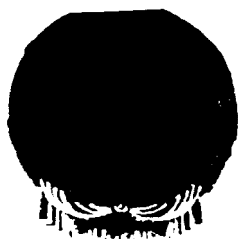


**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly**

As written



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by Mr. Yang kuifu,

Chinese Representative

at the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the
General Assembly for the Review and Appraisal of the
Implementation of the ICPD Program of Action

New York, March 24, 1999

Mr. Chairman:

Delegates:

After five years of International Conference on Population and Development, the Assembly decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the situations of various countries in implementation of ICPD Program of Action. It will be extremely important and meaningful for countries to exchange experiences, to further promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to strengthen the international cooperation. Comparatively speaking, the Chinese delegation thinks that the three reports by secretary-general that are being reviewed have extensively and objectively reflected the great efforts made and achievements gained by countries, particularly by developing countries in implementing ICPD Program of Action. The Chinese delegation highly appraises the work done by the secretary-general, Population Division of Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and the UNFPA.

The Chinese Government fully endorsed the viewpoint of ICPD Programme of Action that population and development is closely linked. The sustainable development was determined as the major strategic policy in China's national economic and social development. The concerted development of population, economic, resources and environment protection was put into a major place by the Chinese Government.

Recently, Chinese Central Government held the work conference on population, resources and the environment in Beijing. High-ranking government officials heard the reports of situation on population, resources and environment from concerned ministries and provinces. The leaders made it further clear that population issue is the key and the most important issue in realizing China's sustainable development strategy and the issue needs to be understood and addressed from broader areas. There should be harmony between economic development, population stabilization, natural resources protection and sound ecological environment.

According to the above mentioned sustainable development strategy, and the principles of ICPD Programme of Action, China's population and family planning programme is being carried out in a more comprehensive way. Rural family planning programme is integrated with economic development, poverty alleviation, the development of rural economy and the effort to help farmers to get better-off and to have happy families with modern ethics and culture and better living conditions. In order to address the-population issue in a holistic manner, the new mechanism which includes putting the people in the center of program; providing information, education and communication and quality of care to the people and scientific management is gradually established. This has welcomed by the people and received good results.

In the implementation of reproductive health and family planning programme, the Chinese government always protects the rights and interests of women and girls and opposes any

form of coercion. The government supports women, youth, family planning association and other NGOs in active involvement in implementing and monitoring of government's population programs.

The secretary-general's report clearly shown that in the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action, countries, especially the developing countries are still confronted with barriers in terms of politics, economy, culture and financial resources. These barriers should be eliminated through effective work and international cooperation. At present, China's total population has reached 1.24 billion and the annual population increase is about 12 million. The stabilization of China's population is not only critical to the subsistence and development of Chinese nation, but also conducive to the stabilization of world population. Therefore, the Chinese government would like to make concerted efforts with other countries to the further implementation of ICPD Programme of Action and stabilization of world population.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!