

49th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development

Address for Agenda Item 7

**He Zhaohua, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Family Development, China
National Health and Family Planning Commission
(Apr 14, 2016, New York, United States)**

Dear Mr. Chairman, representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

In 1994, ICPD Programme of Action integrated population issues into a sustainable development framework together with the protection of individual health and rights, and established the fundamental principle of human orientation. Under global efforts, all principle and goals set forth in the Programme of Action have been well fulfilled and achieved. Apart from the dramatic decline in fertility rate in a majority of countries, evident slowdown in the rate of natural population growth and further drop in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate, significant improvements have been made in regard to people's health conditions and living standards.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It was the fruitful work of the UN Commission on Population and Development that makes all these possible, and acknowledgements shall also be extended to all member states and all participants here for your diligent and responsible endeavors. Just now, the Secretariat elaborated on the arrangements and approaches for the future work to be carried out by the Commission on Population and Development, illustrated the current operations and working mechanism of the Commission, introduced the survey findings acquired from the consultation process, and proposed a number of suggestions on strengthening the work of Commission and its contributions to the Economic and Social Council.

We believe that the Commission on Population and Development have carried out fruitful work in assisting the Economic and Social Council on population issues and development trend and the integration of population and development strategy with population and development policies and plans. It has also provided the Council with many feasible advisory opinions on monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the implementation of Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels, finding out the reasons of success and failure and reviewing the studies and analytical results on the correlations between population and development at national, regional and global levels. The Commission has also forwarded appropriate suggestions to the Council on the basis of giving comprehensive consideration to reports and issues associated with the implementation of Programme of Action.

The Chinese Government has been working closely with the Commission in implementing respective tasks and has done a lot of work in regard to the strategic studies on population & development and regional population & development cooperation. For the next step, we will continue working with the Commission in periodically reviewing and evaluating the implementation of Programme of Action and the key actions to be taken for the further implementation of Programme of Action. We will render further support to those special programs selected as per ICPD Programme of Action and approve Commission's suggestions on the agenda of each future session.

In October 2015, the important decision of building a healthy China and implementing a

universal two-child policy was made at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, according to which by year 2020, China must establish and improve the basic medical and health systems covering urban and rural residents, promote the equalization of basic public health services between urban and rural areas, achieve the universal access to basic medical and health services, further increase the per capita life expectancy, and further decrease the infant mortality and maternal mortality, with major health indicators comparable with that in moderately developed countries. With the announcement of the universal two-child policy, at the Fourth Session of the 12th National People's Congress held in Beijing last month, it's also urged to develop and improve the supporting measures for the universal two-child policy. The implementation of this policy will better satisfy the fertility intention of the reproductive-age population, contribute to social harmony and stability, help optimize the population structure, alleviate the pressure from population aging, and facilitate long-term balanced population development. Moreover, it will also contribute to sustainable and healthy economic development and the implementation of ICPD Beyond 2014 and SDGs 2030, thus making new contributions to the world population and development.

Ladies, gentlemen and friends:

Currently, with the further advancement of world multi-polarization and cultural diversification, the social productivity has been well liberated and developed under economic globalization and information society. We are now faced with unprecedented development opportunities. As a member of developing countries, China has made extensive efforts in pushing forward regional cooperation on population and development, particularly the South-South Cooperation. In September 2015, at the High-level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation jointly held by the Chinese Government and United Nations, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a series of pragmatic measures on promoting South-South Cooperation, including China's support to other developing countries under the "Six 100s" initiative for the coming five years. These will include 100 poverty reduction programs, 100 agricultural cooperation projects, 100 trade promotion programs, 100 environment protection and climate change programs, 100 hospitals and clinics, as well as 100 schools and vocational training centers. China will provide 120,000 opportunities and 150,000 scholarships for citizens of developing countries to receive training and education in China, and help nurture 500,000 professional technicians for the developing world. China will also set up an Academy of South-South Cooperation and Development and a South-South Cooperation Fund. Moreover, at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in December 2015, President Xi Jinping also put forward 10 major China-Africa cooperation plans. All these have opened up great opportunities for deepening China's regional cooperation on population and development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!