nutrition, which have lifelong consequences for learning, productivity and well-being. Many innovative programmes to sustain food security and nutrition under COVID-19 hold promise but do not yet operate at scale. New solutions are needed but should not eclipse well-proven and highly cost-effective programmes that were already underfunded before the COVID-19 pandemic, including sexual and reproductive health programmes; maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition programmes; food targeted at school-age children; food fortification; and incentives for sustainable agriculture.

The report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/4](#)), prepared by UNFPA, provides information on the latest trends in official development assistance (ODA) in areas of central importance to the ICPD Programme of Action, including sexual and reproductive health, which covers reproductive health, family planning and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV as well as the collection of population data and the analysis of population policies. The data that were available at the time of preparation of the report pertain to the year 2019 at the aggregate level and 2018 at the project level. However, initial research suggests that, in 2020, the distribution of ODA changed significantly owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout and that there was a risk that ODA would decline overall in 2021 and beyond. In 2018, gross ODA disbursements for the costed components of the Programme of Action amounted to \$10.1 billion. Converted into United States dollars per woman of reproductive age in the developing world, that amounted to \$6.07, slightly less than in 2017. With regard to ODA for food security, nutrition and the development of the primary sector, which comprises agriculture, fishing and forestry, the largest share of ODA was spent on policy and governance. A relatively small share was spent on actual support for agricultural production and efforts to boost agricultural output to ensure food security.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020 (E/CN.9/2021/5), prepared by the Population Division, contains a review of the progress made by the Division in implementing its programme of work. The report covers the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support provided to intergovernmental processes, including through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings, the contribution to interagency initiatives, and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

On Monday, 19 April, Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan and Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, delivered the keynote address. In her statement, the Queen Mother said that global initiatives aimed at advancing women's rights to promote their social and economic development had yielded significant results in the last 25 years. However, too many women and girls around the world were still marginalized, living at or below the poverty line, with little control over their reproductive health and choices. COVID-19 had deepened and perpetuated inequalities and vulnerabilities for women and girls, and also highlighted gaps in policies and systems. Gender-based violence had risen, health-care systems had failed to provide reliable maternal and neonatal services, and women faced increased domestic work, as well as job losses and food scarcity. She called for the international community to move beyond counting, quantification and assessments and to develop courageous initiatives and innovative actions to promote women's rights. She recalled that the momentum generated by the 1994 ICPD deeply influenced the course of development in Bhutan. The country's commitment to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and advance the rights and choices for women and girls brought about significant changes and visible impacts. Still, the country's young people face several challenges, including unmet needs for modern contraception and low levels of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS among adolescents. The Commission's focus on food security and nutrition came at a critical time, as the COVID-19 pandemic was having a profound impact on health-care systems, food security and gender equality. She stressed that it was imperative to ensure that vaccines were recognized as global public goods, and that they were made equitably and fairly accessible to all countries.

Also on 19 April, an interactive expert panel discussed the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for agenda item 3. The panel was moderated by [f] Vice-Chair Mayra Lisseth Sorto (Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations), and included the following experts: [f] Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN DESA, Cheryl Sawyer; [m] Senior Economist, FAO, Lorenzo Bellu; [m] Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, Sandile Simelane; [f] Director of School-based Programmes, World Food Programme (WFP), Carmen Burbano; [m] Senior Adviser, UNFPA, Michael Herrmann. Panellists noted that population size and distribution were important drivers of the demand for food. Further, unhealthy diets were creating health burdens across the world and inadequate nutrition and anaemia were contributing to worsening development outcomes. Food production was taking a heavy toll on the environment, exacerbated by the large amount of food waste worldwide. Pandemic-related disruptions of food systems were reversing progress towards erasing hunger by 2030 and providing a stark reminder of the vast inequality that exists around the world, especially for people affected by humanitarian crises and other vulnerable groups. The

COVID-19 pandemic had reduced access to school-based nutrition programmes for hundreds of millions of children. The impact of school closures was particularly dire for girls, who were vulnerable to early marriage, adolescent pregnancy and abuse. Nutrition programmes for pregnant women and infants, already underfunded before the pandemic, were also impacted. Looking towards the future, producing enough food to meet the needs of an increasing population while using fewer resources would require an approach combining scientific progress with indigenous knowledge. It was recommended that Governments ensure universal access to high quality social services that allow vulnerable populations to obtain the human capital required to raise their earning potential, including by ensuring that women, young people and older persons have access to land, capital, training, services and technologies. International aid flows were insufficient, both for population-related programmes and for interventions that had direct positive impacts on small farms.

On Tuesday, 20 April, a high-level panel on the road towards the Food Systems Summit was held, followed by interactive debate. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany, [m] Joachim von Braun and consisted of the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), [f] Ligia Noronha; the Chief Economist, FAO, [m] Maximo Torero Cullen; the Director of Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), [f] Jyotsna Puri; the Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063, [m] Ousmane Badiane; the Executive Director of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, [m] Lawrence Haddad; and the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thought for Food, [f] Christine Gould. The panellists discussed links between population trends and policies, food systems, nutrition and sustainable development and outlined innovative approaches to transform global food systems — assuring that an end to hunger can be within reach. The experts discussed the main impacts of current food systems on nature and climate and how they limit the ability to achieve the SDGs by 2030. They addressed proposals to transform food systems — through science, technology and youth-led initiatives — in order to end hunger and improve the well-being of vulnerable populations. The experts stressed the crucial role of (a) reducing inequality to ensure everyone can eat healthy diets and move out of poverty, (b) upholding human rights, creating jobs and ensuring equity across the value chain, (c) developing skills to address all aspects of food system transformation, (d) working together to defragment efforts to transform food systems, (e) increasing the resilience of food systems by focusing on the needs of small-scale farmers, and (f) bridging the digital divide by increasing access to digital tools for young people. During the interactive discussion, attention was brought to the relevance of proper maternal and early-childhood nutrition. Global leaders were called on to provide youth with a platform for change and to invest in health-care systems affected by the pandemic. It was noted that access to good nutrition for newborns must become a priority and that breastfeeding played a central role in ensuring proper nutrition. The role and contribution of young people and activists in efforts to transform food systems was highlighted.

On Wednesday, 21 April, the Commission hosted a multi-stakeholder panel on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, followed by interactive debate. The panel was moderated by Director General of the European Public Health Alliance, [f] Milka Sokolović, and consisted of [f] Associate Professor of Food Systems for Healthier Diets at the Division of Human Nutrition and Health, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, Inge D. Brouwer; the [f] Head of the Unit for Multisectoral Actions in Food Systems at the World Health Organization (WHO), Luz Maria De-Regil; [f] a Nutritionist at Feed the Children in Kenya and Youth Leader for Nutrition in the Civil Society Network of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Jane

Napais Lankisa; [f] Senior Researcher and former Director at the Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University in Thailand, Emorn Udomkesmalee; and [m] Professor of Ecosystem Management in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Rami Zurayk. Panellists discussed obstacles to food security and sustainable food systems. The topics addressed included the changing nature of the food systems; maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition; the autonomy of women and girls and its relation to food security; and the impacts of climate change, armed conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic on food security for affected people. The speakers noted that access to healthy and nutritious foods is often more difficult for low-income and marginalized households, and that the pandemic has worsened food insecurity and malnutrition, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups. The panellists highlighted the need for a holistic, multi-sectoral approach for achieving food security and sustainable food systems. They pointed to the importance of women's empowerment, youth participation, and engagement of the private sector in finding solutions to feeding the world's population. The panellists emphasized the need for a humane and rights-based approach to strengthening food systems. They also emphasized that policies and programmes need to be context-sensitive and based on appropriately disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. During the interactive discussion, delegations noted the need for a whole-of-society approach to address the numerous challenges related to hunger and malnutrition and to deliver safe, nutritious diets. They discussed how best to adapt agricultural production to achieve sustainability and stressed the importance of local factors affecting food availability and access, including climate. Participants noted the double challenge of undernourishment and hunger on one hand, together with rising levels of obesity and unhealthy diets on the other hand. The role of faith-based organizations in improving food security and nutrition was stressed.

On Thursday, 22 April, the Commission heard an expert panel on the programme of work in population, followed by an interactive debate. Panelists were national technical experts: [f] Senior Researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) and co-head of its research team "Demography of the Global South", Géraldine Duthé; [f] the Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of Japan, Reiko Hayashi; [f] the Head of the National Population Council of Mexico, Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez; and [m] the Head (Chief Director) of the National Population Unit of the government of South Africa, Jacques van Zuydam. The panel was moderated by the [m] Director of the Population Division of UN DESA, John Wilmoth. Panellists noted key population challenges in their countries, including changing population age structures and the varied challenges for countries at different stages of the demographic transition; challenges in ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health care for all, including adolescents; and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists commended the achievements of the Population Division and expressed their support for a further strengthening of the analytical and dissemination activities of the Division. The experts acknowledged the challenges of reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in estimates and projections of fertility, mortality, migration and the total population. Experts emphasized the contribution of the analytical work of the Division on population ageing and suggested creative ways that the Division could enhance its support to Governments concerning population policies. In the interactive discussion, delegations called for subnational disaggregation of data, as well as increased emphasis on investment in youth and on helping countries track and respond to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One speaker encouraged the Division to expand its consideration of data from new and alternative sources and to strengthen linkages to organizations providing such data.

In their statements during the general debate, delegations underscored their commitment to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They pointed to the relevance of this year's theme for the upcoming Food Systems Summit and the High-level Political Forum. Several statements also pointed to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress towards implementing the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda – in particular towards achieving Goals and targets related to poverty, hunger, health, education and gender equality. To address the impacts of the pandemic, delegations mentioned actions including emergency food aid, food vouchers, measures to protect women against domestic violence, financial support to the most impacted families, and support for improved access to maternal, child and reproductive health-care services, among others. They also emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making, the continuing relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action, and the role of the Commission on Population and Development in assessing the implementation of the Cairo agenda as well as the 2030 Agenda.

Some 239 representatives of 96 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Economic and Social Council registered to attend the annual session. A total of 27 written statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted well in advance and became documents of the session. In addition, 18 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor. During the general debate, NGOs called on the Commission to come to consensus around a resolution on this year's special theme, and on Member States to ensure equitable access to healthy diets and nutritious foods, and to quality and inclusive education for all, and they advocated for the integration of nutrition into services for family planning and reproductive health. NGOs were also consulted during the informal consultations on the draft resolution.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fourth session;¹

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.²
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session

3. General debate:

- (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
- (b) Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 5 (E/2021/25).*

² In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its fifty-fourth session, held the first meeting of its fifty-fifth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

on Population and Development in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs³

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decision were adopted by the Commission and are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2021/1

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

[insert text of the resolution contained in document E/CN.9/2021/L.5]

Decision 2021/101

Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for its fifty-sixth session, in 2023, shall be “Population, education and sustainable development”.

³ The preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2022 is scheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2021.

Chapter II

General debate:

(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

(b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

3. The Commission considered sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 at its 2nd meeting on 23 April, and convened six virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion as well as three interactive panel discussions, comprising one high-level panel, one multi-stakeholder panel and one expert panel, under agenda item 3 (a) and (b). The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/4](#)).

4. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.⁴

Action taken by the Commission

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2021/1).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of [f] France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), [m] Brazil, [f] Colombia, [m] the Russian Federation, [m] the United States of America, [f] Mexico, [f] Israel and [f] Turkey, as well as by the observers of [m] Egypt, [f] the Syrian Arab Republic, [f] Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), [f] the United

⁴ [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/1](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/2](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/3](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/4](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/5](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/7](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/8](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/9](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/10](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/11](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/12](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/13](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/14](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/15](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/16](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/17](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/18](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/19](#) and [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/20](#).

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, [f] Hungary, [f] Guatemala, [m] Iraq, [f] Qatar, [f] Nicaragua, [f] Morocco, and [f] the Philippines

7. The observer of [m] the Holy See also made a statement.

Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

8. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2021/101).

Chapter III

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

9. The Commission convened one virtual informal meeting to hold one expert panel, followed by an interactive discussion, under agenda item 4. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2021/5](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2](#)).

Chapter IV

Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development

10. The Commission convened one virtual informal meeting to hold a general discussion on item 5 of its agenda. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in annex II to the present report. It had before it the following document:

Note by the Secretariat on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.1](#)).

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Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2021, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in 2022 ([E/CN.9/2021/L.2](#)).
12. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fifth session (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2021, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Damla Fidan (Turkey), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session, as contained in document [E/CN.9/2021/L.3](#).

14. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its finalization in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter V

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

15. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 April 2021. The Commission held two meetings (1st and 2nd).

16. The Commission, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 19 April 2021, and taking into account the impact of the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements for its fifty-fourth session and the available technological and procedural solutions for the interim period, also convened seven virtual informal meetings. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report.

17. At the 1st meeting, on 19 April, the [m] Chair (Burkina Faso), opened the regular session.

18. At the same meeting, the [f] Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Burkina Abroad of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Alpha Barry; the [f] Executive Director of UNFPA; the [m] Director-General of FAO; the [m] President of IFAD; the [m] Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN DESA; and the [f] Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, made statements.

19. Also at the same meeting, a keynote address was made by the Queen Mother of Bhutan, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador and recipient of the 2020 United Nations Population Award, Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck.

B. Attendance

20. The session was attended by representatives of 36 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, and representatives of United Nations system organizations and of non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be available in document [E/CN.9/2021/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

21. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, the Commission concluded the election of the following under silence procedure, as confirmed in a letter dated 17 July 2020 from the Chair of the Commission at its fifty-third session, with effect from 17 July 2020: Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso) as Chair, and Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon) and Damla Fidan (Turkey) as Vice-Chairs. In the same letter, the Chair indicated that the election of the members of the Bureau from Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States would be postponed, on the understanding that, upon nomination, the candidates would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the fifty-fourth session.

22. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 2021, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Cristina Popescu (Romania) and Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador) as Vice-

Chairs. The Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session was thus composed as follows:

Chair

Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso)

Vice-Chairs

Damla Fidan (Turkey)

Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon)

Cristina Popescu (Romania)

Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador)

23. At the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Damla Fidan (Turkey), to serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda

24. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 2021, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2021/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate:
 - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
 - (b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2021/L.1).

E. Documentation

26. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fourth session is contained in annex I to the present report and available on the website of the Population Division (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD54>).

Annex 1

List of documents before the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-fourth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
E/CN.5/2021/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.9/2021/2	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/4	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/5	4	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2	4	Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs
E/CN.9/2021/CRP.1	5	Note by the Secretariat on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/L.1	2	Organization of work of the session
E/CN.9/2021/L.2	6	Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2021/L.3	7	Draft report of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session
E/CN.9/2021/L.4	3 (a)	Draft decision on the special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/L.5	3 (b)	Draft resolution on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/NGO/1-20	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Annex 2

Virtual informal meetings to hold the general discussion, as well as three panel discussions followed by interactive dialogues, under agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b)

1. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 19 April 2021, following a statement by the [m] Chair (Burkina Faso), the expert panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by Vice-Chair and Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations, Mayra Lisseth Sorto, who also made a statement.
2. At the same meeting, the following panelists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: [f] Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN DESA, Cheryl Sawyer; [m] Senior Economist, FAO, Lorenzo Bellu; [m] Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, Sandile Simelane; [f] Director of School-based Programmes, WFP, Carmen Burbano; [m] Senior Adviser, UNFPA, Michael Herrmann.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Commission commenced its general discussion on agenda item 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of [m] Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic Countries), [m] Turkey, [m] India and [m] Zambia.
4. At the same meeting on 19 April, statements were also made in the general discussion by the observers for [m] Finland (on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Cabo Verde, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uruguay), [m] Congo (on behalf of the Group of African States), [f] Mongolia, [f] Peru, [m] Kenya and [f] South Africa.
5. At the virtual informal meeting on the morning of 20 April 2021, the Commission held a high-level panel on the road towards the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, which was chaired by the [f] Vice-Chair (Turkey), who made a statement.
6. The high-level panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by the Director of the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany, [m] Joachim von Braun, who made a statement.
7. The following panelists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: the Assistant Secretary-General of UNEP, [f] Ligia Noronha; the Chief Economist of FAO, [m] Maximo Torero Cullen; the Director of Environment, Climate, Gender and

Social Inclusion Division of IFAD, [f] Jyotsna Puri; the Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063, [m] Ousmane Badiane; the Executive Director of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, [m] Lawrence Haddad; and the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thought for Food, [f] Christine Gould.

8. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: [m] ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together; [f] the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; and [f] the Women's Health and Education Center.
9. Following, at the same meeting on the morning of 20 April 2021, the Commission continued its general discussion under agenda item 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of [f] Mexico and [m] El Salvador, as well as by the observers for [m] the Philippines, [m] the Republic of Moldova and [m] Uganda.
10. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission on the afternoon of 20 April 2021, chaired by the [f] Vice-Chair (Turkey), the Commission continued its general discussion of agenda item 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of [m] Colombia, [m] China, [f] the Netherlands, [m] Brazil, [f] Lebanon, [m] Luxembourg, [m] Israel, [m] Nepal, [m] the Russian Federation, [f] Belarus and [f] Bulgaria.
11. At the same meeting, statements in the general discussion were also made by the observers for [m] Indonesia, [f] Ecuador, [m] Nicaragua, [m] Algeria, [f] Bhutan, [f] Afghanistan, [m] Cabo Verde, [m] Morocco, [m] Chile, [m] Australia, [m] Thailand, and [m] Pakistan.
12. At the virtual informal meeting on the morning of 21 April 2021, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder panel on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, which was chaired by the [f] Vice-Chair (Romania), who made a statement.
13. The multi-stakeholder panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by the Director General of the European Public Health Alliance, [f] Milka Sokolović, who made a statement.
14. At the same meeting, the following panelists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: [f] Associate Professor of Food Systems for Healthier Diets at the Division of Human Nutrition and Health, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, Inge D. Brouwer; the [f] Head of the Unit for Multisectoral Actions in Food Systems of WHO, Luz Maria De-Regil; [f] a Nutritionist at Feed the Children in Kenya and Youth Leader for Nutrition in the Civil Society Network of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Jane Napais Lankisa; [f] Senior Researcher and former Director at the Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, Emorn Udomkesmalee; and [m] Professor of Ecosystem Management in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Rami Zurayk.
15. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of [m] Luxembourg and [f] Japan, as well as by the observers of the [f] the Philippines and [m] Morocco.
16. At the same meeting on the morning of 21 April 2021, statements in the interactive discussion were also made by the representatives of the following non-

governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: [f] Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) and the [f] Anglican Consultative Council.

17. Following, also at the meeting, the Commission continued its general discussion under agenda item 3 (a) and (b), and heard statements made by the representatives of [m] Malaysia, the [f] the United States of America and [f] Bangladesh, as well as the observers of the [m] the Gambia, [m] Costa Rica, [f] Paraguay and [f] Canada.
18. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission on the afternoon of 21 April 2021, chaired by the [f] Vice-Chair (El Salvador), the Commission continued its general discussion under agenda item 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of [m] Côte d'Ivoire, [m] the Islamic Republic of Iran, [m] Libya, [m] Belgium, [f] Turkmenistan, [m] Argentina, [m] Japan and [m] Haiti.
19. At the same meeting, statements in the general discussion were also made by the observers for [f] the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, [f] Ghana, [f] Sri Lanka, [f] Suriname, [m] Egypt, [m] Nigeria and [m] Malawi, as well as by the observers for of [m] Holy See and [f] the League of Arab States.
20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: [m] the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), [f] Irene Menakaya School, Onitsha, [f] the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants (CICIAMS), [f] the Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam), [f] the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), [m] World Youth Alliance, and [f] ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together.
21. At the virtual informal meeting on the morning of 22 April 2021, chaired by the [m] Vice-Chair (Lebanon), the Commission continued its general discussion under agenda item 3 (a) and (b) and heard a statement made by the representative of [m] the International Organization for Migration.
22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: [f] FEMM Foundation; [f] International Planned Parenthood Federation; [m] Franciscans International; [f] Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research; [f] Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc.; [f] Commonwealth Medical Trust; [f] International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region; [m] International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; [f] Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW); [f] Women's Health and Education Center; and [f] Swasti.
23. Also at the same meeting, the Commission concluded its general discussion of agenda item 3 (a) and (b)⁵.

⁵ In accordance with the modalities agreed for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, written statements were received in the general discussion of agenda item 3 (a) and (b), from the following Commission members and observers: Romania, a member of the Commission, as well as the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Poland, Qatar, and Senegal.

Virtual informal meeting to hold a panel discussion, followed by an interactive dialogue, under agenda item 4

24. At the virtual informal meeting on the morning of 22 April 2021, the Commission held an expert panel on the programme of work in population, which was chaired by the [m] Vice-Chair (Lebanon), who made a statement.
25. The expert panel was moderated by the [m] Director of the Population Division of UN DESA, John Wilmoth, who made a statement.
26. At the same meeting, the following panelists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: [f] the Senior Researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) and co-head of its research team “Demography of the Global South”, Géraldine Duthé; [f] the Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of Japan, Reiko Hayashi; [f] the Head of the National Population Council of Mexico, Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez; and [m] the Head (Chief Director) of the National Population Unit of the government of South Africa, Jacques van Zuydam.
27. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of [m] Germany and [m] the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for [f] Norway and [m] the Philippines.
28. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: [m] the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Virtual informal meeting to hold a general discussion on agenda item 5

29. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission on the afternoon of 22 April 2021, the [m] Chair (Burkina Faso) made a statement.
30. At the same meeting, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 5 and heard statements by the representatives of [m] Denmark (also on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay), [f] Belarus, [m] the Russian Federation, and [f] Mexico, as well as by the observer for [m] Egypt.