China Statement at HIV Global Prevention Coalition ministerial meeting

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Honorable Chair, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be invited to this meeting of HIV Global Prevention Coalition. China appreciates the joint effort UNAIDS and UNFPA made to initiate the Coalition and to develop the 2020 HIV Prevention Road Map. Since its inception, this Coalition has convened meetings every year to provide a platform for sharing HIV prevention best practices and experiences among countries and has facilitated all countries to take collaborative approaches to reduce new HIV infections and control the spread of the epidemic. All these efforts are key to the achievement of “Ending AIDS by 2030” target under the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government of China has been long committed to the
prevention and control of HIV and managed to gain remarkable progress. In 2020 we insisted on fighting both battles of HIV and COVID-19 concurrently and making efforts to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on HIV response. So far, we have focused our efforts on the key stages of the HIV service continuum, key populations and priority areas, leading by China Comprehensive AIDS Response Areas (China CAREs) program, we continued to improve targeted publicity and education, promote effectiveness of comprehensive interventions, increase access to testing and counselling services, implement standardized follow-up services, fully implement the policies of conducting early nucleic acid tests to prevention of mother-to-child transmission, providing financial assistance and fostering of civil society organisations. We strengthened comprehensive measures to prevent sexual transmission of HIV. On one hand, we expended HIV testing and treatment to identify and link people living with HIV to high quality cares, furtherly improve the network of HIV testing service, diversify testing service approaches, and scale up the “one-stop service” model which can deliver a whole range of services from diagnose to treatment. On the other hand, we continued the efforts on combination
prevention to reduce new HIV infections by promoting condom, intensifying interventions among HIV sero-discordant couples, carrying out “Internet +” based interventions, providing PrEP and PEP, and promote the engagement of civil society organisations.

Over the years with the concreted efforts of all departments and the whole society, China has essentially terminated the transmission of HIV by blood transfusion and effectively controlled the transmission of by injecting drug use and mother-to-child transmission. The proportion of people who knew their HIV status has remarkably increased while the fatality rate has significantly reduced, which contributed to the remaining low HIV prevalence among general population, rising living conditions for those affected by HIV and improving social environment for non-discrimination. We achieved the targets for the 13th Five-Year Action Plan of HIV Prevention and Control with significant progress and positive outcomes on HIV response.

However, we know the global HIV epidemic is fraught
with daunting challenges. Up till now, there are no preventive vaccines or cures yet. We are still expecting more effective strategies and measures to control the spread of this disease. Looking forward, the tasks of HIV prevention and control may be more challenging than ever.

For the next step, the Chinese government will continue prioritizing prevention in the HIV response. We will highlight responsibilities of the four parts, the government, departments, society and individuals. We will give full play to the China CAREs and ensure rigorous implementing of six engineers on HIV promotion and education, comprehensive interventions, expansion of testing and treatment, comprehensive social governance, elimination of mother-to-child transmission and HIV prevention and education among students. We would continue to advocate individuals being the primary responsible person for health management and mobilize all actors from the society to participate in HIV response.

HIV/AIDS is a major infectious disease and public health threat to human and requires the union of global efforts,
including the United Nations, member states and civil society organisations in the world, to collaborate closely to fight against. China as a member state of the Global Prevention Coalition will play its role positively to support the leadership and coordination of UNAIDS and UNFPA in HIV prevention across the world. We are ready to work with other member states and commit to deepen international cooperation. We would be more than delighted to share China’s experiences and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 SDGs, ending HIV as a public threat to human being, and building of a community of common health for mankind.