

Thank you, Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening,

I am Xing Jie, from National Health Commission of China. It is a great honor to join with you in this Capacity Building for National South-South Cooperation Focal Persons.

First of all, I would like to share with you the priority of the Chinese government in population and development for the next few years. The Chinese government has always been giving great importance to the population issue. Government upholds comprehensive decision-making for population and development. Through the efforts of the whole society and as a result of economic development, we have significantly improved the overall quality of Chinese population, and won the arduous battle against poverty and to build a well-off society in an all-round way.

Since 2013, the central government has introduced strategic arrangements to adjust the fertility policy in order to promote

the long-term balanced development of the population. According to the 7th national population census released in May 2021, the total population of Chinese Mainland reached 1.41 billion in 2020, while China's total fertility rate stood at 1.3. The family size on average is 2.62. Most people are willing to have less than two children.

Therefore, the Chinese government attaches great importance to promote long-term balanced development of the population, calling for implementing the supporting measures for raising children, optimizing the service management system, upgrading the prenatal and postnatal care and inclusive child care services, cutting the costs of childbearing, child rearing and education, achieving an appropriate fertility level, and promoting the long-term balanced development of the population.

I should say that it will be the government's priority to take supporting measures to help the Chinese people to cut the cost of raising children. The Decision lays out more than 40 supporting measures in three categories and ten aspects, trying to help people--especially women-- to balance family and career, as we plan to set up a large number of inclusive childcare

service providers at a low cost. This has been explicitly formulated in the “14th Five-Year Plan” by the Chinese government. Thus, babies from 0 to 3 years can enjoy high-quality care while their parents go to work.

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in November 2019 in Kenya is a milestone event for the undertaking of accomplishing the unfinished agenda of ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 SDGs. During the Summit, the Chinese government made its commitments to promote long-term balanced population development, advance South-South and triangular cooperation in population and reproductive health, thus fulfilling the ICPD PoA and the 2030 SDGs.

Soon after the Nairobi Summit, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and created one of the greatest challenges in modern history. However, the Chinese government spared no efforts to make tremendous progress and achievements in fulfilling the commitments. I believe my colleague Mr. Hu Hongtao will specifically present to you the achievements and progress China has made in this aspect tomorrow. Therefore, I will not talk about this today and I would like to share with you the main

SSC practices and experiences in China.

- Strengthening the SSC institutionalization and operationalization. The SSC in population and reproductive health is under the leadership of the National Health Commission.
- Conducting experience sharing and policy dialogues. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, National Health Commission of China(NHC), together with Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and United Nations Population Fund(UNFPA), has conducted two webinars on maternal and newborn health in response to COVID-19 to share experience in pandemic prevention and control.
- Implementing innovation and emergency assistant projects. For instance, in cooperation with UNFPA, the Chinese government has also provided in 2020 and 2021 emergency assistance of medical equipment and supplies to Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- Partnering with NGOs in SSC. China Family Planning Association (CFPC), the largest national family planning NGO in China, has played active role in promoting SSC in

reproductive health and COVID prevention. In 2019, CFPC successfully implemented HIV/AIDS prevention project among adolescents in two African countries funded by SSCAF(Assistance Fund).

- Resuming SSC training. After over one year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the China Training Center for Reproductive Health and Family Care (CTC, also where PPD China Program Office locates), has resumed its SSC capacity development training program online for the government officials, program managers and service providers from developing countries.

In the face of the Covid-19 and its unexpected impacts on RH, population and development, SSC is playing an even more important role in achieving ICPD and SDGs. Deepening South-South cooperation (SSC) is an effective and sustainable way to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the people in developing countries. Let's work together for the health of everyone and for a better and healthier world.

Thank you for your attention!