



中华人民共和国国家卫生健康委员会
National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China



17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on Population and Development

SESSION 1

China Vice Minister Dr. Yu Xuejun Presentation

Your Excellency Vice President Touray of Gambia,

Your Excellency Dr. Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund,

Honorable Ministers,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening!

Welcome to the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development via video link. I would like to convey the greetings to all of you from H.E. Dr. Li Bin, Chair of the Board of PPD, and Vice Chair and Secretary-General of the CPPCC National Committee, and H.E. Mr. Ma Xiaowei, Minister of the National Health Commission of China. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the UNFPA and the PPD secretariat for the tremendous work they have done in preparing for this meeting.

In November 2019, I attended the Summit in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Nairobi, which left a deep impression on me. The theme of this conference today is "Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining Nairobi Commitments and the Agenda 2030". Over the past 6 years, as the chair of PPD, China has received strong support from PPD member states, the UNFPA, the PPD secretariat and partners, and carried out a series of activities, which include:

In 2016, we successfully held the Inter-Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development. In 2017, the Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Population and Development was set up in Beijing and successfully

hosted three sessions of China-Africa conference on population and development. In 2018, with the support of China, Bangladesh, India, South Africa and other member states, PPD headquarters complex was completed and put into use. At its 23rd board meeting, PPD elected a new Executive Director, approved the Charter and three management handbooks, improved its governance and management mechanisms, and adopted the Joint Declaration. In 2018, the UNFPA signed an MOU with PPD to continue its support for South-South cooperation in population and development, providing a good platform and financial support for technical exchanges among developing countries. In 2019, China's South-south Cooperation Assistance Fund approved support for a comprehensive intervention project to prevent postpartum hemorrhage in Bangladesh, dedicated to improving maternal health there. The project was officially launched in September this year. In the first half of this year, China, together with PPD and the UNFPA, held two video conferences on maternal and newborn health in response to COVID-19 to share experience in epidemic prevention and control.

The year 2020 is one that is unusual. The COVID-19 pandemic is ravaging the world and has had major impact on people's lives, health and national security. Countries face greater challenges in implementing *the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. China stands ready to continue its firm support for multilateralism, uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, and work with all other parties to continue the support for South-South cooperation in population and development.

First, we will continue to integrate long-term population and development into national planning. China used over 40 years to transform the pattern of reproduction and turned around the trend of surging population growth, thus promoted socioeconomic progress. The Chinese government will strategize long-term population and development, and will optimize family planning policy by improving its inclusiveness and by reducing the costs of childbirth, parenting and education. We will also tackle the risks and problems brought by aging and low birth rate and balance population and development.

Second, while we exercise regular control over the pandemic, we stress on the life, safety and health of women and children. China will continue with the strict measures to prevent cluster outbreaks, meanwhile, we adopt an array of measures to guide maternal women to schedule their prenatal visits, to ensure protection from home and to guide their health monitoring. Hospitals providing diagnosis and treatment for maternal women with COVID-19 will be designated. With the improved diagnosis and treatment network, we will do everything we can to protect the life, safety and health of maternal women.

Third, we will continue to promote the South-South cooperation in the international community. At present, countries are faced with the daunting tasks of battling the pandemic, stabilizing the economy and protecting peoples' livelihood. Developing countries should come together as one to promote South-South cooperation in the fields of population and

development. Exchanges and cooperation with UNFPA, PPD, UNOSSC, academic institutions, and NGOs should also be deepened to shape diversified partnerships. Fund raising and capacity building should be improved, so that the level of cooperation among developing countries in the fields of population and development can be enhanced continuously.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. Let us reiterate the political commitments in the *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* and *the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*. Let us strive to achieve the “three zeros” and build a global community of health for all.

I thank you!