

Item 5 of the agenda

**Statement by Madam ZHANG Yang
Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Department of
the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China
at the 44th Session of the UN Commission on Population and
Development**

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Respected Mr. Chair,

The Chinese government highly appreciates the UN Resolution on Follow Up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 adopted by the UN Assembly on December 22nd, 2010, and enthusiastically supports further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) after its twentieth anniversary.

ICPD marks the start of a new era for the areas of population and development. The ICPD PoA put forward the new concept of holistic human development and established the goal of sustainable development that coordinates population, economy, society, resources and the environment. Thereafter, the ICPD PoA effectively impacted upon the process of world population, health, human rights

and development.

Over the past 17 years, the international community and national governments have exerted positive efforts to implement the goals of the ICPD PoA and made important achievements in population and development. We are delighted to witness gradual decline of global population growth rate, continuous increase of average life expectancy, ongoing decrease of maternal and infant mortality rates, remarkable improvement of education attainment levels, and more choices available in effective and affordable contraceptives and reproductive health services. For the past decade, the principles and spirit advocated by ICPD have reached out extensively.

The Chinese government has always integrated implementing ICPD PoA with China's practice in population and reproductive health /family planning in an organic manner, adopted the strategy that features comprehensive consideration of population and development and integrated decision making. Thanks to many years' relentless efforts, China has enjoyed continuous rapid economic growth, remarkable improvement of people's livelihood and holistic progress in human development, which, while promoting national development also makes positive contribution to global population stability, resource protection and energy conservation.

However, we should also be fully aware that the ultimate realization of the ICPD PoA goals is still confronted by many difficulties and challenges. Multiple issues such as poverty, diseases, aging, urbanization, climate change and international migration still frustrate population and development worldwide, especially so in developing countries.

This year, the world's population will exceed 7 billion for the first time in human history with 96% of future global population growth to be concentrated in developing countries. 215 million people are still frustrated by unmet family planning needs worldwide. In many countries, contraception prevalence rate has not even reached 20% and women have no freedom to decide upon either the number or the spacing of children they want to have. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health status remains worrisome. Maternal and infant mortality rates are too high to be acceptable in some developing countries. Climate change, shortage of clean drinking water and food crisis profoundly effect on population and development worldwide and intensify vulnerability of developing countries in general. At the same time, financial assistance for the population area is much lower than the financing level requisite for realization of the ICPD PoA targets.

Aware that it might be impossible for many countries to realize the goals of ICPD PoA by 2014, we firmly support the call upon all national governments to strictly abide by their commitments and reiterate to the principles of ICPD PoA. The Chinese government is more than happy to join the international community and the national governments for further implementation of the ICPD PoA beyond 2014, i.e., ensure attainment of "universal access to reproductive health" and promote coordinated and sustainable development of population growth, economic development and environmental protection.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.