Demographic implications of recent shifts in China's fertility policy



China: Population Estimates and Projections

Source: Medium projection variant, the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects



Trends in old-age dependency ratio, P(65+) / P(20-64)

Source: Medium projection variant, the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects

Old-age dependency ratio



What demographic components are mainly responsible for China's total population change and increase in the old-age dependency ratio?



Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 \* 100%



How responsive are total population and the old-age dependency ratio to changes in fertility?

"Best policy response" scenario assumes:
– Fertility esti±

China: Projection of Total Population including the Best Policy Response Scenario



Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 \* 100%





Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 \* 100%

## Conclusions

- China has begun a rapid acceleration in population ageing: over next 40 years the old-age dependency ratio (OADR) projected to increase from 12% to 50%.
- Population momentum (+21%) and mortality decline (+10%) are the largest two factors responsible for increases in OADR.
- Fertility below replacement accounts only for 7% of this increase.

## Conclusions (continued)

- Total population of China is affected more than old-age dependency ratio by possible future increases in fertility.
- Under a "best policy response" scenario:
  - total population will increase reaching 1.55 billion people by 2050 (or by about 15% of the 2010 population) – an upper bound of scenarios of future population change.