

**Statement on Agenda Item 5 at Forty-ninth
Session of the U.N. Commission on
Population and Development**

He Zhaohua

Deputy Director of Department of Family Planning Development

China National Health and Family Planning Commission

New York, April 14, 2016

Mr. Chairman

The development of human society is now confronted with great pressure and challenges. Countries around the world still face serious challenges in health, environment and other fields. The progress of the Millennium Development Goals in different regions has been uneven. Faced with this situation, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals led by member states of the UN under the UN Framework is very crucial for eradicating poverty and hunger, promoting economic growth, comprehensively promoting social progress, safeguarding fairness and justice, enhancing ecological conservation and promoting sustainable development.

According to the design of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, China's development stage and its own characteristics, Chinese government has determined the key themes and priorities as follows.

(I) Eradicating poverty and hunger, and promoting economic growth. Toward this end, governments should scale up investment in poverty eradication and strengthen capacity building for the poor, women and children, and other vulnerable

groups, while also encouraging the participation of enterprises and civil society organizations in poverty eradication. Economic growth should be emphasized as a priority task, including increasing people's income, and improving their living standards.

(II) Comprehensively promoting social progress, and safeguarding fairness and justice. It is important to pursue inclusive growth and ensure that the fruits of development are fairly shared by all. Higher-quality employment should be promoted. A fairer and more sustainable social security system should be put in place. It is also essential to guarantee people's right to education and realize universal education at a higher level. A sound basic health care system should be implemented to raise the quality and efficiency of medical and health services. Efforts should be made to promote all-round development of women, improve the health of women and children, raise the quality of population, and promote long-term and balanced demographic growth.

(III) Enhancing ecological conservation and promoting sustainable development. Reasonable consumption and lifestyle should be formed. It is necessary to conserve resources and protect the environment. The international community should vigorously address global climate change in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and respective capabilities. It is important to preserve biological diversity and uphold global ecological security through multi-pronged endeavors such as the expansion of forest coverage, rational harnessing of forest resources. Efforts should be made to ensure safe drinking water for both urban and rural residents, allocate and use water resources efficiently.

We conscientiously implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and integrate it into our own development strategy. In 2015, China's GDP rose by 6.9% and personal per capita disposable income increased by 7.4% in real terms, overtaking the growth rate of the economy. Greater alleviation efforts reduced the number of people living in poverty by 14.42 million. The total output of grain was 621.44

million tons, up by 2.4 % over the previous year. Permanent urban residents accounted for 56.1% of China's population, 1.3 % more than that in 2014.

Chinese government increased subsistence allowances, benefits for entitled groups, and basic pension benefits for enterprise retirees. Participation in basic pension plans exceeded 80% of the whole population. Nine-year compulsory education was made universal and gross enrolment ratio of high school education was 87%. Basic health insurance was expanded to achieve complete coverage. Comprehensive reform was carried out in all public hospitals at the county level, the coverage of the serious disease insurance scheme was extended to more rural and non-working urban residents, a system of assistance for treating major and serious diseases was put in place, and a system for providing living allowances for people with disabilities who are in need and for granting nursing care subsidies to persons with severe disabilities was established. We also promoted balanced population growth, adhered to the basic state policy of family planning, and improved the demographic development. A policy that couples can have two children was comprehensively implemented and steps to counter the aging of the population were actively taken.

According to the newly revised and adopted Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, Chinese government took serious measures to conserve energy, reduce emissions, and protect the environment, exceeding obligatory targets. We released self-imposed emissions reduction targets and contributed to the positive outcomes of international negotiations on climate change. Annual afforestation of 6.32 million hectares and 2,740 nature reserves were achieved. Annual coal consumption decreased by 3.7% and consumption in hydropower, wind power, nuclear energy, natural gas and other clean energy sources took up 17.9% of the total consumption in China. 64.34 million rural residents gained access to safe drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, according to the solemn pledge made by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the UN Sustainable Development Summit last year, Chinese government will maintain our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as our bounden duty, continue to share our development experience with all countries in the world, uphold inclusiveness and mutual learning, and promote common development. We are ready to join hands with all sides to build a more harmonious and prosperous future.