

# An Ongoing Journey

- Review of ICPD + 25 in China



China Population and Development  
Research Center (CPDRC)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
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# FOREWORD

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), convened in 1994 in Cairo, marked a historic moment in international population and development, and its Programme of Action (PoA), adopted by 179 Governments, represented a paradigm shift for population and development, moving the focus away from population targets and to the needs, aspirations, and reproductive rights of women and men. Global 5-year reviews conducted have reaffirmed that ICPD principles contributed to progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and were embedded in the latest international development commitment — the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

China, represented by a huge delegation from the then State Family Planning Commission (SFPC) and many other relevant departments, attended the Conference and has since acted on many of the recommendations in the PoA in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, adolescent and youth reproductive health, and population and development. Over the years, China has made good progress in attaining most of the ICPD goals, supported by its continuous economic growth and Government's commitment to place population and development at the center of its planning and development initiatives.

The measures taken to reap the potential of its youthful population have been widely accepted as part of China's success and have contributed significantly to the country's social and economic development. China's experience over the past four decades, including particularly the 25 years since ICPD, shows that implementing ICPD principles yields enormous benefits for national development by providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning services, and women's and youth empowerment.

The year 2019 represents a milestone in the ICPD agenda — this is the 25th year after its endorsement, and an excellent occasion to review its implementation at the national level. The present ICPD review for China is the first since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and serves as an evidence-based examination of the implementation of the ICPD PoA in China since 1994; it focuses on the achievements, shortfalls, and contributions to the SDGs in China with respect to the UNFPA mandate areas of sexual and reproductive health, youth, gender equality, and population and development.

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# CONTENTS

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** ..... 2
- FOREWORD** ..... 3
- INTRODUCTION** ..... 7
- PART ONE: CHINA'S RESPONSE TO ICPD** ..... 8
  - 1. China's participation in the ICPD ..... 8
  - 2. Prelude to family-planning programme reforms ..... 8
  - 3. Introduction of quality-of-care approach ..... 9
  - 4. Adjustment of fertility policy ..... 11
  - 5. International collaborations ..... 13
- PART TWO: MAJOR APPROACHES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHINA SINCE ICPD** ..... 16
  - 1. Population and development ..... 16
    - 1.1 Demographic dividend and economic development ..... 17
    - 1.2 Low fertility and the coming negative population growth ..... 17
    - 1.3 The reduction of the labor force and rapid population ageing ..... 18
    - 1.4 Speedy urbanization and massive migration ..... 19
    - 1.5 Poverty reduction ..... 20
  - 2. Health improvement ..... 22
    - 2.1 Maternal and child health ..... 24
    - 2.2 Health-poverty alleviation ..... 25

2.3 Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.....	26
2.3.1 The change in contraceptive mix.....	27
2.3.2 Sexually transmitted diseases .....	28
2.4 Young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights .....	29
2.4.1 Knowledge, attitude and behavior .....	30
2.4.2 RH information and service among youths.....	32
3. Gender equality.....	33
3.1 The decline of abnormality in the sex ratio at birth (SRB).....	35
3.2 Education and the gender gap.....	37
3.3 Anti-domestic violence .....	39
<b>PART THREE: THE WAY FORWARD</b> .....	40
1. Low fertility and women’s development.....	40
2. Healthy ageing and labor market.....	41
3. Orderly migration and social integration.....	43
4. Reproductive health and family planning under low-fertility scenario .....	45
5. Implications for South-South Cooperation (SSC).....	46
<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b> .....	48

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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