Annex

Consensus of 23rd Tripartite Meeting on Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases

1. Further strengthen cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the prevention and control of communicable diseases and the response to public health emergencies; continue to hold the Tripartite Meeting on Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases on a regular basis; and actively promote the exchange of information and experience in preventing and controlling communicable disease among the three places; and enhance the level of communicable disease prevention and control as well as public health emergency response capabilities across the three places.

2. In accordance with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, co-ordinate and advance the synergies and collaborations between the Five-Year Plans of three places. Continue to implement and enforce the tripartite co-operation agreement on public health emergencies, particularly focusing on strengthening exchanges and co-operation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, to strengthen alignment of policies and technologies; improve emergency response systems for public health emergencies and major communicable diseases to further enhance the joint prevention and control standard of the three places.

3. Further strengthen co-operation and exchanges across various fields of communicable diseases, including the integration of medical treatment and disease prevention as well as health promotion, and the surveillance, prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases, priority and emerging communicable diseases; consider adding content on the “Healthy Bay Area” initiative and the prevention and control of chronic diseases. Strengthen the prevention and control of mosquito-borne communicable diseases, such as chikungunya fever and dengue fever, by conducting reviews at the technical and administrative levels; build consensus among the three places regarding prevention and control strategies; consolidate mechanisms, strengthen the research and development of applied technologies, and promote the use of innovative technologies.

4. Continue to deepen scientific research collaboration on communicable diseases, with a focus on advancing the development of epidemic early warning systems

based on advanced mathematical models and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance the sensitivity of surveillance systems; continue to jointly deepen the research on vaccine efficacy evaluation; strengthen capabilities for collecting and analysing pathogen data by exchanging laboratory monitoring methods and standards; promote the exchange of pathogen genetic analysis results; enhance technical co-operation on sewage surveillance technologies to provide robust scientific support for regional communicable disease prevention and control.

5. The three places confirmed that the current notification mechanism operates smoothly and efficiently, playing a crucial and positive role in preventing and controlling communicable diseases. To further strengthen the exchange of information on communicable disease, the three places will optimise the existing notification mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of their collaboration. The three places will also explore introducing technologies, such as AI and big data analytics to develop an intelligent data platform that enables data interoperability and real-time sharing.

6. The three places agreed to continue conducting joint risk assessments under the existing mechanism. In the event of emerging communicable diseases outbreak, major event or cross-boundary communicable disease outbreak affecting the three places, joint consultations and assessments will be promptly convened. The three places will collaboratively develop prevention and control strategies, and implement joint prevention and control measures simultaneously to mitigate the risk of communicable disease outbreaks across the three places and safeguard public health.

7. Conduct regular emergency response exercises together, simulating various scenarios, such as cross-boundary communicable disease outbreaks and public health emergencies. These exercises will enhance scenario simulation, emergency response coordination, and the evaluation of response effectiveness. Enhance the efficiency of coordinated prevention and control efforts among the three places, and improve the operational capabilities, promote the development of the public health emergency response systems in the three places toward greater scientific rigor and standardisation, and provide a solid foundation for responding to major public health crises.

8. Continue to promote personnel exchanges and training cooperation. The scope of the training will encompass disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, field epidemiology, emergency response, laboratory testing and infection

control in healthcare facilities. This will comprehensively enhance the professional technical expertise and practical emergency response capabilities of disease control personnel in the three places.

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