



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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(Translation)

**Agenda Item 4**

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

**New York    April 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation is delighted to share the Chinese experience with all the participants regarding the theme “fertility, reproductive health and development” and express our opinions on how to comprehensively attain the ICPD PoA and the MDGs.

As a developing country with the largest population in the world, China has made impressive achievements, which arouse world attention in its family planning program that started in the 1970s. China's total fertility rate went down from 5.8 to around 1.8 and the proportion of the Chinese population in world total down from 22% to less than 19%.

from the 1970s to the present. Since the ICPD, the Chinese government has been very earnest in fulfilling its commitments to the ICPD PoA and the MDGs with remarkable progress made in promoting the attainment of universal access to reproductive health by 2015. In China, life expectancy has gone up from 69 in 1990 to 73.5 at present, maternal mortality and infant mortality rates down from 94.7/100,000 and 32.9‰ in 1990 to 30.0/100,000 and 13.1‰ in 2010 respectively and Human Development Index (HDI) up by 1.22% between 1990 and 2010.

Bearing in mind the basic national situation of a large overall population but limited per capita resources, the Chinese government has prioritized the adoption of the following measures to reduce fertility ratio and promote reproductive health.

**1. Perseverance on a uniquely Chinese path for comprehensive solution to population matters and promotion of long-term balanced population development.** Population matters, being related to both development issues as well as livelihood issues, are always fundamental to socioeconomic development. The Chinese government has long incorporated population matters into national programs for economic and social development and devoted to the construction of a population-balanced, resource-saving and environment-friendly society and holistic sustainable development of population, economy, society, resources and the environment. With a view of long-term balanced population development, China upholds the basic state policy of family planning and gradually improves its population policy.

**2. Extensive in-depth communication and advocacy for creation of**

**an enabling public opinion and social atmosphere.** The Chinese government has always focused on giving into full play the communication and advocacy roles of the mainstream media and the population and family planning service network to create public opinion conducive to addressing population matters in a comprehensive manner. Over the recent years, marriage and child-rearing concepts such as family planning, better births/better child rearing and gender equality are vigorously advocated along with extensive communication and dissemination of knowledge about reproductive health via programs such as Bring New Concepts of Marriage and Child Bearing into Every Household and Care for Girls. At present, contraception prevalence rate exceeds 85% while public access to basic reproductive health knowledge reaches over 70% in rural areas and more than 85% in urban areas. Education and training of government officials is conducted frequently to attract high-level advocacy and enhance awareness of the national population situation, population security and the basic state policy on family planning. Meanwhile, ongoing construction of new family culture through the combination of the Chinese national situation and virtuous Chinese traditions guides families towards positive, healthy and responsible marriage and child bearing/rearing behavior as well as low-energy-consuming and low-pollution lifestyle, thereby promoting a population-balanced, resource-saving and environment-friendly social atmosphere.

**3. Steady increase in government input for improvement of a population and family planning service network that covers both rural and urban areas.** The Chinese government ensures that fiscal input into population and family planning areas grows faster than national fiscal revenue, and ensure input into population and family

planning that mainly comes from fiscal input grows steadily and is shared at different levels of public finance. Community orientation and integration of social resources have given rise to a population and family planning service network that outreaches both horizontally and vertically is rooted in the countryside and provides door-to-door services to households. Through increase in input, improvement of infrastructure and internal management, capacity building of service providers, we achieve the standardization of service facilities and procedures, the professionalism of management and the work force themselves. The service network is used to provide quality-of-care family planning and reproductive health services, hospital delivery allowances to rural women in central and western China and meet public needs for better births/better child rearing and reproductive health. National Program for Birth Defect Prevention and Prenatal Health Care are implemented in 220 counties of 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities). Furthermore, capacities of the service network for social management and public services are also enhanced.

**4. Protection of legitimate rights and interests of migrants and promotion of equitable family planning and reproductive health services as basic public services.** China is in the process of rapid urbanization with more than 200 million migrant population. Over the recent years, the Chinese government has adopted various measures to promote equitable of family planning and reproductive health as basic public services among migrants. In 2009, China promulgated the *Regulations on the Work of Family Planning among the Migrant Population* to effectively protect legitimate rights and interests of migrants in family planning and reproductive health. With full

guidance of central public finance, China has set up a long-term work mechanism and institutional assurance for provision of equitable current-residence-based services to migrants including family planning, better births/better child rearing and reproductive health. With enhanced departmental coordination and integration of social resources, the “Coordinated Management Layout” for services for migrants has taken place featuring “exchange of information, complementation of services, interaction of management and sharing of responsibilities”.

**5. Expansion of international communication and cooperation in the areas of population and development on the principles of openness and inclusiveness.** Over the years, the Chinese government has actively participated in international communication and dialogue, and promoted South-South and South-North-South cooperation in the areas of population and development, especially practical cooperation in strategic discussion, sharing of experiences, training of personnel and exchange of commodities. In such international cooperation, we focus on learning and drawing upon advanced concepts, experiences and methodologies from the international community, with special attention paid to localization of international experiences and promotion of successful experiences. At the same time, China actively participates in the development of international population forecast rules and standards. During this session, we will hold a side event for PADIS-INT to demonstrate the advanced population projection software developed by the China Population and Development Research Center. Hereby, we look forward to enthusiastic participation in the event by delegates from member states.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Despite the above remarkable progress in reducing fertility and promoting reproductive health, China is still confronted by many future challenges such as rapid population aging, dynamic domestic migration, profound change of family features and intensifying constraints from population, resources and the environment. In the first half of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, China will embrace the three peaks of working-age population, total population and aging population. Furthermore, monitored occurrence of birth defects is going up; structural population problems are becoming increasingly acute; and expanding number of population remains huge pressure. To sustain steady socioeconomic development in a country of 1.3 billion population, we must deal with population matters from a strategic perspective, adhere to the principle of human orientation, keep providing integrated quality-of-care family planning and reproductive health services, resolutely take the uniquely Chinese path of addressing population matters in a comprehensive manner and thereby make our due contribution to stabilizing world population and attain the goals of ICPD and MDGS.

**Thank You, Mr. Chairman.**