



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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(Translation)

Agenda Item 3

Statement by H.E. Mr. WANG Pei'an
Vice Minister of the National Population and Family Planning
Commission of China at the 44th Session of the UN Commission on
Population and Development

New York 11 April 2011

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, please allow me to extend, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, my congratulations to you on your election to the position as Chairman of the present session. My congratulations also go to the other members of the bureau. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent preparation it has made for this session. The Chinese delegation highly appreciates the report of the Secretary-General. This report provides a very good foundation for discussions about fertility, reproductive health and development at this session.

The report systematically summarizes fertility of recent years in different countries and regions, carefully sorts out the factors that might have led to decline of fertility, pays great attention to maternal health, emphasizes the role of reproductive health services, and puts forward pertinent measures on reducing fertility and promoting reproductive health. We highly endorse these contents and will absorb and refer to them in our work.

On the basis of the report, we also need to think about some other issues in an in-depth manner, e.g., the implications of cultures and traditional customs on changes in fertility, the future trends of changes in such implications, how to adopt different measures in line with different national situations, how to position the division of duties of national governments and NGOs in reducing fertility and promoting reproductive health, and how to achieve extensive cooperation between countries and regions of different development levels in the areas of fertility and reproductive health.

Mr. Chairman,

Fertility and development are interrelated. For the purpose of promoting transformation of fertility and enhancing reproductive health level, the Chinese delegation would like to put forward the following comments and recommendations:

1. Pay high attention to the important role and status of family planning in socioeconomic development. Although the world has made remarkable achievements in the areas of population, family planning

and reproductive health, family planning still fails to attract due attention, as is reflected in the continuously declining proportion of family planning in international assistance for population activities and extensive unmet family planning needs in developing countries. The international society and national governments need to reposition family planning and increase financial input into reproductive health, especially family planning, so as to inject new vitality into family planning.

2. Enhance capacity building for family planning and reproductive health services and satisfy unmet needs for family planning. All countries, especially developing countries need endeavor to upgrade reproductive health and family planning service network, provide safe, effective and appropriate contraceptives, and improve monitoring and research in fertility regulation and reproductive health.

3. Endeavor to achieve gender equality and improve reproductive health awareness. Efforts should be committed to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights to education and work, and to upgrade women's participation in social activities. While implementing reproductive health promotion plans such as extensive reproductive health advocacy and knowledge dissemination campaigns among the general public, we should also enhance adolescent understanding of reproductive health knowledge and help them make responsible decisions on their sexual behavior and reproductive actions.

4. Proactively promote the partnership between governments and NGOs for close cooperation and synthesis. Governments should work hard to incorporate reproductive health into their national development plans

and poverty-alleviation strategies, regard input into family planning as a core component of their state policies, programs and strategies and view such input as investment conducive to development of other social areas. Meanwhile, the important roles of NGOs and enterprises should be fully realized so as to create an atmosphere where governments, NGOs and the private sector jointly govern the areas of family planning and reproductive health.

5. Further intensify South-South cooperation and South-North-South cooperation during the new era. During this special period when the foundation for global economic recovery remains fragile, especially when problems grow in non-traditional areas such as climate warming and food crisis, countries should participate in international population and development activities on the basis of equality and mutual trust. Developing countries should focus on learning and drawing upon international advanced philosophies, experiences and approaches. Developed countries, on the other hand, should further perform their commitments to enhance their financial and technical assistance to developing countries, especially to the least developed countries, so as to help the latter enhance capacity building.

Mr. Chairman,

There is only around four years left prior to the deadline of the ICPD goals and the MDGs. China will earnestly perform its commitments to the ICPD PoA and the MDGs and join hands with the international community to work for universal access to reproductive health!

Thank you, Mr. Chairman