

Presentation on the Progress for China's Implementation of Nairobi Summit Commitments

27th October 2021

Thank you Professor Chaturvedi,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I have the great pleasure to present, on behalf of China PCC Ms Zhang Yang, the progress for China's implementation of Nairobi Summit Commitments. Just recently, China has prepared a Progress Report on Fulfilling the Nairobi Summit Commitments, focused on the three Zeros and South-South cooperation. Here, I would like to share with you some highlights from the progress report.

First, the progress in achieving zero unmet need for family planning. As one of the most historical events in modern China's history, Chinese government officially announced earlier this year that China has eliminated absolute poverty for the first time in its history, attained the SDG poverty reduction target ten years ahead of schedule, and has contributed to over 70 percent of global poverty reduction. According to the outcome of the seventh national population census released in May this year, The total population of Chinese mainland reached 1.41 billion in 2020.

In August 2021, China amended its Population and Family Planning Law, and three-child fertility policy was introduced together with a series of supporting family-friendly policies. In China, basic family planning clinical services and contraceptives have continued to be provided to couples free of charge. The national protocol for management of contraception services has been newly revised and implemented. During the shutdown period of Covid-19, the Internet + Contraceptive Delivery Approach was applied in a quite number of places in China. Couples and individuals could place their order of contraceptives at mobile-phone set, and the contraceptives will be delivered at the door by express mail free of charge

upon request. Constant improvement has been also made in adolescent reproductive health. The current contraceptive prevalence rate of married couples at child-bearing age in China is estimated at 83%, still one of the highest in the world.

Second, progress in achieving zero preventable maternal mortality.

Since the spread of COVID-19, Chinese government took the strategy of constantly improving MCH care while ensuring effective prevention and control of COVID-19. All the MCH service facilities strictly are requested to follow the national protocol on Prevention and Control of COVID-19, and up to now, eight editions of such protocol have been issued along with the development of COVID-19.

A system of designated medical service facilities for MCH was implemented in the COVID affected areas and internet technology has been widely applied during the pandemic. One of China's main experience in reducing maternal mortality is the strict implementation of five management protocols throughout the whole process of clinical service and management for pregnancy and baby delivery. The five protocols include: pregnancy risk screening and assessment, specific case-based management of high-risk pregnancies, strengthened medical treatment of critical and severe patients, real-time reporting of maternal deaths, and tightened supervision of service providers. The purpose of implementing this system is to place more emphasis on prevention, guarantee the bottom-line, and strengthen the responsibility so as to ensure maternal and infant safety on a systematic basis.

China pays great attentions to experience sharing on MCH service provision under COVID-19. In the second half of 2020, the National Health Commission of China initiated a program for sharing the best practices called "MCH on Clouds". A total of 390 cases of best practices on implementing MCH care under the COVID-19 with the internet technology were collected across country, a number of which were selected and circulated nationwide. China Health Statistic Report which released on 9 July 2021 shows that the maternal mortality ratio was 16.9/100,000 in 2020, showing further declining trend, compared with the previous year 2019.

Third, the progress in achieving zero gender-based violence.

China has been adhering to the basic national policy of equality between men and women. In September this year, Chinese government released the Human Rights Action Plan of China (2021-2025), in which there is an important article on ensuring the rights and interests of women, preventing and abolishing all forms of family violence against women. Also in September this year, Chinese government released China ten-year National Program for Women's Development (2021-2030). In recent years, China is focused on exploring more targeted approaches for preventing domestic violence against women. A series of programs have been implemented to promote the public consciousness of gender equality, protect legislative rights and interests of women, and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. China has witnessed much progress in this aspect.

Fourth, the progress in promoting the South-South and triangular cooperation.

Ms Hng Ping, Deputy Secretary General of China Family Planning Association introduce the progress in this aspect, and I just highlight a few. In the past few years, China's SSC program has benefited a great deal from its institutionalization and operationalization. China's Center of Excellence, established in 2017, has playing increasingly important role in experiencing sharing, technology exchanges, personal training, academic institute networking and project implementation for SSC. China Training Center for Reproductive Health and Family Care CTC (also PPD China Program Office) has set a good example for multiple resource mobilization for SSC. We are extremely happy to see that despite the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, a number of innovation and emergency assistant projects of improving reproductive health and reducing maternal mortality have been implemented in 2020 and 2021 in six African and Asian developing countries. The projects are funded by China South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF), and implemented by UNFPA and PPD respectively. This has proved that triangular cooperation has greater role to play in the SSC.

Though great progress and achievements have been made, yet the challenges remain grave. There are still unmet needs for family planning and reproductive health. China's population is experiencing rapid ageing, with decreasing fertility. Improving women's, children's and adolescents'

health still needs to be on the priority agenda of the government. Gender-based violence still exists. The institutionalization and operationalization need further improvement in an innovative manner. In responding to these challenges, China will strive to promote long-term and balanced population development, stay committed to fulfilling the "three zeros" and advancing SSC. More political commitments of policy makers is vital to the SSC. Institutionalization and operationalization is a critical issue. The concept of comparative advantage should be further applied. And more policy support and capacity building are needed to enable the Center of Excellence to play greater leading role in advancing the SSC.

Challenges and opportunities coexist at the same time. Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed in his speech at 76th Session of the UN General Assembly on 21 September 2021 that China will provide an additional three billion US dollars of international assistance in the next three years to support developing countries in responding to COVID-19 and promoting economic and social recovery. China will work together with all countries to build a global community of shared future, leaving no one or no country behind.

Thank you for your attention.