



National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC)
Government of the People's Republic of China



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation

Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation for Population and Development

Beijing Call for Action

for South-South Cooperation in Population and Development

18 March 2016 Beijing, China

1. The Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation for Population and Development (hereinafter referred to as the "Dialogue"), jointly organized by National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China (NHFPC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), was held in Beijing, China on 18 March 2016.
2. This Dialogue builds on the 2014 High-level Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development, jointly organized by NHFPC and UNFPA in Taicang, China. The "Taicang Commitment" was adopted with the aim of further deepening South-South Cooperation in population and development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality. This Dialogue is held in partnership with PPD, in view of its mandate to promote South-South Cooperation in population and development.
3. More than 100 delegates, including Ministers, Vice Ministers, and senior Government officials responsible for population affairs from the PPD member countries and other developing countries, representatives from relevant UN agencies, and international organizations and experts from the academic and research institutions, attended the Dialogue. They shared their valuable experiences and had in-depth discussions on the roadmap and key actions to further promote South-South Cooperation for population and development for the next five years.

The participants to the Dialogue on South–South Cooperation:

4. *Recognized* that in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Population and Development(ICPD) Beyond 2014 Framework of Action and achieve mutual success, the international community should deepen South-South and triangular cooperation to support stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector to play a greater role in building effective multi-stakeholder partnerships;
5. *Recognized* the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirmed the view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Population and Development(ICPD) Beyond 2014 Framework of Action and achieve mutual success guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non–conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.
6. *Reaffirmed* their commitment to working together under the framework of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
7. *Recognized* that population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality are at the core of sustainable development, and that deepening South-South cooperation in this field will contribute to the health and well-being of all people in developing countries and their sustainable development at large;
8. *Recognized* that population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality are at the core of sustainable development,



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and that deepening South-South cooperation in this field will contribute to the health and well-being of all people in developing countries and their sustainable development at large;

9. *Adopted* the Beijing Call for Action in Beijing on 18 March 2016, based on original principles of South-South Cooperation as mandated by the 1955 Asian African Conference and other relevant conferences.

The Beijing Call for Action, which aims to accelerate and outline key actions to further promote South-South cooperation in the field of population and development, including population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and gender equality for the next five years, recommends the following actions:

Key Actions

Action 1: Establish an International Forum on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development

Building on the existing PPD inter-Ministerial platform for South-South Cooperation in population and development, and with support by UNFPA and other partners, the International Forum will be open to all developing countries and relevant stakeholders committed to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and SDGs. The International Forum will serve as a global platform to exchange knowledge and experience, for networking and policy dialogue and for promoting South-South cooperation programmes on population and development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and gender equality. UNFPA will provide technical cooperation towards supporting the effective and efficient functioning of the International Forum, and continue to strengthen its South-South Cooperation component of its country, regional and global programmes and support capacity development of partners to engage in South-South Cooperation. South-South Cooperation is guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, non-



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conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. The secretariat of the Forum will be housed by the PPD Secretariat.

Action 2: Set up a Coordinating Committee for South-South Cooperation in Population and Development as a mechanism to identify and coordinate support to concrete South-South Cooperation programmes focused on responding to country needs, and particularly on matching needs for, and offers of South-South Cooperation.

The membership for Coordinating Committee will be open to all governments of developing countries from different regions as well as international partner organizations and donors. The Coordinating Committee will also facilitate the sharing of relevant information, analysis, research and documentation to facilitate South-South Cooperation. The secretariat of the Coordinating Committee will be housed by UNFPA. The modalities of its operations will be defined in consultation with key stakeholders and will avoid the duplication.

Action 3: Strengthen partnerships for South-South Cooperation in population and development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality.

Over the past 20 years, with the assistance from UNFPA and other international organizations, PPD has played an important role in promoting South-South Cooperation, with significant achievements. To meet the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Beyond 2014, it is critical to renew and expand already existing partnerships and create new partnerships, ensuring greater coherence and coordination among the various existing mechanisms for South-South Cooperation, based on the specific mandates and comparative advantages, of the diverse organizations involved and as well as greater synergy with the global strategies and partnerships that aim to promote maternal, child and adolescent health and wellbeing and promote social protection.



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Action 4: Enhance efforts to accelerate reproductive health commodity security in developing countries.

Currently there is a huge global demand and unmet need for voluntary family planning and reproductive health technologies and commodities in development as well as humanitarian contexts. It is estimated that about 225 million women want to delay or stop childbearing but are not using effective methods of contraception. Ninety percent (90%) of these women live in developing countries; these unmet needs for family planning are contributing to high unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal and child mortality, and keeping families in a cycle of poverty. In 2014, UNFPA estimated that if all the women who wanted to avoid a pregnancy used modern contraceptives, an additional 52 million unintended pregnancies, and 23 million abortions (of which 14 million would be unsafe) could be avoided. This would in turn prevent 70,000 maternal deaths and 500,000 newborn deaths. Over the next five years, the Government of China will assist other developing countries through support for 100 maternal and child health projects, with the objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality and preventing unwanted pregnancies, and UNFPA will contribute to the efforts of the Government of China in supporting the implementation of projects, including by providing relevant statistics and data. UNFPA will also continue providing support toward improving the quality of pharmaceutical and reproductive health commodities in developing countries through the WHO and UNFPA prequalification process. This will assist them in obtaining international acceptance of their products. UNFPA will provide this support with the aim of increasing the variety of quality products in developing country markets and expanding choice for the people of developing countries. PPD member countries will make greater efforts in improving regulatory efficiency to help ensure reproductive health commodity security facilitated by the PPD Secretariat. Other developing countries are encouraged to offer support to build reproductive health commodity security capacities in developing countries.



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Action 5: Strengthen human resource development in population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health.

In the past 10 years, PPD member countries have been providing one another with training opportunities. The Government of China will continue to offer training courses and fellowships to assist developing countries over the next five years to reach their sustainable development goals. We call upon the other governments and international partner organizations to increase their financial and technical support for human resource development.

Action 6: Establish the “Population and Development South-South Cooperation Center of Excellence”.

The understanding of population dynamics and its influence on sustainable development will facilitate the achievement of the ICPD Beyond 2014 and 2030 Agenda. With the technical support of UNFPA, China Population and Development Research Center will set up the “Population and Development South-South Cooperation Center of Excellence” in collaboration with other institutions. The Center will carry out South-South Cooperation activities to build national capacities on data collection and analysis, population projection and research. Other developing countries are encouraged to offer support to build national capacities in population dynamics.

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