



**Terms of reference (TOR) to hire an institution
to conduct a review of ICPD implementation in China at 30 years
(ICPD+30 review for China)**

I. Background

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) convened in 1994 in Cairo marked a historical moment in international population and development, and its Plan of Action (PoA), adopted by 179 Governments, represented a paradigm shift for population and development, moving from a focus on reaching population targets to a focus on needs, aspirations and reproductive rights of women and men.

Global 5-year reviews of ICPD implementation have reassured that the ICPD principles contributed to progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and subsequently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The latest ICPD review done in 2019 and the ICPD+25 summit in Nairobi pointed out that despite the remarkable progress over the past 25 years, the promise of the ICPD Programme of Action remained a distant reality for millions of people across the world. Many of the governments made ambitious commitments with concrete and innovative actions to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, leaving no one behind, ensuring rights and choices for all. China committed “to continue to honor our commitments to ICPD by effectively integrating the implementation of the Program of Action with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on the 2030 Agenda, and push for integrating the related goals in the medium- and long-term development plans of the country”¹. The summit strongly encouraged all stakeholders to report periodically on the progress towards fulfilling these commitments through transparent means and/or in appropriate public fora.

UNFPA has supported two reviews for ICPD implementation in China in 2014 and 2019. 2024 represents an important juncture in the ICPD agenda: - this is the 30th year after its endorsement, and hence an excellent occasion to review its implementation at both global, regional and national levels.

Over the years, China has been moving well in attaining most of the ICPD goals, particularly those related to poverty alleviation, supported by its continuous economic growth and government’s commitment to place population and development at the center of Government’s planning and development initiatives. The measures taken to reap the potential of a favorable age structure created by a youthful population have been widely accepted as part of the Chinese successful experiences and proved to

¹ For the full description of China’s commitment, please see the document separately shared.



contribute significantly to the social and economic development of China over the past several decades. A review of the ICPD implementation in China at 30 years will be expected to take stock the Chinese experiences and lessons learned in implementing the ICPD principles and goals, as well as their contributions to achieving national population and development goals, including in the recent efforts to combat COVID-19 in China, and be able to support experience exchange with other countries.

II. Purpose

Building on the findings from the ICPD+20 and ICPD+25 reivew for China done in 2014 and 2019, the proposed ICPD+30 review for China aims to produce an evidence-based review on the implementation of IPCD PoA in China since 1994, focusing on the achievements, shortfalls and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals of China in the UNFPA mandate areas of sexual and reproductive health, youth, gender equality as well as population and development, and its relevance in the changed and changing national contexts in China. In addition, the review would be expected to identify remaining challenges and emerging issues of the ICPD agenda for China in the changing national context and provide recommendations for their further acceleration within national SDG efforts.

III. Scope of Work

Specifically, the contracted institution will be expected to conduct the following assignments:

- 1) Produce an inception report that includes, among other details, the following: the primary structure of the review report, the methodology, the data sources, the key timeline, etc. The inception report will be reviewed by the Department of Population Surveillance and Family Development of National Health Commission (NHC) and UNFPA, and upon acceptance, finalized to guide subsequent report writing;
- 2) Produce a draft report on the implementation of ICPD in China based on the agreed-upon report structure and using a variety of information sources, reports, and the most recent survey and statistical data.
- 3) Share the draft report to UNFPA and NHC, and other related Government bodies (for example, NDRC, office of China National Working Commission on Ageing, etc.), and revise and finalize the report based on comments received (which may involve more than one round).

Compared with the previous ICPD reviews done for China in 2014 and 2019, the proposed ICPD+30 review for China will be expected to have the following improvements:



- 1) Globally, reflecting the evolving comprehension of the links between the ICPD principles and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including among others:
 - i) mapping of the ICPD principles with SDG goals and targets; and
 - ii) mapping of the ICPD PoA with the latest SDG indicators;
- 2) Within China, produce an overview on the impact of implementing ICPD principles on achieving national development goals, particularly on poverty alleviation, using both the global and national indicators available;
- 3) Assess the impact of achieving ICPD principles in China for international population and development;
- 4) All analysis should be based on the latest data available, both national and international; and
- 5) Any other improvements deemed relevant by the institution.

IV. Working Schedule and Expected Deliverable

The institution will start work on 22 August 2023 and run through 30 November 2023 with the following time schedule:

- 22-25 August 2023: produce an inception report for the ICPD+30 review in China
- 25 August -31 October 2023: produce a complete draft of the ICPD+30 review report for China
- 1- 30 November 2023: revise and finalize the report based on comments by NHC and UNFPA.

In line with the above working schedule, the following deliverable will be produced:

- Inception report for the ICPD+30 review for China: by 25 August
- A first complete review report of ICPD+30 in China: by 31 October
- One ICPD consultation meeting among scholars: early November of 2023 (can be held earlier if the draft report finished early)
- A revised report of ICPD+30 review for China: by 15 November, 2023
- A finalized report of ICPD+30 review for China: by 30 November, 2023

All milestones will be delivered in Word file in English; and the finalized report will be delivered in Word file in both English and Chinese.

V. Required qualifications of the institution

The ICPD review exercise will require an established institution in the field of population and development in China to lead the process of producing the ICPD+30 review report. The institution should be able to set up a team of experts (may include experts from outside the leading institution) with the combination of varying expertise requirements, including:



- Top level expertise related to the changing population dynamics in China and their contributing factors, particularly since 1994 when the ICPD was conducted;
- Expertise regarding the changes in national population and development policies, Government's institutional setup related to population and development and their corresponding mandates, etc;
- Knowledge of international debate around population and development, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality;
- Proved capacity in undertaking statistics analysis
- Strong communication and writing skills, both written and verbal, particularly high level of English writing skills;
- Rich knowledge of UNFPA mandate and its work in China is a plus
- Personal experiences in one or more UNFPA programme areas is an asset
- Ability to work under pressure and deliver high quality products within a short time

VI. Project Management Arrangements

UNFPA China and the Department of Population Surveillance and Family Development of National Health Commission will be jointly responsible for the progress monitoring and quality control of the research.

VII. Support provided by UNFPA China

UNFPA China will provide financial support as needed. Besides, UNFPA China will provide ongoing technical support and the following technical documents: 1) the previous ICPD review reports for China at 20 years and 25 years; and 2) global development regarding population and development, particularly those related to ICPD +30 observance.

How to submit:

Please submit a proposal including brief introduction of the research team and an estimated budget to Mr. Jia Guoping (jia@unfpa.org) with a copy to china.office@unfpa.org by 14 August 2023.