

**COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR CHINA (2021-2025)**

*Second regular session 2020*

<b>Comments by UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	<b>UNFPA country/regional office response</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CPD for China includes discussion of the PRC's external development work. The CPD instrument should be focused on UNFPA's own work in a country to assist with that country's development. Most basically, CPDs should not include discussion of work that country may be doing outside of its own borders as part of its conduct of foreign policy.</li> </ul>	<p>UNFPA's proposed country programme for China aims at moving forward the ICPD agenda in the country contributing towards the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.</p> <p>Mutually beneficial South-South Cooperation, where China and other countries in the South learn from each other, is an important element of achieving the ICPD agenda.</p> <p>This is done in accordance with the principles of South-South cooperation as affirmed by the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019. The CPD emphasizes facilitation of a two-way approach to South-South cooperation initiatives on population data, maternal health, and humanitarian assistance to ensure these initiatives are linked to the achievement of the SDGs and contributes to China's achievement of the ICPD Agenda. This point is made in paragraph 11 and elaborated in paragraphs 18 and 23.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The U.S. Government has made numerous interventions urging UNFPA not to partner with the Chinese government, which continues to include coercive practices that prevent women and couples from exercising their right to decide for themselves the number, spacing, and timing of their children.</li> </ul>	<p>The cooperation between UNFPA and China has included more than 25 years of country programmes guided by ICPD principles, including a human rights-based approach to SRH and family planning information and services.</p> <p>UNFPA's work in China under the 9<sup>th</sup> Country Programme will remain anchored on the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so, as enshrined in the ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA is not providing any support that is not fully aligned with ICPD.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Chinese Government’s Population and Family Planning Law and related regulations and practices at the central and provincial levels, clearly constitute a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. Since 2017, the U.S. Secretary of State has annually determined that -- for the purposes of the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, as included in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 as well as previous Acts dating back to 1985 -- UNFPA's partnership with China's National Health Commission (NHC), the entity responsible for implementing and enforcing China’s population control program, demonstrates UNFPA's support for or participation in the management of China's coercive policies. As a result of this determination, the U.S. Government is prohibited from providing funding to UNFPA from the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Assistance Act.</li> </ul>	<p>In every country where UNFPA works, including in China, UNFPA promotes access to safe, quality, and fully voluntary family planning as a human right and rejects coercion in all its forms, including birth limits. Consistent with paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, UNFPA does not promote abortion as a method of family planning, in China or anywhere, nor does UNFPA provide abortion services.</p> <p>UNFPA accords the highest priority to voluntary family planning to prevent unintended pregnancies and to eliminate recourse to abortion. Consistent with the policy of the U.S. Government, UNFPA opposes coercive abortion, forced sterilization, and the discriminatory practice of prenatal sex selection. Furthermore, UNFPA does not promote changes to the legal status of abortion in countries.</p> <p>For UNFPA’s response to the latest Kemp-Kasten Amendment determination, we refer to our <a href="#">“Statement on the United States Decision to Again Withhold Critical Funding for UNFPA, amid Global Pandemic”</a> of 1 July 2020.</p>
<p>After review of the draft China Country Program Document (2021-2025), and based on what we currently know of China's coercive population policies, similar concerns about UNFPA's partnership with Chinese government agencies responsible for implementing these coercive policies remain.</p>	<p>Reference is made to the responses provided in the previous sections.</p>

<p><b>Comments by GERMANY</b></p>	<p><b>UNFPA country/regional office response</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We welcome the CPD for China and thank UNFPA for their work in this regard.</li> <li>● The programme is well integrated into national priorities and provides a solid evidence base regarding existing and expected population dynamics. It is targeted to regional and global development outcomes in the areas of health, education and gender equality.</li> </ul>	<p>UNFPA appreciates the comments</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The relevance of sexual and reproductive health and rights is key to achieving the SDGs, given the thematic intersectionality, and in particular the focus on marginalized persons and those in vulnerable situations.</li> <li>● The analysis which underlines that the unmet need of methods for family planning should be targeted through comprehensive sexuality education and better access to services for sexual and reproductive health seems pertinent.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA appreciates the comments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The programme also mentions the continuation of SRH services in the context of pandemics and humanitarian contexts, which we strongly support. It is however, not integrated in the results and resources framework of the document, hence not being measured. This could be adjusted.</li> </ul>	<p>The suggestion has been addressed by modifying Indicator 1.1.2 as follows: ‘Number of national policies/strategies/programmes revised or developed with UNFPA support that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable populations for accessible, acceptable and high-quality SRHR services, including in emergency or humanitarian settings’.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comments by UNITED KINGDOM</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNFPA country/regional office response</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There are numerous references in the document to UNFPA ‘facilitating’ and ‘promoting’ China’s South-South and global cooperation (SSGC), and ‘supporting’ Chinese institutions to participate in SSGC. Instead of UNFPA providing support to China to design and undertake South-South Cooperation projects, we would prefer UNFPA to work with and influence China to increase the effectiveness of its international development cooperation, to achieve development impact and to meet international standards.</li> </ul>	<p>This suggestion is well-noted and is particularly germane to Output 2 under Outcome 1 (Sexual and reproductive health and rights) where the aim as stated in the CPD is to strengthen the capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards.</p> <p>The language used in the CPD is consistent with the framing of the associated outputs in UNSDCF upon which they are based. It should also be noted as stated in paragraph 18 that all SSC activities under the programme will be designed and implemented in accordance with principles of respect for national sovereignty and leadership, horizontality and equality, non-conditionality, mutual benefit and complementarity to North-South Cooperation as affirmed by the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019.</p>