

**IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME  
OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE YEARS 2019-2021  
ON HEALTH COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**AND**

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA**

**PREAMBLE**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the PARTIES"), under the principle of mutual benefit and considering their respective needs and assets, will implement the following activities, within the framework of the Plan of Action for the years 2019-2021 signed in Rome on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

**ARTICLE I**

**(COOPERATIVE AIMS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS)**

This *Implementation Programme* aims at regulating the activities set forth in the Plan of Action for the years 2019-2021 signed in Rome on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

The PARTIES will strengthen their cooperation in the health sector focusing on three technical and clinical areas (1, 2 and 3 below) and two strategic areas with a system perspective (4, 5 below) mobilizing the respective IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS (hereinafter referred to as "the IPs") for follow-up and operations. The IPs, identified when necessary by each Part, will work in close collaboration and under the constant supervision of the PARTIES in the following areas:

1. Cancer prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
2. Cardiovascular diseases prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
3. Infectious diseases prevention, diagnosis, treatment and public health emergency response
4. Primary Health Care and general practice

5. Human Resources for Health

**ARTICLE II  
(COOPERATION AREAS AND CONTENTS)**

1. In Area 1 (cancer) the IPs will be asked to:
  - a. Develop joint laboratories and joint clinical activities aiming at precision medicine and surgery based on current scientific evidence and at drafting and implementing relevant specific guidelines.
  - b. Develop and support prevention campaigns, policies and actions aiming at mitigating major risk factors such as smoking, environmental pollution, alcohol abuse, hepatitis viruses circulation in the general population and in high risk groups.
  - c. Develop and support cancer registries and screening campaigns aiming at developing a shared full epidemiologic and economic capacity, driving priority design, specific interventions and related resources allocation, and monitoring and evaluation procedures.
  - d. Conduct basic research, clinical trials, pathway and related pilot studies as required and decided within a yearly specific collaborative plan. A specific focus will be on innovative drugs and their implications and foreseen impact on health systems as well as study on technology and strategy of early prevention and control.
  - e. Conduct joint training and capacity building activities for GPs, specialists and other relevant stakeholders from the health and other key sectors.
2. In Area 2 (cardiovascular diseases) the IPs will be asked to:
  - a. Develop joint laboratories and joint clinical activities aiming at precision medicine and surgery based on current scientific evidence and at drafting and implementing relevant specific guidelines.
  - b. Develop and support prevention campaigns, policies and actions aiming at mitigating major risk factors such as smoking, environmental pollution, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets and obesity, and sedentary lifestyle in the general

population and in high risk groups, particularly children and adolescents.

- c. Develop and support screening campaigns aiming at developing a shared full epidemiologic and economics capacity, driving priority design, specific interventions and related resources allocation, and monitoring and evaluation procedures.
  - d. Conduct trials, experiments and pilot studies as required and decided within a yearly specific collaborative plan.
  - e. Conduct joint training and capacity building activities for GPs, specialists and other relevant stakeholders from the health and other key sectors.
3. In Area 3 (infectious diseases) the IPs will be asked to:
- a. Develop and support prevention strategies, policies and actions to counter the following situation: exposure to etiological agents; individual and general population behaviors and attitudes related to the transmission of infections; the low compliance of health professionals with respect to the surveillance of communicable diseases and measures of prevention; the vulnerability of response system to infectious emergencies; and the non-standard behaviors and unserious attitudes of health professionals in care practices regarding risk and infection control.
  - b. Develop and support epidemiological surveillance, organization for infectious emergencies, communication for the population, training of health workers, the coordination between different institutional levels and various territorial competences during the implementation of prevention interventions, collection of information, systematic monitoring of the quality and the impact of the actions implemented.
  - c. Conduct research, clinical trials, pilot studies with particular attention to innovative drugs, primary and secondary prevention strategies and the promotion of active immunization. Take action to prevent antibiotic resistance.
  - d. Identify infectious cases and risks in a timely manner, including early warning systems and computerize surveillance systems for infectious diseases.
  - e. Increase vaccination coverage and consciousness in general population and

specific risk groups.

- f. Carry out cooperation activities like academic exchange, training and manoeuvres on emergency medical rescue and response of major public health emergency, i.e., natural disaster, accident-related disaster, nuclear biochemical emergency, infectious diseases pandemic like influenza; develop a training agenda for recruitment, placement, capacity building, supervision and support for general practitioners.
4. In Area 4 (primary health care) the IPs will be asked to:
    - a. Establish a joint Sino-Italian PHC Institute, developing a comprehensive plan detailing its structure, governance and main lines of action.
    - b. Identify and implement a comprehensive information system, with stand-alone and web-based applications aiming at ensuring and strengthening technology transfer between Italy and China and the full implementation of a countrywide PHC system, with a related referral system.
    - c. Draft a research agenda on PHC development in China and implement PHC prototypes in selected Provinces and urban areas in due course confirmed by the PARTIES.
    - d. Draft policy papers, research papers, policy briefs, reports and conference proceedings according to priorities jointly set forth.
    - e. Develop a training agenda for GPs' recruitment, capacity building, deployment, supervision, support.
    - f. Elaborate a possible plan on task shifting and redistribution of patient management responsibilities involving the nursing sector.
    - g. Organize academic conferences, workshops, seminars on PHC.
    - h. The PARTIES will ensure high-level joint participation in the Institute governance bodies and provide financial support according to resources available as specified in Art. IV.
  5. In Area 5 (human resources for health) the IPs will be asked to:
    - a. Jointly implement health professional training and exchange programs, organizing short-term training workshops and academic exchange activities for

hospital managers, clinical physicians, pharmacists, and nurse managers.

- b. Organize Chinese clinical health professionals to study in advanced medical centers in Italy.
- c. Jointly hold China-Italy hospital management forums and medical humanity symposium.
- d. Further promote the establishment of a collaborative network between medical institutions of the two countries to jointly carry out cooperation projects in hospital management, medical education, clinical medicine and health industry.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **(EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE)**

The IPs in each of the above areas will be asked to develop a joint plan, aiming at identifying priority areas of work, modalities, resources, possible intellectual property implications (that will be regulated under applicable national laws) and expected results. The IPs will be asked to promote visits by stakeholders, professionals, delegations from administrations and institutes to learn and exchange experience in Italy or in China. The PARTIES will provide assistance in related procedures and local study and logistics for the delegations. The delegations will cover the international travel expenses and charges incurred.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**(FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS)**

The activities set forth in this Implementation Programme will be implemented by the PARTIES according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and the People's Republic of China. The invited non-profit organizations may participate in the activities as decided by the IPs and foreseen in the detailed joint plan as per Article III. Business organizations may support this Implementation Programme activities by making complementary funding available to the IPs and mobilizing their own resources and assets, provided they comply with the respective national legislations, ethical requirements and have no current and future conflict of interest. Their participation is subject to a specific arrangement signed by all the interested parties and cleared by the present Implementation Programme focal points.

**ARTICLE V**  
**(EFFECTIVENESS, DURATION AND AMENDMENTS)**

This Implementation Programme takes effect on the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of three years, subject to renewal by mutual consent between the PARTIES.

This Implementation Programme may be amended and supplemented by mutual written consent of the PARTIES, according to the IPs' proposal and requests. This Implementation Programme may be integrated or may be followed by specific operational protocols as jointly decided by the PARTIES.

The PARTIES indicate as the focal points for reporting the Directorate General for Communication and European and International Relations for the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Department of International Cooperation for the NHFPC of the PRC. The designated focal points will draft a joint annual report addressing achievements, challenges, and constraints and updating priority areas.

This Implementation Programme will be implemented in accordance with the Italian and Chinese legislations, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian

Party, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this Implementation Programme will be settled amicably by means of direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

Signed in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in duplicate in the Italian, Chinese, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in the interpretation of this Implementation Programme, the text in English will prevail.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH  
COMMISSION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA

THE MINISTER  
*Roberto Speranza*

THE MINISTER  
*Ma Xiaowei*

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