

复旦大学人口与发展政策研究中心

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## Tackling the Challenge of an Aging Society:

## China's demographic prospects

**Abstract**: In the coming 20-30 years, the pattern of population aging in China has been finalized, but there are still some uncertainties in the evolution of population aging in China. This reprot will analyze this uncertainties, and also summarizes the key points of China's response to the aging society and puts forward some possible policy choices.

## 1. The overall Development trend of China's population in the next 20-30 years

A large number of population is one of the most important basic national conditions in China, and the development trend of China's population in th next 20-30 years has the following features: The total population tends to decline in the future, but there is no "cliff" or "avalanche" decline; The future trend of population development in China mainly depends on the trend of birth rate; It is a foregone conclusion that the population of childbearing age will continue to shrink in China in the coming period; the population aging has become a norm in China's society.

## 2. The several Uncertainties in the evolution of population aging in China

At present, the government has issued a series of policies and measures to deal with the short-term realistic pressure of providing for the aged. The following aspects are the unavoidable policy themes in the recent strategic deployment.

- (1) Redifine the meaning of the "old age ", expanding the coping space of old age policy and building rational social atmosphere.
- (2) Reinterpret the connotation of "family planning", from "planned family planning according to policy" to "planned family autonomy".
- (3) Face up to the phenomenon of diversification of employment patterns and formulate labor force and industrial planning suitable for the development of an aging society.
- (4) Emphasize the combination of medical care and maintenance, giving priority to and focusing on the long-term care of the disabled and mentally retarded elderly.
- (5) Guide and support modern family construction on the basis of reconstructing family policy.
- (6) Make good use of the "demographic dividend" and demonstrate the possibility of harvesting a new type of dividend in the context of globalization.
- (7) Attach great importance to the impact of scientific and technological development on the elderly and the design of policies for the elderly.
- (8) Actively demonstrate how to transform "Chinese characteristics" to "Chinese advantages" in dealing with piopulation aging.

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