**附件1**

资助领域

Many societal challenges are complex and interrelated. To address them requires sustainable collaboration, and flexibility and creativity to achieve sustainable results for effective and impactful solutions. The collaborative research financed by NSFC and NWO in this Call is intended to work towards scientific knowledge and sustainable, innovative solutions for high scientific and societal impact. At the same time, NSFC and NWO aim to stimulate strong, sustainable research collaboration between their two countries, for projects with sustainable results and high potential for impact. They do this by inviting consortia in which researchers from knowledge institutions from both countries will work with societal partners from public, semi-public and private organisations, in order to increase the societal relevance and impact of their research.

The current Call focuses on the topic of **‘Urbanisation and Demographic Change’**, a topic of great interest and importance to both China and The Netherlands.

**Thematic focus**

The theme of urbanisation is a crucial to both The Netherlands and China. Despite the overall decrease in population growth as result of low fertility, the process of urbanisation continues at a high pace due to a combination of economic (the rise of the post-industrial economy) and demographic (the educational expansion creates a pool of young high-skilled urbanites) causes. In China, continued urbanisation is enabled by internal migration, not only from rural areas, but also between cities; in The Netherlands, urbanisation is associated with internal as well as international migration, both from European and non-European countries. Yet, inter-provincial migration in China resembles international migration in Europe in several respects, if only because the *hukou* system structures human movement in ways that, in some ways, resemble nationality-related structures in the European context. In both countries, cities compete to attract and keep high-skilled migrants to support economic growth and foster innovation.

At the same time the space for urban expansion is curbed by national policies: in China to guarantee food security, in The Netherlands to preserve the open landscape and natural resources. A massive shift to urban redevelopment and densification is needed to provide adequate housing for the urban workforce including the ones with low- or middle incomes. At the same time the quality of life in cities is deteriorating due to rising levels of: noise, emissions of air pollutants, and heat-stress. The major challenge for both countries is to make cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable in the words of the UN, or more poetically to achieve the ‘Dream of Beautiful China’.

Urbanisation has two main social consequences in relation to demographic change. The first is the diversification or the urban population in relation to the management of migration. Previous waves of migration have led to concentrations of low-skilled migrants (in the form of ‘ethnic enclaves’ in ‘villages-in-the-cities’ in China and of post-war social housing estates in The Netherlands), that are now under threat of redevelopment, as manufacturing industries have displaced and land prices surge. Current waves of high-skilled migrants at the start of their occupational career are having difficulties in finding their way into the urban housing market due to limited access to the expensive owner-occupied housing and the lack of an affordable (private and public) rental market.

The second is the reconfiguration of family relations. Migration leads to geographical separation between parents and children and the urban way-of-life undermines the traditional values and opportunities for filial support of the elderly. The low fertility of the past decades further exacerbates this lack of familial resources. Market based solutions have so far failed in providing services that are tenable within the limits of either the public (in The Netherlands) or personal (in China) budgets in particular for the vulnerable elderly with limited financial or familial resources. Communities based solutions are regarded a necessary alternative, but lack a clear evidence base in terms of their availability, acceptability and accountability.

Tackling these issues requires a new urban research agenda to provide the theoretical and empirical evidence-base for social innovations:

* A better understanding of the diversity in both the economic contribution and the needs and resources of the successive migrant cohorts, to support new ways of migration management and to identify innovations in the system of housing provision to include the procurement of affordable housing and a stable rental market for young talent that has to find its’ way into the urban labor market, as well housing for those that are under threat to losing their current affordable housing and access to labor.
* A better understanding of differences in the reconfiguration of family relations and the concomitant transportability of structures of provision between The Netherlands and China, to identify innovation in community-based approaches that contribute to the well-being of the residents, including the elderly, and stimulate conviviality and harmony.

These two research priorities are among the most pressing urban challenges in both China and The Netherlands, which are both troubled by the marketization of public goods and concerns about the social contract between the state and its citizens. Within this context other priorities will also concerns.

- Innovation of the land-use and transportation system that guarantees the accessibility to jobs and urban amenities, amongst others by developing new hybrids of (shared) public/private modes that increase the efficiency both in time and space and produce safer and healthier outcomes for the urbanites.

- Innovation in multi-level urban governance that supports the idea of ‘one government’ and engages the market and citizens in the production of space in a fair way.

- Innovation in urban management of public and private facilities like water, energy, waste treatment that guarantees safe and secure delivery within the principals of a circular economy.