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General debate: population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

The Commission on Population and Development,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹ and the key actions for its further implementation,² the declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and previous resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁴

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 ensuring that no one is left behind, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² See General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1)*; and A/S-21/PV.9.

³ E/2019/25-E/CN.9/2019/L.3.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.



achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further its full commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the blueprint for building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, and calling upon Member States to ensure that efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for all, by reaching all its Goals and targets, are strengthened and accelerated in this decade of action for building more sustainable, peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive and resilient societies where no one is left behind,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵ and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁸ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁹ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁰ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹¹ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹²

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement,¹³ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁴ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁵ recalling also its promotion of regular disaster risk preparedness, prevention, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, recalling further the New Urban Agenda,¹⁶ and reaffirming the importance of promoting the integration of food security and the nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, in order to end hunger and malnutrition,

Expressing concern that climate change will disproportionately impact developing countries, local and marginalized communities and people in vulnerable situations, especially women and children, and their livelihoods,¹⁷ ultimately putting hundreds of millions of people at risk, and that by 2050, the risk of hunger and child

⁵ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁶ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹³ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

¹⁷ Based on Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

malnutrition could increase by up to 20 per cent owing to the adverse impacts of climate change, and reiterating the urgent need for action to build resilience, especially for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, by investing in prevention and preparedness, including disaster risk reduction, especially in adaptation and mitigation strategies, and enhancing joint risk assessments and risk management strategies to cut the impact and cost of natural disasters to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, including for women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, as well as the other root causes of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to ensure rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,¹⁸ which reaffirmed the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognized that food security and food safety, adequate nutrition and sustainable, resilient and diverse nutrition-sensitive food systems are important elements for healthier populations,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/259](#) of 1 April 2016, by which it proclaimed the period 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, recalling also General Assembly resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017, by which it proclaimed the period 2019–2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which raises the profile of the role of family farming in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of poverty eradication, food security and improved nutrition, recalling further the Rome Declaration on World Food Security of 13 November 1996, the 2009 Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,¹⁹ particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition,²⁰ as well as its Framework for Action,²¹

Emphasizing the urgent need for international cooperation to improve the sustainability of food systems, especially methods of production, processing, conservation and distribution of food, including through the dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and by developing and reforming food systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient, sustainable development and utilization of natural resources to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need,

Acknowledging the importance of achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production and thereby easing pressure on ecosystems, and recognizing the fundamental role of sustainable food systems that promote food security and nutrition for the world's growing population and contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and human health,

Emphasizing the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age and anaemia in women of reproductive

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution [74/2](#).

¹⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

²⁰ World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

²¹ *Ibid.*, annex II.

age and adolescent girls, and in infants and young children, among other micronutrient deficiencies, as well as to address the rise in undernourishment, reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases in all age groups,

Expressing deep concern that preliminary estimates indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic may have added an additional 83 million to 132 million people worldwide in 2020 to the ranks of the hungry,

Recognizing the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production and to achieving food security and improved nutrition, and expressing deep concern that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination,

Recognizing also that poverty in all its forms and dimensions, financial and economic crises, inequalities, including gender inequality, conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, disease outbreaks and pest infestations, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, deforestation, desertification, land degradation, droughts and floods, water scarcity and the adverse effects of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events and environmental degradation, as well as energy insecurity and unplanned and rapid urbanization are among the key factors contributing to a reversal in fighting global hunger, making the prospect of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 more difficult,

Acknowledging the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to reducing hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, education, health systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, as well as its significant impact on food prices, is exacerbating vulnerabilities and inequalities and having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, food security and nutrition, access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation, and environmentally sound waste management, especially for the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, in particular in developing countries, including countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges, which imposes greater challenges and demands extra efforts to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition for all,

Recognizing that women and girls play a vital role as agents of development, acknowledging that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls are crucial to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing also that nutrition and other related policies should be sensitive to the rights and needs of women and empower them, thereby contributing to women's equal access to social protection and resources, including income, land, water, finance, employment, inheritance, quality education at all school levels and lifelong

learning opportunities, training, science and technology, and health-care services, thus promoting food security and health,

Recognizing also that health is a precondition for economic and social development, and aware that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,

Expressing concern that, in spite of the progress made towards achieving the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, considerable gaps still exist in its implementation, and in that regard noting the voluntary commitments by Member States to further the implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraging further actions by Member States for their implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Stressing that reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data need to be a central focus of any effort to strengthen statistical systems for the review of and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and for reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and statistics disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for policy formulation by all countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development²² and the 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;²³

2. *Also reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

3. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, and notes the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development for each region that adopted the particular outcome documents;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete measures towards the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, respect human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental freedoms, reduce inequalities within and among countries, and achieve sustainable development, and stresses that population dynamics are all important for development, including for

²² E/CN.9/2021/2.

²³ E/CN.9/2021/3.

achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁴ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;²⁵

5. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of sustainable food systems and agricultural production and fishing, including agroecological practices and other innovative approaches, food security, nutrition and food safety are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including the feminization of poverty, and calls for greater efforts, including through the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance, to transform food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient to achieve food security in developing countries, especially focusing efforts in support of family farming and small and medium producers, including fishers and fish workers, as well as to accelerate and scale up action, as appropriate, to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods in order to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 and contribute to the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition and preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, in particular diet-related non-communicable diseases, ensuring healthy growth, strengthening immune systems and improving cognitive development, and welcomes the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development-aligned strategies and gender-sensitive policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets, including traditional healthy diets, available to all, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

7. *Urges* Governments to ensure equal opportunities for, and promote gender equality and empowerment of, women and girls in leadership and policy decision-making, supporting women, especially in rural contexts, and calls for closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists with respect to many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to support the empowerment of all women and girls, in particular those living in rural settings, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families and to develop their farming businesses to increase the chances of a demographic dividend, to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent work, to ensure equal pay for equal work, and to ensure to the maximum extent possible their personal health, well-being and security, equal access to inheritance, property rights, land and natural resources and access to affordable, low-cost, long-term loans and to local, regional and global markets, taking into account that the prevalence of food insecurity puts the health and lives of women and children at risk;

8. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, reduce food losses and prevent and reuse food waste, support workers, fishers and farmers, including smallholder farmers, rural women and youth, and migrant and seasonal workers in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilize and allocate adequate sustainable management and use of resources and enhance institutional capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture,

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture and food systems, provide continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and provide adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition, and underlines that the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity, malnutrition and humanitarian needs;

9. *Urges* Member States to safeguard food security and nutrition for all, including women, children, adolescents and youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, rural populations and rural producers, displaced persons, refugees and migrants, the urban and rural poor, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and those living in vulnerable situations, including those enduring humanitarian crises, the adverse effects of climate change or economic shocks, inter alia, by promoting economic, social and environmental policies to counteract the adverse impact of economic slowdowns and downturns on efforts to end hunger and malnutrition;

10. *Also urges* Member States to take multisectoral action to promote active and healthy lifestyles, including physical activity for the benefit of all people throughout their life course, and ensure a world free from malnutrition in all its forms, where all people are empowered to take responsibility for their own health, supported by public regulatory measures, and have access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe, sufficient and nutritious food and enjoy diversified, balanced and healthy diets throughout their life course, with special emphasis to the nutrition needs of pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, and of infants and young children, especially during the first 1,000 days, including, as appropriate, through exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, with continued breastfeeding to 2 years of age or beyond, with appropriate complementary feeding;

11. *Urges* Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination, by paying special attention to nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, and by supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, as well as the removal of all types of barriers to the ability of adolescents and youth to protect their health, and to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

12. *Recognizes* that children who are given the opportunity to grow and develop in a healthy environment that is responsive to their needs, including breastfeeding, and that, at a young age, fosters and encourages healthy behaviour and lifestyles, including access to healthy dietary choices and school meals and regular physical activity, and promotes the maintenance of healthy lifestyles, can greatly reduce the risk of childhood obesity and of non-communicable diseases in adulthood, and meet their full potential;

13. *Recognizes further* the steep toll that COVID-19 has placed on national health systems, and calls upon Member States to maintain the continued functioning of health systems and achieve universal health coverage, including primary health care, in all relevant aspects necessary for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls upon Member States to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning,

information and education, and to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;

14. *Expresses concern* that schoolchildren who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition might not have access to regular school feeding and nutrition services due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, and calls upon Member States to mitigate the effects of school closures, including on child nutrition, which may affect girls and boys differently, especially adolescent girls, who, owing to negative social norms, are more likely to be expected to take on unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their access to remote learning and other education support programmes, and may put them at a greater risk of harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, child labour and trafficking in persons, and unintended pregnancies, which may lead to girls leaving school before the completion of their education and never returning to school as a result;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to actively support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and to take and strengthen action to prevent, monitor and address the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons, paying particular attention to nutritional deficiencies and associated diseases in the design and implementation of health promotion and prevention programmes for older persons;

16. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets, for the needy and those living in vulnerable situations and those facing discrimination, such as food and cash-for-work, direct benefit transfer, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

17. *Urges* 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, while complying with sanitary provisions and food safety standards, and urges all stakeholders to strengthen small-scale producer access to local, regional and national markets, and emphasizes in this regard the role of small-scale and family farming in achieving food security and in providing livelihoods;

18. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, to strengthen solidarity and multilateral cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to intensify the contributions of all actors to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Urges* Member States to enable global equitable, affordable and timely access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and health-care services, including as supported through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and other relevant initiatives, especially in low- and middle-income countries, accelerating the global recovery and contributing to putting an end to the pandemic;

20. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Secretary-General to convene the Food Systems Summit in 2021 as part of the decade of action to achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals, and looks forward to the upcoming Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in 2021;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in assisting countries, based on their needs and in consultation with them, to enable countries to achieve the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development, including on the interactions between population dynamics, inequalities and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia, and, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations outside the United Nations, civil society and academia, to continue assessing and reporting on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
