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人口与发展南南合作卓越中心
Population and Development South-South
Cooperation Center of Excellence

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 3RD CHINA-AFRICA CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



***POPULATION DATA MANAGEMENT AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AS KEY DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT***

***23-26 JUNE, 2019
ACCRA, GHANA***

I. BACKGROUND

The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains a priority to all countries and their governments, globally. Population data management and universal access to reproductive health can help advance development and attainment of the SDGs. Universal access to reproductive health rights improves women's chances of surviving pregnancy and childbirth; results in gender equality, promotes child health and survival; enhances female educational outcomes and reduces poverty. Universal access to reproductive health affects different aspects of life and can contribute directly to the attainment of the following SDGs: 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education) and 5 (Gender Equality), and indirectly to the attaining the remaining goals. In Africa, universal access to reproductive health is limited since adolescent births remain high, contraceptive prevalence is still low and unmet need for family planning is still high compared to the rest of the world.

Similarly, population data management helps track progress in the attainment of the SDGs. The indicators and targets of the SDGs cannot be monitored if population data is not managed properly. Whilst data management has seen some improvements in Africa, a lot remains to be done. For instance, many indicators of the SDGs cannot be tracked in Africa due to lack of data.

The role of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the development of Southern countries has been emphasized and encouraged by the United Nations through several resolutions. Among others, SSC can improve both population data management and universal access to reproductive health through knowledge sharing; sharing of best practices; transfer of technology and commodities. China remains a dominant player in the south and increasingly globally, in both knowledge and resource transfer whilst African countries themselves can learn from each other through closer collaboration.

The upcoming edition of the China-Africa Conference, as with previous ones, will continue to provide the opportunity for African countries to learn from China and vice versa, on how population and data management and universal access to reproductive health can drive the attainment of the SDGs.

The Accra Conference will be the third in the series of the China Africa Conference on Population and Development since April 2017, when the first one took place in Nairobi, Kenya with a focus on demographic transition and the demographic dividend, and particular emphasis on human capital, education and skill development as well as health transition. The second edition was held in Guangzhou City of China in July 2018 themed: South-South Cooperation and Achievement of Demographic Dividend in Africa. The objective was to reinforce consensus and strengthen South-South Cooperation (SSC) between China and Africa on population and development issues. As a natural follow-up to the first conference, it highlighted policy priorities, shared goals and capacity strengthening to harness sustained demographic dividend in Africa and called for actions to continue the dialogue by convening on an annual basis. A marked departure expected from the third conference would be an emphasis on follow up actions which are practical, implementable and result-oriented.

II. FOCUS OF THE 3RD CHINA-AFRICA CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The theme for the third China-Africa population conference is *'Population Data Management and Universal Access to Reproductive Health as Key Drivers of Sustainable Development.'* Both population data management and universal access to reproductive health remain pivotal to attaining the SDGs but they face serious challenges in Africa. The review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development(AADPD+5) and International Conference on Population and Development(ICPD) beyond 2014 undertaken in 2018 has revealed, among others, the importance of data management in tracking progress in global development goals, especially their implications for countries of the global south.

The review process also demonstrated the importance of universal access to reproductive health in improving demographic and development indicators in Africa. This is very important particularly since 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the Programme of Action developed at the 1994 ICPD where emphasis was placed on human rights, health and well-being, sexual and reproductive health,

gender equality and sustainable development. The focus of this conference is closely aligned and interlinked with the vision of the 5x5 Themes and Accelerators approach of building momentum towards the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise. The five accelerators are cross cutting issues required to galvanize action within each of the five themes that will shape the programme content of the Summit, deploying different modalities to so do.

Conference objectives

As an academic conference that brings together government officials, academics, experts, civil society professionals etc. to exchange ideas and experiences, the meeting has the following specific objectives:

1. To demonstrate the role of population data management in achieving the SDGs.
2. To show the role of access to reproductive health in achieving the SDGs.
3. To highlight the importance of SSC in achieving the SDGs through population data management and universal access to reproductive health.
4. To review the achievements and challenges of the 25 years' journey of the ICPD.

Expected outcomes of the conference

The following outcomes are expected from the third China-Africa Conference on population and development:

- a. Technical papers on population data management and development issues on China and Africa successfully presented.
- b. Concrete ideas on south to south collaboration between China and African Countries on Population and Development shared.
- c. Outcome document of the 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development prepared and endorsed.

Technical Sessions and Activities

Conference technical sessions and activities will be in the form of presentation of papers and plenary sessions, sharing of best practices and exhibitions. The details of sessions and activities will be determined during committee planning meetings by a sub-committee responsible for technical aspects of the meeting.

Within the general context of the conference theme and in the light of the 25th anniversary of ICPD, for now, five technical sessions being proposed are:

1. A journey of 25 years for ICPD;
2. Population data, universal access to reproductive health and SDGs;
3. Women and girls' empowerment;
4. Left behind groups (youth, older persons, people living with disabilities, migrants, etc.); and
5. The role of young people in the unfinished agenda of the ICPD.

III. TIME, VENUE AND ORGANIZATION

The 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development will take place in Accra, Ghana from 23-26 June, 2019. The conference is being jointly organized and hosted by the National Population Council (NPC) of Ghana and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), with support from the China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) and the China Population Association (CPA).

National Population Council (NPC) Ghana

The National Population Council (NPC) is the highest statutory body set up to advise the government of Ghana on population and related issues. It was established in 1992 and given legal backing by the National Population Council Act of parliament (ACT, 485). The NPC is serviced by a secretariat (NPCS) that acts as the focal point in the formulation and management of population programmes and activities throughout the country. The work of the NPC is mainly in the areas of advocacy; co-ordination of population activities; research, monitoring and evaluation and; capacity building.

UNFPA

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, with the mission of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

The organization was created in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly declared “parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.” UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all and supports access to a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services – including voluntary family planning, maternal health care and comprehensive sexuality education.

Since UNFPA started its work, the world has seen progress: The number and rate of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are healthier. Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before.

In 2018, UNFPA launched efforts to achieve three transformative results, ambitions that promise to change the world for every man, woman and young person: Ending unmet need for family planning, Ending preventable maternal death, and Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices. In order to achieve its objectives in Ghana, UNFPA partners with governmental, civil society and other developmental organizations.

China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC)

China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) is a research institution directly under the National Health Commission (NHC) of China. Established in 1980 with support from UNFPA, CPDRC over the years has recorded huge achievements in population strategy research, population data collection and survey, population projection, application of population administration and decision-making information system, among others and is establishing itself towards a top think-tank in the field of population and development in China.

Population and Development South-South Cooperation Center of Excellence (PDSSC) was officially launched in the CPDRC in 2017 with support from the UNFPA and the former National Health and Family Planning Commission of China (now known as NHC) in order to implement the 'Beijing Call for Action', a roadmap adopted at the March 2016 Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation for Population and Development.

China Population Association (CPA)

China Population Association (CPA) is an academic group at the national level founded in 1981. Its main responsibilities are to promote the scientific study of population, encourage exchange between researchers, and stimulate interest in population issues within China. It organizes the China Population Conference every year to bring together specialists in the field and also seminars and workshops to further scientific knowledge.

A conference secretariat has been established by the host agencies in order to respond to queries and jointly make decisions on meeting preparation and organization. For registration and any other inquiry, please contact caconference@npc.gov.gh copying conference.ghana@unfpa.org

IV. PARTICIPATION

Ministers of Government, experts in population and development, senior government officials, international organizations, CSOs, and representation from academia and the UN are welcome to attend the conference. The number and spread of invited countries and participation will be broad enough to fully represent the African continent.

Participants are expected to take care of their international travels. Meeting organizers will support in the identification and recommendations of local accommodations for international participants. Meeting will be conducted in English and simultaneous interpretations will be provided.

V. SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Titles and abstracts are hereby solicited and welcome. Young people are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts, especially on Youth focused themes. Interested participants may send their papers to caconference@npc.gov.gh copying conference.ghana@unfpa.org by 10th May, 2019. Abstracts submitted for consideration should not exceed 500 words and should be submitted in English. The meeting secretariat will inform applicants whether or not the application is accepted. Confirmed participants are expected to submit full reports by June 7th, 2019.



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