

Talking Points for Session VI
Implementing the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda

Hongtao Hu
Partners in Population and Development

1. What population-related policy responses and interventions need to happen to ensure that the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda will be achieved? In particular, how can we ensure that population-related challenges will be adequately addressed (funding, partnerships, South-South cooperation, capacity building, advocacy, etc.)?

First, we need to focus on **strategic priority areas** in population and development, which are: (1) population dynamics and development; (2) universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning; (3) women's, children's and adolescents' health, and gender equality; (4) healthy ageing; (5) migration; and (6) poverty alleviation. This is identified from a survey completed by PPD on the needs of population and FP programmes.

Secondly, we need to **have a more comprehensive approach** to address population issues to achieve coordinated development of population and social, economic development. And more advocacy, scientific evidence and successful experience and good practices should be provided to policy makers and general public on the inter-relationship between family planning and health improvement, and between demographic dividend and economic growth. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires careful consideration of population dynamics and trends for planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDG targets.

Thirdly, we need to make more efforts to **promote South-South cooperation(SSC)** in population and development as global situation of development is changing, and this provides great potentials for more political commitment, partnership building and resource mobilization of population program. The institutionalization and operationalization stands as the fundamental task for SSC. Beijing Call for Action adopted by Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on SSC for Population and Development held in Beijing in March 2016 and Bali Call for Action adopted by Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation held in Bali, Indonesia in September 2018 provide a roadmap for SSC in population and development.

2. What are some of the major achievements in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and what are some of the major challenges in the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action?

The major achievements include big increase of family planning acceptance rate which has contributed one third to the reduction of maternal mortality, significant reduction of total fertility rate which have contributed to the improvement of health and wellbeing of people and to the social and economic development, and a quite number of developing countries are enjoying the demographic dividend which have contributed more than a quarter to their economic growth,

The major challenges include the unmet need for reproductive health and family planning, further reduction of maternal mortality and child mortality, improvement of adolescent reproductive health. When the old problems have not fully addressed, emerging issues have appeared which include low fertility and ageing in some developing countries; youth development for demographic dividend, peace and security; sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian and conflict situation; and big data utilization, and these issues will influence and contribute to the 2030 agenda.

3. Based on your experience with the ICPD Programme of Action, how can we best communicate population-relevant issues and challenges to policy makers and the general public? How can we communicate that demographic factors play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?

As 86% of the world total population is in developing countries, the major challenges in population and reproductive health remain in developing countries, and population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and gender equality are at the core of sustainable development, we need to focus on the population-related issues and challenges in developing countries. I have the followings recommendations.

First, we need to strengthen and institutionalize international platforms on SSC for population and development in developing countries for experience sharing and policy dialogues. A good example is the International Inter-Ministerial Conference on Population and Development in the past 15 years which are attended by ministers, parliamentarians and senior government officials from the developing countries, and this forum should be open to all developing countries.

Secondly, we should make more efforts on conducting systematic researches and documentation for successful experience and good practices so as to provide high-quality and validated evidence on what works better on population programme for policy makers to better understand the inter-relationship between population dynamics and development, and translate the commitment and goals into specific national policies and actions.

Thirdly, we should make more efforts in strengthening the multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing the ICPD agenda. Particularly, we need to renew and expand already existing partnerships and create new ones, among the various existing mechanisms for SSTC, based on the specific mandates and comparative advantages of the diverse organizations involved.

Fourthly, we need to establish a set of fundamental evaluation indicators in addressing population-related agenda for achieving the SDGs, and the country-led Monitoring and Evaluation systems should be strengthened.

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