

Speech at the International Briefing on Sharing China's Experience on COVID-19

Ma Xiaowei, Minister of National Health Commission, China

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Distinguished representatives from countries, international organizations,
provinces,

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Good afternoon.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 has spread to more than 100 countries and infected nearly 120,000 people, posing a serious threat to human health and economic and social development. All countries need to join hands in the unprecedented fight against the epidemic. At this critical moment, we organize this international briefing to update you on China's prevention and control measures, share our experience and discuss strategic approaches. And these efforts are expected to help maintain global public health security. I noticed just now that DG Tedros gave full recognition of this in his video message.

The COVID-19 outbreak, with its speed and range of transmission and the difficulty in prevention and control, has been considered unprecedented in the history of the People's Republic of China. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping at its core, the entire Chinese nation was determined to fight this

people's war against the epidemic. Our efforts have quickly controlled the spread and resulted in a substantial change in the development course of the epidemic. Now, the number of new cases detected everyday has dropped to a few dozen. And the situation of prevention and control has witnessed positive changes. Just as the WHO-China Joint Mission has pointed out, "In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history." "Within only seven weeks, China has averted or at least delayed hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 cases in the country, creating a stronger first line of defense against international spread."

During its prevention and control of the epidemic, China has always adhered to its basic national conditions such as respecting the will of the people, the social system, the economic foundation, the public health resources and its emergency response capacity. It creatively applied the classic principles of infectious disease prevention and control: "Control the source of infection, cut the route of transmission, and protect the vulnerable group". In a country deeply involved in the process of globalization, these remarkable results achieved highlight that these classic principles are not fading away, but are still shining in the 21st century. To help other countries develop appropriate prevention and control strategies, I would like to summarize China's approaches from eight aspects.

First, a unified and effective command system. Under its

centralized and unified leadership, the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as the core attaches great importance to and comprehensively guides the response to the epidemic. With President Xi Jinping's personal leadership, direction and instruction, the CPC Central Committee has made major decisions at meetings of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee as well as its the Standing Committee on many occasions, presided by President Xi. The general requirements were "with firm confidence and solidarity, implementing science-driven and precise prevention and treatment measures".

Two days ago, President Xi visited Wuhan, Hubei province where he reviewed the prevention and control of the epidemic, instructing that the prevention and control of the epidemic should remain as top priority. Premier Li Keqiang who serves as the head of the Central Leading Group on epidemic response, coordinated and promoted the implementation of prevention and control measures by various departments and regions. The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council reinforces overall planning and coordination, to fast mobilize governments at all levels, which has led to an overall strengthening of the work with an all-government and all-society approach.

Second, law-based, science-driven and precise prevention and control measures. We have included COVID-19 in category B of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, but treated it as those of category A in line with the international and domestic laws. All provinces have launched

and adjusted their emergency response mechanisms, and conducted the prevention and control accordingly to relevant laws and regulations. To coordinate all the activities of the nation as if playing a chess game, we have set up four lines of defense. **The first line of defense is to win the battle in Wuhan and Hubei province against the epidemic.** Vice Premier Sun Chunlan leads the central steering group based in Wuhan guiding Hubei province to "prevent local transmission and export of cases" with strengthened prevention and control efforts. According to the requirements of the central government, with extraordinary courage, **Wuhan city** has been locked down, curbing the export of the virus. Focusing on community and patient treatment, we implement grid management at the community level, take in and treat every confirmed patient, test every suspect case, and isolate every close contact. **Outside Wuhan**, we have divided 16 prefecture-level cities in Hubei province into **three** categories: areas with community transmission , areas with community clusters and areas with sporadic cases. We have directed 19 provinces to support the cities in Hubei directly. **The second line of defense is to prevent a major outbreak in Beijing.** We have strengthened joint prevention and control work in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region: postponing the convening of the annual sessions of the National People's Congress and CPPCC, safeguarding the passageways and gateways into Beijing, and guiding people from other regions to return to Beijing in an orderly manner. Fully implementing

concerted prevention and control measures at the community level, we are resolute to cut off the source of imported infection. **The third line of defense is to stop the spread of the disease in Hubei's surrounding areas.** Hubei has established a joint prevention and control mechanism with six neighboring provinces (Henan, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hunan, Chongqing and Shaanxi) while Zhejiang, Guangdong and other key provinces have strengthened information sharing with Hubei to effectively prevent the spread of the epidemic. **The fourth line of defense is to resolutely contain the spread of the epidemic nationwide.** We have empowered grassroots prevention and control personnel, tracing all potential close contacts to their homes. We have focused on such prevention measures in public transportation places as ventilation, disinfection of vehicles, temperature monitoring and health screening of passengers. We have also disseminated the knowledge on epidemic prevention, to let every Chinese know what to do and do what they can.

Third, the approach of taking the 4 Early measures and mobilizing the general public to participate. We emphasize on the local levels and taking early precautions to build a tight defense line of the general public. We have a principle of early detection, early reporting, early isolation, and early treatment. We have revised the prevention and control protocol six times, implemented various measures in a detailed and standard manner, which are simple, precise, clear and operable. We have covered the entire population and all the public space, leaving no

gaps. In particular, we focused on “early detection of suspected cases”, which require hospitals to report cases online within 2 hours, laboratories to report the test results within 12 hours, and CDCs to complete epidemiological investigations and follow up close contacts within 24 hours. We have issued 15 technical guidelines. For the elderly, children and other key groups, stations, shopping malls and other public places, enterprises, schools and other key units, we have adopted more targeted prevention and control measures to ensure the orderly return to work and resume production.

Forth, the coordinated deployment of medical resources. Since the outbreak began, the number of patients has been surging. The city of Wuhan rapidly renovated and expanded designated hospitals. In a short term, the number of beds increased from around 5,000 to 23,000, including 9,000 beds for severe cases. A number of stadiums, exhibition centers and training facilities were transformed into makeshift hospitals and quarantine stations. The first three makeshift hospitals had 4,000 beds and were completed in 29 hours. The total 16 makeshift hospitals have treated more than 12,000 mild cases. National, local, and third-party institutions were deployed and three mobile P3 laboratories were dispatched to increase the PCR test capacity to 35,000 per day. These measures quickly expanded medical resources in a short period. In this way, critical cases are treated in designated hospitals, mild cases are

treated in makeshift hospitals, while suspected mild cases, fever patients with unknown cause and close contacts are treated and quarantined to avoid community transmission. This has played an irreplaceable role in both prevention and treatment.

Fifth, the rapid development of treatment capacity. We have deployed more than 340 medical teams and national emergency medical rescue teams from across the country, and more than 40,000 outstanding medical workers to assist Hubei. Among them, more than 15,000 specialize in critical medicine, infection, respiratory, circulatory medicine, and anesthesia. We gather patients, experts, and resources for better treatment outcomes. This has increased the treatment and recovery rate, and decreased the infection rate and mortality rate. Medical experts revised the diagnosis and treatment protocols seven times based on clinical practice. They work based on the linkages among lab results and treatment methods, clinical treatment and multidisciplinary support, medical care and nursing as well as management. They continuously improve the pertinence, creativity, and integrity of treatment, and strive to treat each case in a way that makes the best advantage of their expertise.

Sixth, the successful application of high-tech methods. Technology is a key factor to defeating the epidemic. We focus on the close integration of scientific and technological research with prevention, control and treatment. We use big data and information technology to

guide and improve measures to restrict personnel movements and traffic control, and assist in epidemiological investigations. We coordinated a number of research institutions, identified the pathogens in 8 days, shared the whole genome sequence of some strains with the international community, and completed the test kit optimization in 16 days. We urgently launched emergency research projects, optimized diagnosis and treatment programs, carried out clinical trials of drugs, and coordinated multiple institutions to simultaneously advance vaccine development. Traditional Chinese Medicine is widely used at various stages of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, in the response of the epidemic.

Seventh, for the people and by the people. In the history of the Chinese nation, it has been plagued by pestilence, and it can always be rejuvenated. This is closely related with the tradition of Chinese people, of embracing the world, assisting those in difficulties and sacrificing oneself for the country. In the face of the epidemic, we shoulder the responsibility at home and abroad. 1.4 billion people are united as one person, consciously fulfill our obligations, and carry out home quarantine and self-protection. Especially the people in Wuhan and Hubei, they are self-disciplined and care for the bigger world, with great sacrifice. The medical workers put danger behind the job. They are on the front line of this battle, and have made miracles for life. They have fully demonstrated the health emergency capacity and organizational management level and

interpreted the lofty spirit of "respecting life, saving lives and helping wounds, willing to dedicate, and boundless love".

Eighth, carry out in-depth international cooperation. International community provided extensive support to China in the fight against the epidemic. Many countries, regions and international organizations have paid their condolences, and donated a large amount of supplies. The WHO and relevant countries have worked closely with China by sharing information. This is invaluable for us during our time of difficulty. "The grace of dripping water shall be reciprocated by a gushing spring" Friends who help us in times of crisis, we will never forget. Recently, we have announced a grant of USD 20 million to the WHO to support international cooperation against COVID-19 and help developing countries improve their response capabilities. At the request of relevant countries, China also sent experts, donated testing kits and medical supplies to support their fight. We will continue to do our best to help countries and regions in need, and play our part in the international epidemic prevention and control.

Ladies, gentlemen, friends:

Viruses and epidemics are the common enemies of mankind. The only correct choice for us is to help each other and overcome the difficulties together. China's resolute control of the epidemic at all costs, is not only

responsible for the lives and health of the 1.4 billion Chinese people, but also for the lives and health of 7.5 billion susceptible people worldwide. At present, COVID-19 is still spreading rapidly worldwide. International organizations such as the United Nations, WHO and the World Bank actively call on all parties to respond properly. China has developed the prevention and control and treatment protocols, strategies, methods, technologies, standards, and case studies. These have been proven useful in reality. We are willing to share the "China Approaches" to the international community. After the meeting, you could scan the QR code to download these documents.

The spring of Wuhan is coming, while the world's fight against COVID-19 has entered a critical stage. No infectious disease can stop the development of the human society. Let us work together to forge ahead and greet the dawn of victory.

Thank you.