

# People’s Republic of China

## Comprehensive National-Level Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

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The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 has an epoch-making historical significance for women's development and gender equality in China. In preparation for this meeting, the Chinese government, government departments and women's federations have carefully summarised China's successful experiences in promoting gender equality and women's development. Also, China has actively absorbed the ideas, policies and effective ways of realising gender equality and empowering women and girls in the international community. China has made full use of the Conference to accelerate the establishment of a national mechanism for the advancement of women. Over the past 25 years, China has adhered to its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and consistently promoted gender equality and women's all-round development.

China attaches great importance to commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. China recognises the documents' key roles in accelerating gender equality and empowering women and girls. Under the coordination of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, the governments and relevant departments at all levels, women's federations at all levels, social organisations, academia, and media are involved in this comprehensive review and evaluation at the national level. China seizes this favourable opportunity to strengthen dialogue and exchange, to form synergy, to accelerate social action, to actively address the root causes and disadvantages of gender inequality, to create opportunities for the equal and all-round development of women and girls, and to promote the realisation of substantive gender equality.

## **Section One: Priorities, achievement, challenges and setbacks**

### **1. The most important achievements in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years**

*First, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has strengthened its strong leadership in promoting gender equality and women's development, which has achieved new results.* China is a large country with a population of more than 1.3 billion. The CPC, as the ruling party, has always adhered to the political proposition of gender equality. The Party is the leader in promoting gender equality and women's development in China. "Adhere to the basic state policy of gender equality and guarantee the legitimate rights and interests of women and children" was written into the reports of the 18th and 19th National Congress of the CPC. This principle has become the policy agenda, the concept and strategy of governance in the new era. The "Decision on Comprehensively Advancing Certain Major Issues in Governing the Country by Law" clearly states that it is necessary to improve the laws and regulations on the protection of women's

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legitimate rights and interests.

The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has put forward a series of important expositions to promote gender equality and women's all-round development. It is required to fully consider the differences between the two sexes and the special interests of women during the introduction of laws, policy formulation, planning, and work deployment. Women's equal exercise of democratic rights in accordance with the law, equal participation in economic and social development, and equal enjoyment of reform and development achievements should be ensured. Also, it is required to improve the legal and regulatory system to protect the legitimate rights and interests of women, building a solid legal barrier for promoting gender equality and women's all-round development. The Central Committee calls for closer integration of economic and social development with the promotion of women's overall development, strengthening the epochal character of the cause. These all provide a fundamental basis for China to promote gender equality and women's all-round development in the new era.

In 2015, China and the United Nations successfully hosted the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. President Xi Jinping personally presided over and delivered an important speech, profoundly expounding the concept of women's comprehensive development and leading the global process of accelerating women's all-round development. Before the meeting, the Chinese government issued a white paper entitled "China's Gender Equality and Women's Development", demonstrating the brilliant achievements of China's progress towards gender equality and women's development. After the meeting, the Conference on the In-depth Implementation of the Basic State Policy of Gender Equality was held, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. The leaders of the State Council issued an important speech and put forward clear requirements for promoting gender equality and women's development. In 2015, the CPC convened the first Group Work Conference of the Central Party in history, to promote the reform of group work and set the direction for women's development business in the new era. In 2018, the Twelfth National Congress of Women was held to study and deploy the tasks of women's all-round development in the next five years.

*Second, new results have been achieved on laws, regulations and judicial practice for safeguarding the rights and interests of women and children.* "Women's rights and interests are basic human rights. They must be protected by laws and regulations and integrated into national and social rules and norms." President Xi Jinping's speech at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment affirmed the importance and national responsibility for safeguarding women's rights and interests.

Since 2014, laws and regulations to protect women's rights and interests, such as the "Anti-Domestic Violence Law" and the "Criminal Law Amendment (IX)", have

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been enacted and implemented. The concepts of gender equality and gender justice have been widely practised in all areas of law-based governance. Severe penalties are imposed on crimes against women and girls. The protection of women's and girls' rights are expanded in the aspects of cybersecurity legislation, filing review, administrative enforcement, criminal enforcement and public legal services. China has issued more than ten policy documents, for instance, the "Opinions of the State Council on Strengthening the Welfare Security Work for Children in Difficulties", the "Opinions of the State Council on Strengthening the Care and Protection of Left-behind Children", the "Guiding Opinions on Safeguarding the Relief Work for Victims of Domestic Violence" and the "Interim Regulations on Human Resources Market." A gender-responsive assessment mechanism for regulations and laws has been explored, as a way to advance the process of gender mainstreaming.

Third, new results have been achieved on the simultaneous implementation of women's development plans and national economic and social development plans/special plans. In 2016, the Sixth National Conference on Women and Children was held. Premier Li Keqiang made an overall plan for accelerating the development of women and children during the "13th Five-Year Plan" period. He put forward clear requirements. In the same year, the "13th Five-Year Plan for China's National Economic and Social Development" has planned to promote the comprehensive development of women and girls. Also, the national special plans have prioritised the development issues. The goals related to the development of women and children, especially the expansion of the coverage of women's "Two Cancers" screening (breast and cervical cancer) in rural areas, the implementation of "Two Cancers" screening project for urban low-income families in some areas, the expansion of child nutrition improvement project in poor areas, and the promotion of Children's Home in urban and rural communities, are included in the national "13th Five-Year Plan" or its special action plans. The government will incorporate the "Programme for Women's Development (2011-2020)" into economic and social development plans, into the financial budget, into government's civil affairs, and into government's responsibility assessment. Chinese government focuses on solving the difficult problems regarding women's development.

The results of the 2016 national mid-term evaluation show that more than 80% of the main objectives and tasks have been completed ahead of schedule. Tasks have been overfulfilled efficiently and great results have been achieved in seven major development areas, including health, education, participation in decision-making and management, economy, social security, legal protection and environment. The targets of national maternal mortality rate, women's access to education at all levels, and the proportion of women's employment have been realised ahead of schedule. More than ten special plans set clear requirements for the key goals of women and girls' development, for instance, the "National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020", the "Population Development Plan 2016-2020", the "Healthy China 2030 Blueprint", the "13th Five-Year Plan on Education", the "13th Five-Year Plan on Civil Affairs", the

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“13th Five-Year Plan on Poverty Alleviation”, the “Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan on Strengthening the Well-being of the Disabled”, the “Five-Year Plan on Guiding the Promotion of Family Education (2016-2020)”, and the “Seventh Five-Year Plan on the Promotion of the Rule of Law.” White papers such as the “Progress in Human Rights over the 40 Years of Reform and Opening Up in China”, the “Development of China’s Public Health as an Essential Element of Human Rights” and the “Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2014” have made special reports on the rights of women and children.

*Fourth, new results have been achieved on the Women’s Federation’s role as a bridge.* The Women’s Federations at all levels are organisations for women. As the biggest women’s organisation in China, it serves as the bridge and link between the party/government and women. Its fundamental task is to connect and serve women. The basic function is to represent and safeguard women’s rights, as well as promote gender equality and women’s all-round development. Over the past five years, Women’s Federation has closely focused on the overall situation of the party and the country, stayed community- and women-focused, continuously strengthened the mechanism construction, vigorously improved service capabilities, and actively promoted the resolution of outstanding problems in women’s development. It has made new contributions to advancing the all-round development of women in China.

In particular, since the reform of the Women’s Federation, the organisation has been comprehensively strengthened and the workforce has continued to grow. The outstanding representatives of women from all walks of life have been recruited into the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee and the grassroots work teams. As a result, the Federation’s organisational capacity to promote women’s development has been enhanced. Focusing on the major arrangements of the Party Central Committee, the Federation has initiated an action plan to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among women. The Federation has accumulated training sessions for more than 5.5 million people, implemented the women’s micro-credit loan project, and promoted the employment and self-employment of women. Also, the Women’s Federation has initiated an action plan to alleviate poverty among women, helping more than 3.6 million poor women increase their income. The “Two Cancers” free screening and treatment project has been implemented to improve women’s reproductive health. The Federation actively participates in the formulation and revision of more than 80 laws, regulations and policies such as the “Anti-Domestic Violence Law” and the “Universal Two-Child Policies”. Moreover, the mechanism to prevent and resolve marriage and family disputes has been continuously improved. The judicial interpretation to solve the problem of common debt between husband and wife has been introduced and promoted. The establishment of a mechanism to promote fair employment for women has been explored as well. In February 2019, the All-China Women’s Federation, along with nine government departments, issued the “Notice on Further Regulating Recruitment and Promoting Women’s Employment”, clarifying the criteria for determining gender discrimination in employment, prohibiting the restriction of women’s employment based on gender, and providing policy support for further

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guaranteeing women's equal employment rights.

*Fifth, new results have been achieved on optimizing the social and natural environment for the development of women and girls.* China comprehensively uses laws, policies, administration, education, public opinion and other means to promote the implementation of the basic state policy of gender equality. The awareness of gender equality in the whole society is increasingly stronger. Respecting and caring for women and children is becoming a national will and a social virtue.

The book "Implementation of the Basic State Policy of Gender Equality" has been published. It integrates theoretical innovation and case analysis to promote the concept of gender equality. 2400 Party Schools and Schools of Administration at or above the county level incorporate the basic state policy of gender equality into training courses. More than ten thousand primary and secondary schools in 15 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities) carry out gender equality education. The concept of gender equality is popularised among children. Chinese honour guards have newly added the female soldier's square, representing the national and military image of gender equality. The newly released "Urban Public Toilet Design Standards" in 2016 fully considers the differences between men and women, increasing the ratio of female toilet seats to male's to 3:2. In areas with a large flow of people, the ratio is 2:1. China promotes the construction of maternal and child facilities in public and working places, providing a comfortable environment for pregnant and nursing women.

## **2. The top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls over the past five years.**

*First, poverty eradication.* The eradication of poverty is the ideal that human beings dream of and the basic right of people in all countries to pursue a happy life. Since 2012, China has treated poverty eradication as the bottom-line task and landmark indicator for building a well-off society in an all-round way, comprehensively launching a fight against poverty. The "Development-oriented Poverty Reduction Programme for Rural China (2011-2020)" incorporates women and children as key targets into the national comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy. The "Programme for Women's Development (2011-2020)" prioritises the reduction of women's poverty, supporting poverty alleviation projects and the development of economic entities mainly employing women in poverty. In 2018, the "Guidelines on the Three-Year Action Plan on Poverty Eradication" by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council proposes that the cervical and breast cancer screening project in poor areas should be extended to all poverty-stricken counties. Also, the establishment of a caring service system for left-behind elderly, children and women should be accelerated. The targeted poverty alleviation policies, such as promoting microfinance, creating poverty files and assisting women in poor households, have been promulgated. The action plan to alleviate poverty among women promotes the creation of poverty files as well. The plan underlines seven areas of poverty eradication, including determination, capacity

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building, entrepreneurship, skills, mutual aid, health and philanthropy.

*Second, eliminating violence against women and girls.* Over the past five years, China has revised the criminal law and formulated the anti-domestic violence law applicable to China's national conditions, determined to eliminate violence against women and girls. The process is based on local experiences and top-level design. The "Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China (Amendment IX)", which has been implemented since November 1, 2015, severely punishes the sexual assault against girls. The "Anti-Domestic Violence Law of the People's Republic of China", passed in December 2015, fully demonstrates China's firm and consistent position on respecting and safeguarding human rights and opposing domestic violence. It shows that China is committed to solving the problem. "The state prohibits any form of domestic violence", which strongly declares that domestic violence is not a family dispute, but an illegal act. By the end of 2018, the National People's Court has issued 3, 743 copies of personal safety protection orders. Relevant government departments, judicial organs, and the All-China Women's Federation have established and improved a coordinating mechanism for defusing family conflicts. They have also strengthened the measures for preventing and dealing with domestic abuse. The grassroots self-governing, community-based organisations rely on grid management to prevent and deal with domestic violence. Social organisations are actively involved in anti-domestic violence work. A total of 247 supporting laws and policy documents have been published in 24 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country to implement the Anti-Domestic Violence Law.

*Third, quality education for women and girls.* Since 2014, the education department has earnestly implemented the basic state policy of gender equality, continuously promoting education equity and guaranteeing women and girls' right to education. The "Opinions on the Implementation of the Third Pre-school Education Action Plan" has been issued to ensure equal opportunities for boys and girls to enter kindergarten. In 2017, the national three-year pre-school gross enrolment rate (including girls) reached 79.6%. The gender gap has been basically eliminated during the period of compulsory education. The net enrolment rate of primary school-age girls was 99.9%, which was basically the same as that of boys. The national nine-year compulsory education rate (including girls) was 93.8%, while the national high school gross enrolment rate was 88.3%. The gender gap in high school education has been narrowed. Female students account for more than half of the total in higher education. In 2017, the proportion of female students in universities and colleges was 52.54%. Also, female represented 52% of all studying overseas sponsored by the government, exceeding the male counterparts.

*Fourth, comprehensively promoting the development of health issues for women and children.* The "13th Five-Year Plan for China's National Economic and Social Development", the "Healthy China 2030 Blueprint", the "13th Five-Year Plan on Health (2016-2020)" have made the safety and health of maternal and infant an

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important issue. A number of normative documents, such as the “Opinions on Management Service and Clinical Treatment for Elderly Pregnant Women”, have been issued. “Action Plan on Maternal and Infant Safety (2018-2020)” and “Action Plan on Child Health (2018-2020)” have been developed and implemented. The National Health Commission, the All-China Women’s Federation and other departments organise the “Two Cancers” free screening and treatment project. By 2018, more than 85 million women living in rural areas have received cervical cancer screening, with 20 million taking breast cancer screening. Since 2014, the health level of women and children has increased significantly, and the core indicators of women and child health are generally better than the average level of middle- and high-income countries. Women’s average life expectancy increased to 79.43 years, which met the UN Millennium Development Goal ahead of schedule in 2014. China is one of the few countries in the world to achieve this goal. In 2018, the national maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, and under-five mortality rate fell to 18.3/100,000, 6.1‰, and 8.4‰ respectively, achieving the goals of development plans ahead of schedule.

*Fifth, changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes.* In recent years, China has further promoted the implementation of the basic state policy of gender equality, resolutely eliminating gender inequality and gender stereotypes embedded in traditional culture. The book “Implementation of the Basic State Policy of Gender Equality” has been published. It is based on China’s national conditions and practical experiences, in line with the international trend of gender mainstreaming. The book guides the national process of gender mainstreaming through case studies. The All-China Federation of Trade Unions has formulated the “Guidelines for Promoting Gender Equality in the Workplace.” By reviewing cases and interpreting relevant laws and regulations, the employers are guided to establish corresponding mechanisms. Party Schools and Schools of Administration at or above the county level widely run the courses of the basic state policy of gender equality, raising the awareness of gender issues among leading cadres. More than 100 colleges and universities offer courses in gender studies to cultivate students’ sense of gender equality. The gender equality education since childhood has seen initial success.

Multiple departments cooperate to revise the village regulations, implementing the basic state policy of gender equality, promoting the cultural change, and establishing the rules of gender equality in rural areas. In December 2018, seven departments including the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee and the All-China Women's Federation jointly issued the “Guiding Opinions on Village Regulations and Residents’ Conventions.” By 2020, all villages and communities across the country should formulate or revise new village regulations and residents’ conventions. In recent years, the female image in mass media has become more positive. “Her Power” has become a popular phrase in the new era. More female characters in TV dramas pursue independence and equal development, becoming the models for disseminating the culture of gender equality.

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**3. Over the past five years, the specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.**

*First, women living in remote and rural areas.* China is a large agricultural country. Women living in rural areas account for more than 60% of the rural labour force. They benefit from and participate in the amelioration of the rural areas, actively involved in agricultural production, domestic and public affairs. The implementation of the rural revitalisation strategy has dramatically changed the lives of rural women. Women's economic and social status has been improved significantly. Since 2014, China has taken action to confirm the contracted land and register the real estates in rural areas. It is explicitly required that women's contracted land use rights and homestead use rights be recorded on the relevant ownership certificates. In 2018, the newly revised "Rural Land Contract Law" has stipulated that family members enjoy equal rights to the contracted land. Certificates for contracted land use rights or forest ownership should list all family members concerned. Women living in rural areas have "a name on the certificate, as well as the corresponding rights." The "Opinions of the Supreme Peoples' Court on Providing Judicial Services and Guarantees for the Implementation of the Rural Revitalisation Strategy" proposes to protect the legal rights and interests of married women in rural areas. It also stipulates that crimes such as rape, indecency, abduction, purchase and fraud against women and children shall be severely punished. Since 2014, China has offered more than 30 million (CNY) special funds to provide technical training for rural women, to develop characteristic industries and to realise economic empowerment.

By the end of 2018, the number of rural poor has decreased from 98.99 million in 2012 to 16.6 million. The incidence of poverty has dropped from 10.2% in 2012 to 1.7%, and about half of the reduced poverty population have been women. "Love with Wisdom" Project has been launched to improve the scientific literacy of rural women. In 2016, the national hospital birth rate in rural areas increased to 99.6%. Maternal and infant safety is guaranteed. Furthermore, the rural "Toilet Revolution" Project has brought about a great improvement in the living environment of women and children. 53.5% of the villages have completed or partially completed the renovation of toilets. Nearly half of the households have renovated their toilets. The new, safe, sanitary and user-friendly toilets have benefited thousands of households.

*Second, ethnic minority women and girls.* From 2012 to 2018, the central government invested 31.047 billion (CNY) in development-oriented poverty alleviation funds. "The 13th Five-Year Plan on Promoting the Development of Ethnic Areas and Ethnic Groups with Small Population" and "The 13th Five-Year Plan on the Programme to Revitalise Border Areas and Enrich Residents" have been promulgated. China develops various ethnic education at all levels, steadily promotes bilingual education, takes care of minority candidates for further studies, and reasonably allocates boarding schools in farming and pastoral areas. The minority women and girls' right to education

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is guaranteed. In 2017, more than 7,000 primary and secondary ethnic schools have offered bilingual education across the country, and more than 2.93 million students have taken the education. The Tibet Autonomous Region has fully implemented a 15-year public education policy from pre-school to high school. The southern part of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has provided the 15-year free education. For rural areas, three-year pre-school bilingual education without charge has been organised. By the end of 2017, a total of 195 radio and television institutions in ethnic areas have broadcasted radio programmes in 14 minority languages; while 263 institutions have produced television programmes in 10 minority languages. It has greatly enriched the cultural life of ethnic minority women and girls. Among the ethnic representatives of the 13th National People's Congress, women accounted for 41.3%.

*Third, women and girls living with disabilities.* The legal system to protect the rights and interests of the disabled has been continuously improved. As of April 2018, there were more than 80 laws and 50 administrative regulations covering the protection of disabled people. The concept of “equality, participation and sharing” has gradually gained popularity. The survival and development of women and girls living with disabilities have improved significantly. The “Special Education Enhancement Plan” has established a subsidy system for students with disabilities from kindergarten to higher education institutions. Since the fall semester of 2016, disabled girls from families with financial difficulties have been exempted from the tuition and fees for high school. The 12-year free education has thus been realised. Over the past five years, 31,000 girls living with disabilities have received inclusive pre-school education.

China has comprehensively improved the employment of disabled people. Over the past five years, 1.5912 million women living with disabilities have received employment training and 1.7896 million have found employment. With the implementation of the targeted poverty alleviation policies, 1.927 million disabled women with poverty files have got rid of poverty. Over the past five years, 26.147 million urban and rural disabled people have participated in the basic endowment insurance for urban and rural residents. 5.295 million out of the 5.472 million insured severely disabled persons under 60 years of age have received government support. 96.8% of the premiums have been paid by the state.

#### **4. The most important challenges in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years.**

Due to the factors such as economic and social development level, as well as historical culture, China's gender equality and women's development still face many problems. From the perspective of promoting the all-round development of women, the advancement in the fields of economy, politics, culture and ecology is not balanced and insufficient. The perceptions and practices that discriminate against women still exist in many aspects. From the perspective of overall development, women's empowerment is not balanced between urban and rural areas, among regions, and among different

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groups. The issues of rural left-behind women and girls, as well as migrants in cities, are increasingly prominent. From the perspective of equal rights, opportunities and resources between men and women, the basic state policy of gender equality and the principle of “putting children first” have not been fully implemented in the formulation and implementation of regulations and policies. New challenges to women’s fair employment and entrepreneurship have emerged, including supply-side structural reform, industrial restructuring and upgrading under the “new normal” of economic development, and implementation of the “Universal Two-Child Policy.” Basic public health services and social services for women remain to be strengthened. The social insurance benefits for women, especially for those who are in flexible employment, need to be improved. Also, women’s participation in decision-making and management has to be further enhanced. There is still a long way to go from gender equality conferred by law to de facto equality

## **5. The top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in China for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes.**

First, continue to strengthen the legal system for protecting the rights of women and girls, and integrate the basic state policy of gender equality into the whole process and all aspects of rule by law. In the next five years, China will continue to improve the rights of women and children in the areas of legislation, law enforcement and justice. As President Xi Jinping has pointed out at the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, “Women’s rights and interests must be protected by laws and regulations and integrated into national and social rules and norms.” The promotion of gender equality and the protection of women and girls’ rights and interests should be incorporated into the overall strategy of “governing the country in accordance with the law”, and into the “holistic approach to strengthening the rule of law in the country, in its government, and in society.”

The “rule of law” education concerning gender equality will be strengthened. The legislation, law and policy enforcement regarding gender equality will be enhanced. Crimes violating the rights of women and girls, such as violence, abuse, sexual assault and trafficking will be severely punished. The effectiveness of legal aid for women and girls will be improved in the establishment of a public legal service system for urban and rural residents. 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have established a gender equality assessment mechanism for regulations and policies. The establishment of an assessment mechanism at the national level will be explored based on local experiences. The integrated effectiveness of this mechanism in legislative, law enforcement and judicial assessment will be promoted. The equality and non-discrimination as prescribed by law, as well as the equal access to justice, will be further advocated.

Second, innovate and implement the “Programme for Women’s Development”, and effectively realise the comprehensive development goal of the “Beijing Declaration

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*and Platform for Action” and the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”* The “Programme for Women’s Development” is the national action plan to implement the basic state policy of gender equality, to promote women’s all-round development, and to fulfil the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.” It is necessary to overcome difficulties and ensure that the goals and objectives of the 2011-2020 Programme are achieved as scheduled. In 2019, the design of the next Programme will be launched. The key objectives and strategic measures shall be set reasonably, considering both the lasting issues and emerging problems. Also, the demands of Chinese women and girls for a better life should be studied, along with the objectives of the international convention documents such as the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” and the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. China will promote the simultaneous and sustainable development of women/girls and China’s economy/society.

*Third, implement innovation-driven and targeted policies, and improve women’s participation in economic and social development and social security.* China will pay close attention to the new situations and problems faced by women, such as the decline in income and social security benefits during the supply-side structural reform, and the insufficient protection or even dismissal during pregnancy and lactation. The “Notice on Further Regulating the Recruitment to Promote Equal Employment for Women” will be fully implemented, strengthening human resources market supervision, improving the joint interview and judicial relief mechanism, and resolutely correcting gender discrimination in employment. China will increase the support for women’s new employment situations, helping more women achieve employment or self-employment in emerging industries, as well as accelerating the cultivation of new professional women farmers. The social security benefits for women, especially for rural women, will be continuously improved during the reform of the social security system.

After the merger of maternity and basic medical insurance, the maternity medical expenses and maternity benefits for women will not be reduced and will be steadily increased. China will vigorously develop community child- and elderly- care service, standardise facilities and constructions, and improve the service level. Adhere to the standard of “No Worries about Food and Clothes, Guarantee for Compulsory Education, Basic Medical Care and Housing Security”, China will pay special attention to women living in deep poverty areas in terms of projects, funds and talents. The government will vigorously try to expand the consumption of products and services offered by women in poverty-stricken areas and thus alleviate poverty. In the aspects of ecology and health, close attention will be paid to the special interests of poor women. Social security policies will play a role in preventing illness from leading to poverty.

*Fourth, vigorously enhance the health service for women and child, and continuously improve women’s health.* Focusing on the implementation of the “Healthy China 2030 Blueprint”, China will launch a number of key research projects on important issues affecting the health of women and children, integrate and optimise health service resources, innovate service supply model, strengthen the construction of

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health service system, expand quality midwifery services, accelerate the capacity-building concerning maternal and neonatal emergency care, and improve the quality of health service. Taking the poverty alleviation project as the starting point, China will promote the balanced development of maternal and child health. The coverage of rural women's "Two Cancers" screening project will be expanded gradually, ensuring that the project will cover all poverty-stricken counties across the country in 2020. The government plans to improve the rate of early diagnosis and treatment of "Two Cancers", providing medical assistance for eligible patients with subsistence allowance. On the other hand, China will strengthen health guidance and comprehensive intervention for common and chronic diseases among the elderly, improving the health of older women. In the implementation of the "Universal Two-Child Policy", the medical service for elderly parturient women will be enhanced. Also, the service system for prevention and treatment of birth defects will be improved, covering pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and neonatal stages.

*Fifth, innovate and carry out advanced gender education, and integrate the concept of gender equality into social norms.* China will further improve the advocacy and training mechanism for the basic state policy of gender equality, actively promote advanced gender culture in the whole society, establish values of gender equality, and put the concept of gender equality in all areas of economic and social development and all aspects of social life. China will integrate the policy education into the national education system, into training programmes for leading cadres in the party and government, and into mainstream media, especially new media channels. As a result, the equality between men and women will truly become the broad consensus and conscious action of the whole society. The government will strengthen the supervision of the cultural market and media (especially the online media), establish and improve the gender-responsive supervision mechanism in the media field, resolutely prevent the dissemination of information that disparages women, guide and supervise the media to correctly spread the concept of gender equality, and extensively disseminate the principles, position, regulations, policies and action plans of the party and the state. China will focus on promoting the basic state policy of gender equality in the fields of culture, education, and media, enhancing the positive energy of the society which pursues gender equality and women's development.

*Note: The increasing number of humanitarian crises- caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events- has not affected the implementation of the BPF in China.*

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## Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

### I. Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

#### **6. Actions in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment.**

*First, introduced/strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies.* China regards quality and full employment, which is incorporated into national economic development plans and annual plans, as an important part of building a well-off society in an all-round way. The State Council has successively formulated three employment and entrepreneurship documents, one special plan, and a few special policies including guiding university graduates to work at the grassroots level, supporting migrant workers to return home and start a business, providing assistance to laid-off workers as overcapacity is cut, and alleviating poverty through employment. China has improved the subsidy standards of the existing employment and entrepreneurship support policies, expanding the scope and benefiting women. Intense efforts have been taken to implement various policies such as reduced or waived taxes and fees, entrepreneurship guaranteed loans, social security benefits and subsidies, occupational subsidies, employment assistance subsidies and training subsidies. New innovative policies have been published such as entrepreneurship fund, job-seeking subsidies and entrepreneurship subsidies, promoting the employment and self-employment of women. Since 2012, the proportion of women employment has remained at around 44% (43.5% for 2017). Women account for up to 55% of the entrepreneurs in the Internet industry. The employees of the calling platforms are mostly women.

*Second, promoted women's employment and self-employment in various forms.* China has developed new employment forms to promote women's employment; promulgated policies to support innovative development such as platform economy, crowdsourcing economy, and sharing economy; improved the employment and social security systems adapted to the new employment pattern; strengthened support for flexible employment and new forms of employment; promoted the independent employment of workers; and diversified the women's employment channels. From 2015 to 2017, the employees of the shared economic platform increased from more than 5 million to nearly 7.16 million. The development of the tertiary industry has provided more employment opportunities for women. The employment ratio of the tertiary industry rose from 40.6% in 2014 to 44.9% in 2017. The government has facilitated the standardisation and professionalisation of the home services industry, established the Women Business Association for Home Services, and strengthened vocational skills training. In 2016, the national revenue of home services was 349.8 billion yuan and the number of employees reached 25.42 million (most are women).

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Women have been encouraged to start their own business. “Mass entrepreneurship and innovation” has brought new opportunities for women. As of December 2018, China has issued a total of 383.73 billion yuan of small guaranteed loans for women’s employment and entrepreneurship and more than 6 million women have received the loans. The All-China Women’s Federation has initiated an action plan to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among women. By the end of 2018, more than 5.5 million have participated in the training of entrepreneurship and innovation and 960 thousand has received entrepreneurship guidance. More than 3,200 women makers’ space, incubators, and service platforms have been created. Millions of women have joined the e-commerce entrepreneurship.

Women’s vocational skills have been continuously improved. In the past five years, more than 100.52 million people have received various vocational training across the country, among which 42.04 million are women, accounting for 42% of the total. More than 200 thousand “Women’s Schools” have been established nationwide and nearly 200 million women have participated in the training of new agricultural technology and products. 1.5 million women have been awarded agricultural technician titles and green certificates, while 53 thousand women’s professional cooperative organisations have been established. Science and technology training has been carried out for women leaders in rural areas and cooperative organisations, benefiting 1.5 million women.

Special employment service activities such as “Employment Assistance Month” and “Spring Breeze Action” have been continuously organised, helping women with employment difficulties find jobs and promoting the employment of female migrant workers. China has established the “Internet+” public service platform for employment and entrepreneurship, extended the services to mobile and self-assist terminals, expanded the scope of self-service, and realised the informatisation of services and management. As a result, women are able to enjoy convenient and efficient employment services without leaving the house, village and school.

*Third, strengthened land rights and tenure security.* In the past five years, China has implemented and improved the legal policies to protect the land rights of rural women. The “Rural Land Contract Law”, amended in December 2018, clearly stipulates that family members enjoy equal rights to the contracted land. The government has established and improved various mechanisms for rural collective funds, assets, and resource management; corrected village regulations in conflict with legal policies and gender equality principle; and ensured women’s equal contracted land use rights, homestead use rights and distribution rights of collective income. During the registration of contracted land and homestead, women’s land rights have been recorded in registers and rights certificates.

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## **7. Actions in the last five years to recognise, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation.**

*First, included unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting.* In 2018, the National Bureau of Statistics organised the second “National Time Use Survey”, covering 11 provinces and municipalities. Relying on a national unified survey sample of household income and expenditure, a total of 20,336 households with 48,580 people were interviewed. The survey included unpaid care and housework such as accompanying children, sending children to school, mentoring, accompanying and taking care of adult family members, purchasing goods or services, visiting a doctor, and joining charitable activities. The survey shows that although women’s unpaid work time is still longer than men’s, the gap is shrinking (4 minutes shorter compared to 2008). Women spend 1 hour and 21 minutes more on housework than men, the gap has been reduced by 29 minutes compared to 2008.

*Second, expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable.* The effective supply of childcare services for 0-3 years old children has been increased. In response to the new situation after the implementation of the “Universal Two-Child Policy” (such as the increase in the number of infants and children, as well as the increase in the demand for childcare services), China has actively explored effective ways to expand the supply of childcare services for 0-3 years old children. In April 2018, Shanghai issued the “Guiding Opinions on Promoting and Strengthening the Childcare Services for Children under 3 Years Old” and the “Education Programme for Children under 3 Years Old.” In accordance with the general idea of “government-led, family-based, and multi-stakeholder”, Shanghai government promotes the development of integrated education, supports childcare services provisions in various forms, and establishes a system for the childcare industry. In December 2018, Sichuan Province published the “Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Childcare Services for Children under 3 Years Old.” At present, the National Development and Reform Commission is carrying out a pilot project to increase the effective supply of inclusive childcare services. In 2019, the General Office of the State Council issued the “Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Development of Childcare Services Under 3 Years Old”, establishing and improving the systems of policies and regulations, standards, and service supply, and promoting the development of childcare services.

Preschool education of 3-6 years old children has always been a major livelihood issue for the party and the government. In November 2018, “Several Opinions of the Central Committee of the CPC on the Deepening Reform and Standardisation of Preschool Education” was issued. It is proposed that by 2020, the national gross enrolment rate of preschools will reach 85%, and the coverage rate of inclusive kindergartens will reach 80%. In January 2019, the General Office of the State Council published the “Notice on the Governance of Kindergartens in Urban Residential Areas”, deploying the supporting work concerning kindergartens in urban communities. In March 2017, the General Office of the Ministry of Education issued the “Guiding

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Opinions on After-school Services for Primary and Secondary School Students.” It is proposed to adhere to the voluntary and inclusive principles, to share the costs, and to charge reasonably. The document guides the establishment and improvement of the guarantee mechanisms for after-school services, reducing the burden of households (especially for women) and alleviating the plight of left-behind/migrant children.

*Third, Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave.* China has attached great importance to ensuring the paid maternity leave of female employees. In April 2012, the “Special Provisions on Labour Protection for Female Employees” was promulgated. The legal maternity leave has been extended from 90 days to 98 days. Local regulations have been adjusted, increasing bonus maternity leave ranging from 30 to 267 days and paternity leave ranging from 7 to 30 days. Some places have made clear provisions for allowances concerning bonus maternity leave and paternity leave. The balance between work and family, as well as the shared family responsibilities between husband and wife, have been supported. In order to alleviate the pressure of “only child” to care for parents, Provinces and autonomous regions such as Fujian and Henan have established the care leave system for the “only child”, solving the problem of insufficient resources for elderly care, and increasing the social support for the employed “only child” to take care of his/her parents.

**8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?**

China pays attention to the impacts of economic structural reform and the “New Normal” of economic development on women’s advancement. In the past five years, China’s economic development has entered a “New Normal”, shifting from high speed to medium-to-high speed growth. The economic structure has been adjusted from “capacity expansion” to “achieving a dynamic balance between adjusting available resources and increasing high-quality supply.” The momentum of economic development has changed from traditional growth point to the new one. In response to the impact of development strategy adjustment on women’s employment, the following measures have been taken:

*First, adhered to the “employment-first” strategy, and ensure the impact of economic policy adjustment on women’s employment is controllable.* China promotes the link between economic growth and employment; innovates the macro-control mode; takes employment stability and expansion as the lower limit of the range-based macro regulation; maintains the continuity of macro-policy; promotes medium-to-high speed economic growth; and enhances employment’s potential to drive economic development. Also, China strengthens the link between economic and employment policies; comprehensively evaluates the impact on job opportunities, employment environment and unemployment risk when formulating major policies concerning taxation, finance, industry, trade and investment; and promotes the link between

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economic growth and employment expansion as well as the synergy between structural optimisation and employment transformation. In 2016, the government issued the “Notice on Implementing Entrepreneurial Guaranteed Loans to Support Entrepreneurship and Employment”, stipulating that women “should be included as the key targets”. Furthermore, small and micro enterprises are supposed to be the main channels of employment, easing the pressure in key areas where it is hard to find a job.

*Second, actively and steadily promoted the re-employment of female workers in structural reform such as capacity reduction.* China has successively introduced policy measures such as multi-channel diversion and resettlement, unemployment insurance to support enterprises to stabilise the positions, and special vocational training programmes for workers in industries with overcapacity. Also, the government promotes the steady resettlement of workers in the process of reducing excessive production capacity and sets 100 billion yuan of special funds to resettle the employees. In recent years, more than 1.1 million people, including female employees, have been re-employed.

*Third, provided female university graduates with multiple channels of employment and entrepreneurship, focusing on promoting their employment, guiding them in starting businesses, and encouraging them to work at the community level.* In the past five years, China has issued successive policies to actively promote employment and self-employment of university graduates. Students are guided to take the initiative to serve national strategy and social/economic development needs. They are encouraged to work in the field of advanced manufacturing, strategic emerging industries, modern service industries, and modern agriculture. They are also encouraged to work at the community level. College and universities continue to strengthen the ideal and faith education; deepen the reform of innovation and entrepreneurship education; take the market demand as the guide and improve the subject/major setup; strengthen the linkage among enrolment, cultivation and employment; and enhance the employment competitiveness and entrepreneurial ability of female university students. In 2016, more than 5,000 venture practice bases for female graduates have been established.

## **Challenges and Strategies**

*First, improve laws and regulations related to anti-employment discrimination, and prohibit gender discrimination in employment.* The explicit and implicit discrimination against women in the recruitment process has occurred from time to time among some employers. Women’s lack of training or promotion opportunities due to giving birth still exists. In the next step, China will promote the full implementation of the “Notice on Further Regulating Recruitment and Promoting Women’s Employment” issued by nine departments; strengthen the supervision of human resources market and law enforcement; promptly deal with labour disputes involving women; punish violations of women’s labour rights; and promotes women’s equal employment.

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*Second, improve relevant policy measures to promote women's employment.* China will increase women's entrepreneurial financial support, provide personalised career guidance and targeted job introduction for women, and organise women to participate in appropriate training programmes. Employers are encouraged to carry out job skills training for female employees after childbirth, helping them meet the job requirements as soon as possible. Also, employers are guided to take positive actions to support women's employment, to care for female employees, as well as to strengthen the positive relationship among corporate benefits, family well-being and women workers' development.

*Third, improve the policies for childcare and elderly care services.* As childbirth increases and population ageing accelerates, the demand for family-oriented public services such as childcare and elderly care is continuously growing. However, the services are in short supply, and the imbalance between supply and demand has not been solved. Affected by the gender division of labour, women are more responsible for housework, care and parenting, resulting in the shortage of time and energy for career development. China will continue to promote the rapid development of childcare services for children under 3 years old, to strengthen after-school services in primary and secondary schools, to enhance the construction of urban facilities for the elderly, to improve the supply of elderly care services, to ease the family care burden, and to help women balance work and family.

The joint "Action Plan on Promoting Public Services in the Social Sector, Bolstering Areas of Weakness, Improving Quality, and Forming A Strong Domestic Market" by multiple departments has promoted the implementation of 27 tasks including childcare, schooling, medical care and elderly care; strived to fill shortcomings in basic public services; enhanced the weakness of non-basic public services; and improved the quality of services.

## **II. Poverty eradication, social protection and social services**

### **9. Actions in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls.**

*First, the elimination of women's poverty has been the focus of poverty alleviation.* By the end of 2018, women accounted for 45% of the poverty-stricken people recorded in the poverty files. Women are not only the main targets of poverty alleviation but also an important force for poverty eradication. The "Development-oriented Poverty Reduction Programme for Rural China (2011-2020)" incorporates women and children as key targets into the national comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy. The "Programme for Women's Development (2011-2020)" prioritises the reduction of women's poverty, supporting poverty alleviation projects and the development of economic entities dominated by women in poverty.

*Second, classified policies into different sectors to help poor women get rid of*

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*poverty*. In 2015, the “Decision on Poverty Eradication” by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council has fully required the implementation of the major public health projects such as the “cervical and breast cancer free screening”, the establishment of a caring service system for left-behind women, and the increase of women’s small guaranteed loans. In 2018, the “Guidelines on the Three-Year Action Plan on Poverty Eradication” by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council has further proposed that the cervical and breast cancer screening project in poor areas should be extended to all poverty-stricken counties. Also, the establishment of a caring service system for left-behind elderly, children and women should be accelerated. Multi-departments jointly issued series of targeted poverty alleviation policies, such as the “Notice on Promoting Microfinance and Poverty Files to Help Women from Poor Households Alleviate Poverty and Become Prosperous”, the “Guiding Opinions on Promoting Targeted Poverty Alleviation by E-Commerce”, and the “Notice on the Implementation of the Pilot Project to Alleviate Poverty through Home Services.” The policies give priorities to poor women (under the same conditions), ensuring that women in poverty and other citizens of the country can achieve a comprehensive well-off at the same time. By the end of 2018, the number of rural poor has decreased from 98.99 million in 2012 to 16.6 million. The incidence of poverty has dropped from 10.2% in 2012 to 1.7%, and about half of the reduced poverty population have been women.

*Third, the Women’s Federation has implemented the action plan to alleviate poverty among women.* The Women’s Federation has conducted theme campaigns such as “Lectures on Poverty Alleviation for Women” and “We’re All Sisters on the Road to a Well-Off Society”, inspiring poor women to take actions to get rid of poverty. Since 2016, 120 thousand campaign activities on poverty alleviation have been held, attracting 13.29 million women in poverty. The book series of “Poverty Reduction of Rural Women and “Typical Cases of Action Plan for Women’s Poverty Reduction” have been edited, promoting policies and successful cases. In the central and western regions, model training for women in extreme poverty areas and in contiguous poor areas have been organised. It is estimated that more than 8.3 million poor women and community leaders have participated in various poverty alleviation training carried out by the government and the Women’s Federation.

The women’s knitting skills have been developed, as a way to alleviate poverty. 2,560 women’s associations of hand-craft have been established in 832 poverty counties. In Guizhou Province, the “Embroideries Project” has trained 65 thousand female embroideries workers. The skill has become a source of income. In Shandong and Gansu Province, “Workshops for Women’s Poverty Alleviation” have provided women with job opportunities nearby and accelerated the progress of poverty eradication. 336 “National Demonstration Bases for Poverty Alleviation among Women” have been established. Each base assists more than 10 women in poverty files each year through twinning. In poverty-stricken counties, 16.5 thousand production bases for women have been formed, helping 1.65 million rural poor women develop production and raise incomes. Microfinance and financial support for women have been promoted.

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61 billion yuan of small credit loans have been distributed to 1.11 million women recorded in poverty files, helping them remove the funding bottleneck and realise the dream of entrepreneurship. The “Two Cancers” free screening project has been implemented, covering all counties in poverty-stricken areas by the end of 2018. The “Two Cancers Treatment Project for Mothers in Poverty” sponsored by the Central Lottery Commonweal Fund has assisted a total of 132.2 thousand sick women in poverty, reducing women’s poverty due to illness.

## **10. Actions in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls.**

The Chinese government safeguards and improves peoples’ livelihood in the process of development. It acts on the policy requirements to help those most in need, to build a tight safety net, and to establish the necessary institutions. Also, the government adheres to the “complete, multi-tiered and sustainable” development principles for social protection, continuously improving the policy system, strengthening its fairness and equity, building a better platform for livelihood protection, and directly benefiting women and girls.

*First, strengthened social protection for pregnant and unemployed women.* Maternity protection has been improved. In 2017, the number of female employees participating in maternity insurance reached 84.28 million, an increase of 10.21 million over 2014. The benefits items and standards of the maternity insurance have been further standardised, and the number of people enjoying the benefits has increased year by year. At the same time, for the unemployed people, the reproductive medical expenses are included in the scope of payment of the “basic medical insurance for urban and rural residents.” Also, the medical insurance expenses will be directly settled by the medical insurance agencies and the designated medical institutions.

In 2014 and 2017, the policies concerning “using unemployment insurance fund to support enterprises to stabilise jobs” and “skill improvement subsidies” were successively introduced, enhancing the insurance’s function to prevent unemployment, encouraging enterprises to stabilise job positions and improve employees’ skills, as well as effectively reducing unemployment. In 2017, the number of women participating in unemployment insurance nationwide was 79.5 million, an increase of 8.05 million over 2014; the number of women participating in work-related injury insurance was 85.94 million, an increase of 5.24 million over 2014.

*Second, improved women’s basic endowment and medical insurance.* Women account for 52.2% of the elderly in China over the age of 65. In 2014, the “new rural social endowment insurance” and “urban social endowment insurance for residents” were merged. In 2016, basic medical insurances for urban and rural residents were integrated, enhancing the fairness of the system. The expansion of basic endowment and medical insurance has been continuously promoted, incorporating home services

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personnel and migrant workers into the social security system, and steadily improving the benefits of endowment insurance as well as the medical reimbursement. In 2017, nearly 390 million women participated in basic endowment insurance nationwide, an increase of 38 million over the previous year. The number of women participating in basic endowment insurance for urban workers was 180 million, an increase of 68.1% over 2010. In 2017, nearly 210 million women joined the basic endowment insurance for urban and rural residents, an increase of 37 million (22%) over the previous year. Moreover, the female participants of basic medical insurance for urban residents reached 380.616 million in 2017, accounting for 43.6% of the total participants (34.1% in 2011).

In 2013, the “Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Elderly Care Service Industry” was issued. 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country have introduced social preferential policies for the elderly, established the systems of “old age allowance”, “elderly care services benefit” and “nursing benefit”, and provided a more favourable living environment for the elderly. The facilities for elderly care services have basically covered all urban communities with “elderly care services benefit” and more than 50% of rural communities. 93% of the elderly care institutions nationwide provides health care services for residents in various forms, benefiting elderly women. Changsha City, Hunan Province offers old-age allowances for elderly people aged 80 and over. In 2018, the financial investment was 240 million yuan, benefiting 196 thousand people.

*Third, continuously improved the level of assistance for women and girls living in difficulties.* The “Interim Measures for Social Assistance” and “Opinions on Further Improving the Supporting System for People in Extreme Poverty” have been issued. The supporting system for people in extreme poverty has been enhanced. Assistance and poverty alleviation measures have been combined. In 2017, 22.96 million women with subsistence allowances or in extreme poverty received assistance, accounting for 39.2% of the total. Also, the proportion of transfer payments has been increased and the minimum living standard has been improved. In 2017, the average urban and rural minimum living standard was 450 yuan/person/month, an increase of 40.2% over 2014. The rural minimum living standards of all counties (cities, districts) met or exceed the national level.

China has continued to expand the scope of children’s welfare, to improve the basic livelihood protection of orphans, and to care for girls. In 2016, the “Opinions on Strengthening the Care and Protection of Left-Behind Children in Rural Areas” and the “Opinions on Strengthening the Protection of Children in Difficult Situations” were issued to expand the scope of policy coverage. In August 2018, the number of left-behind children in rural areas was 6.97 million, a decrease of 22.7% compared with 2016. Girls accounted for 45.5%.

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## 11. Actions in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in China.

China has formed a maternal and child health care service network, with the “third level (top level in China) maternal and child health care institutions that combine health and clinical care” as the core, based on “community-based health institutions”, and technically supported by medium- and large-scale medical institutions as well as relevant scientific research institutions. China provides a full range of health care services for women and girls from birth to old age.

First, promoted women’s access to health services through the expansion of universal health coverage or public health services. In 2018, there have been 3,080 “third level” maternal and child health care institutions in urban and rural areas, and 71,586 township/community health centres. They guarantee the accessibility, quality and fairness of maternal and child health services. The government increases access to health services for women and girls through financial assistance for maternal and child health care institutions, through the provision of basic public health services, and through the implementation of major public health projects. In the past five years, the government’s financial subsidies for maternal and child health care institutions at various levels have increased year by year. In 2017, the subsidy funds for the institutions at the prefectural-municipal and county levels increased by 1.6 times compared with 2015, reaching 41.66 billion yuan. In 2015, the average life expectancy of women was 79.43 years, an increase of 2.06 years compared with 2010, and higher than men by 5.8 years.

Second, expanded specific health services for women and girls. China provides 14 free basic public health services, including maternal and child health care. The per capita subsidy is increasing by 5 yuan each year. In 2018, the national hospital delivery rate was 99.9%. The national maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate decreased from 21.7/100,000, 8.9‰ and 11.7‰ in 2014 to 18.3/100,000, 6.1‰, and 8.4‰ respectively. China has been rated by the World Health Organisation as a high-performance country for maternal and child health. In 2015, the “Decisions of the Party Central Committee and the State Council on Fight against Poverty” clearly stated that the “Two Cancers” free screening project for rural women should be fully implemented. The beneficiaries have been extended from women aged 35-59 to those aged 35-64. The cervical cancer screening project has expanded from 200 counties (districts and cities) to more than 1,700, improving the health status of rural women and reducing the incidence and mortality of both cancers.

Third, guaranteed maternal and child safety, and improved service quality. With the adjustment and improvement of the birth policy, the elderly women who give birth again face serious life-threatening problems such as pregnancy complication and hysterorrhexis caused by caesarean scar pregnancy. In 2018, the National Health Commission promulgated the “Action Plan on Maternal and Infant Safety” to

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strengthen five major actions including prevention of pregnancy risk, emergency treatment, quality and safety improvement, specialist capacity building, and convenience services. In order to ensure the safety of maternal and infant, China continues to strengthen one-stop service as well as the departmental collaboration including antenatal care, delivery services, post-natal care, post-natal visits, child care, and child immunisation services. The “Service Specification for Postpartum Contraception” was issued. Relevant medical personnel have been trained and the Specification has been piloted at the community level. The national maternal mortality rate from 2015 to 2017 was decreasing year by year.

## **12. Actions in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls.**

The Chinese government gives priority to education and strives to run a satisfactory education for people. China has introduced laws and regulations, increased investment in education, ensured equal and quality education for men and women, and continuously improved women’s education.

*First, ensured equal education opportunities for boys and girls.* In 2017, the Ministry of Education and other four departments jointly issued the “Opinions on the Implementation of the Third Pre-school Education Action Plan” to ensure equal opportunities for boys and girls to enter kindergarten. By the end of 2017, there have been 46 million children in kindergartens nationwide, including 21.49 million girls that account for 46.7%. In order to prevent and reduce the dropout of rural girls, a responsibility system has been established to control the drop-out rate. The girls’ education status has been integrated into the “national social development monitoring target” and the indicators of “nine-year compulsory education.” The net enrolment rate of primary school-age girls was 99.9%, which was basically the same as that of boys. The national nine-year compulsory education rate was 93.8%, with girls accounting for 46.4%. The proportion of female students in high school is 47.6%.

By the end of 2018, China has invested more than 540 billion yuan to reform schools in poor conditions, improving the school conditions and living facilities in rural poverty-stricken areas of the central and western regions. Policies such as the “Support Programme for Teachers in Rural Areas” and the “Opinions on Comprehensively Deepening the Reform of Teaching Force in the New Era” have been issued, stabilising the teaching force, and attracting university graduates to teach in rural areas. In 2018, the number of large classes and super-large classes for compulsory education decreased by 28.02% and 78.08% respectively, compared with 2017. More and more girls receive benefits. In 2017, there were 18.975 million migrant children in the compulsory education stage, all of which have been offered subsidies including “public funding per student” and “exemption from tuition and fees, free textbooks, and allowances for students in boarding schools with family economic difficulties.” Furthermore, China puts an emphasis on special education. In 2017, more than 200 thousand girls were

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educated in special schools, accounting for 35.8%.

*Second, ensured equal and quality education for men and women.* The gender gap in high school education has been narrowed. In 2017, the gross enrolment rate was 88.3%, an increase of 1.8% over 2014. Girls accounted for 47.6% of the students in the stage of high school. The proportion of female students in ordinary high schools was 50.9%. Also, women account for more than half of the total in higher education. In 2017, the proportion for universities and colleges was 52.54%, exceeding 50% for seven consecutive years. In 2017, the female master degree holders reached 49.9%, while female doctor accounted for 39.3%. The number of female students in adult undergraduate programmes was 3.2 million, accounting for 58.5%. China has gradually promoted the tuition-free policy for secondary vocational education to ensure more women can receive vocational education. In 2017, there were more than 6.8 million female students enrolled in secondary vocational education, accounting for 42.8%.

*Third, provided a safe and inclusive educational environment for women and girls.* The “Guiding Opinions on Prevention and Control of Bullying and Violence in Primary and Secondary School” and the “Comprehensive Management Plan on Strengthening the Governance of Bullying” were issued, strengthening the improvement of campus violence management system. China has incorporated gender equality into teacher training programmes and courses, increasing the gender awareness of educators. From 2016 to 2018, 2,243 rural teachers have received gender awareness training with the concept of “Green School”, benefiting more than 37 thousand students. The principles and concepts of gender equality are gradually incorporated into all levels of education and teaching content and activities. The curriculum and textbook of schools at all levels are required to reflect the basic state policy of gender equality.

The “Standards for Science Course of Elementary School” issued in 2017 states that “no matter what regional, ethnic, economic, and cultural differences exist among students, or differences in individual conditions such as gender and personality, the science course must provide suitable and fair learning and development opportunities for all students.” Also, the high school curriculum standards require students to learn the value of “freedom, equality, justice and rule of law” as well as the concept of “equality for all”. The curriculum content and case selection of the textbooks “Morality and Rule of Law”, “Chinese” and “History” compiled by the Ministry of Education have increased the content of guaranteeing women’s rights and promoting gender equality.

China’s education reform is advancing the concept of gender equality in a subtle way. Since 2014, the Working Committees on Children and Women at all levels and education departments have actively explored the establishment of gender equality courses in primary and secondary schools, promoting the full implementation of the principle of gender equality in education. As of May 2019, 15 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) have promoted the gender equality education in primary

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and secondary schools and some regions have covered all the schools. In October 2018, the Supreme People's Procuratorate issued the Procuratorial Proposal No.1 to make recommendations on strengthening campus safety management, on preventing sexual abuse of kindergarten children, and on preventing secondary school students from committing crimes. The provincial and municipal procuratorates and education departments have taken active measures to promote the implementation.

## **Challenges and Strategies**

*First, further integrate the gender perspective into the poverty alleviation strategy.* Based on the unit of “family” and “household”, the poverty alleviation has realised the precise allocation of resources. However, in practice, there are still gaps in the effectiveness of targeted poverty alleviation for women. In the future, the promotion of gender equality will be included in the strategic goal of poverty alleviation, ensuring that women's concerns and needs are incorporated into social assistance. China will further strengthen the gender statistics on poverty, enhance gender equality in family resource sharing and decision-making, and protect women's development rights.

*Second, respond to the challenges of fertility policy adjustment and population ageing more actively.* With the implementation of the “Universal Two-Child Policy”, the needs for maternity and child care and maternal protection are more prominent. The capacity and quality of infant and child care services are unsatisfactory. China will further adjust and improve policies concerning women's maternity leave, maternity insurance and childcare. China's ageing population is increasing rapidly, but the development of elderly care services is obviously insufficient. The population of elderly women is large. Their life is at risk. China will speed up the summary and promotion of pilot cities' experiences and practices regarding long-term care insurance system. Also, China will improve the system design of care leave for the “only child”, and explore the social security model of basic life care and medical care for people with disabilities.

*Third, further narrow the gap between urban and rural women's health services.* China will increase investment in maternal and child health care institutions; focus on improving infrastructure conditions for maternal and child health services at the community level; optimise and integrate service resources of grassroots maternal and child health care as well as family planning; continuously improve the accessibility and convenience of services for different regions and groups; vigorously implement basic public health service programmes; ensure fair and sustainable health services for women in rural and remote areas; and ensure maternal women can enjoy safe, standardised and convenient delivery service.

*Fourth, eliminate the gap in major choice in higher education.* Affected by traditional concepts and the employment market, gender segregation in the field of vocational education is prominent. Most women are concentrated in the “feminine

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fields” since their student days. About 80% of boys choose Sciences in high school, and only half of the girls do the same. The proportion of female university students studying humanities and social sciences is much higher than that of male. China will enhance gender sensitivity in the process of vocational education and help women develop their career with a creative and innovative attitude. Moreover, China will conduct targeted education and training to promote the career development of women in emerging industries.

### **III. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes**

#### **13. In the last five years, the forms of violence against women and girls prioritised for action.**

*First, intimate partner violence/domestic violence.* In December 2015, China introduced the first law on domestic violence, the “Anti-Domestic Violence Law”, clearly stipulating that China prohibits any form of domestic violence. To prevent domestic violence is a shared responsibility of the state, society and every family. The scope of application extends to violence between people who lives together but are not family members. The law stipulates the mechanism of prevention, punishment and victim assistance, including mandatory reporting system, warning system, personal safety protection order and its application system. The “Anti-Domestic Violence Law” provides a new legal weapon for the protection of women’s personal rights and has a milestone significance. The “Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China (Amendment IX)”, implemented on November 1, 2015, expands the subject of the “crimes of abuse” which was restricted to family members. The subject is now extending to those who have the responsibility of guardianship over the minor, the elderly, the sick and the disabled. The Amendment stipulates that the crimes of abuse may be converted from a private prosecution to a public prosecution case, and the national procuratorial bodies shall initiate the public prosecution. The revised criminal law clarifies that all acts of buying and selling women are dealt with as crimes.

*Second, sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment.* In response to sexual harassment in the workplaces and higher education institutions, local and central governments, enterprises, and government departments have actively taken actions to prevent various forms of violence, including amending laws, introducing judicial interpretations, formulating enterprise rules, and conducting gender equality training. In response to the sexual harassment in universities and colleges, in November 2018, the Ministry of Education issued the “Ten Codes of Conduct for Teachers in Higher Education Institutions in the New Era” and the “Guiding Opinions of the Ministry of Education on Addressing Misbehaviours of Teachers in Higher Education Institutions.” It is clearly stipulated that teachers must not engage in any improper relationship with students and are prohibited from any form of sexual harassment. Depending on the circumstances, the misbehaved teachers should bear administrative, civil and criminal liability.

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In December 2018, the Supreme People's Court issued the "Notice on Adding Causes of Action in Civil Cases." After the "Dispute over Educational Institution Liability" in the section of "Dispute over the Liability for Tort", the "Dispute over Compensation for Sexual Harassment" has been added, solving the problem of difficulty in filing a case of sexual harassment in the field of education, and smoothing the procedures to acquire proceedings subsidies. The "6 Sections of Civil Code (Draft)" promulgated on September 5, 2018, clearly stipulates against sexual harassment and states that employers are obliged to take measures to prevent and stop sexual harassment. From 2014 to 2016, the number of cases filed by the public security organs on rape was 33,417/29,948/27,767 respectively, showing a downward trend year by year.

*Third, violence against women and girls facilitated by technology.* In response to the violence against women facilitated by technology, China's regulatory authorities timely issued relevant policies for supervision. China has launched a special project concerning Internet governance, creating a good web environment for women and girls. Since 2015, the "Eradicate Pornography and Illegal Publications; Protect the Children" action plan has been carried out nationwide, vigorously rectifying the cultural environment around the campus, cracking down on illegal publishing activities involving children, and focusing on investigating and controlling the harmful online content (such as pornography) for minors. Also, the "Eradicate Pornography and Illegal Publications; Purify the Internet" action plan has increased the clean-up and rectification of illegal information; curbed the harm of various bad information on women and girls; strengthened the supervision of information that damages women's image; and create a healthy online cultural environment for women.

#### **14. Actions prioritised in the last five years to address violence against women and girls.**

*First, introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation.* In March 2015, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, and the Ministry of Justice jointly issued the "Opinions on Handling Domestic Violence Crimes in Accordance with Law", establishing principles such as "timely and effective intervention in domestic violence by the public power" and "special protection for vulnerable groups". Since 2014, the Supreme People's Court has published typical cases of judicial intervention in domestic violence every year, promoting trial experience, regulating the judicial discretion of using violence against violence, and enhancing the uniformity of law application. Relevant departments issued the "Opinions on Improving the Legal Aid System", the "Opinions on Establishing and Improving the National Judicial Assistance System (Trial)", the "Guiding Opinions on Protection and Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence" and the "Women's Federation's Procedures for Accepting Domestic Violence Complaints (Trial)", to

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guide the handling of domestic violence cases. Local government have successively introduced local laws or judicial documents and actively implemented the anti-domestic violence law. For instance, Shandong and Hubei Provinces have successively introduced local anti-domestic violence regulations. The Public Security Bureau of Hunan Province has formulated the “Implementation Measures for the Domestic Violence Warning System”, providing adequate legal and policy basis for women’s access to legal assistance, as well as the reduction and elimination of domestic violence.

Second, introduced or strengthened measures to increase women’s access to justice. Since June 2016, the Supreme People’s Court has selected some courts across the country to launch a pilot project concerning the reform of modes and working mechanisms of family trials. In 2017, the Supreme People’s Court took the lead in establishing a joint conference mechanism for “the reform of modes and working mechanisms of family trials”. The establishment of this system has increased women’s access to justice. Focusing on the goal of family trial reform, the court has actively explored the establishment of a multi-disciplinary mechanism for family disputes; established various forms of cooperation with local Political and Legal Affairs Commissions, Bureaus of Civil Affairs, Public Security Bureaus, Judiciaries, Women’s Federations, and Community Service Departments; and promoted a working pattern for family trials based on “party leadership, government responsibility, court as the centre , and social participation.”

The pilot courts have actively explored mechanisms such as psychological counselling intervention, family investigation, marriage cooling period, mediation before the charge, and post-case return visits; strived to effectively protect the legal rights and interests of the parties; and thoroughly resolve conflicts and disputes. The People’s Court of Yiling District, Yichang City, Hubei Province has set a cooling period for 60 cases, contributing to the withdrawal of 52 cases. The rate of withdrawal was as high as 86%. By the end of June 2018, there have been 188 intermediate and grassroots courts participating in the pilot project concerning family trial reform proposed by the Supreme People’s Court. More than 400 participated in the reform work established by various High Courts.

Third, introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence. At present, there are more than 3,200 legal assistance agencies at the provincial, city and county levels, benefiting 1.8 million women from 2014 to 2018 and effectively protecting women’s legitimate rights and interests. The Women’s Federation promoted the operation of “12388” hotline for women’s rights protection service in more than 2,800 districts (counties) across the country; established 250 thousand rights protection agencies including women’s rights protection stations and domestic violence complaint stations; and smoothed women’s rights protection channels. In 2015, within the Women’s Federation system, 2009 institutions provided assistance to women and children who are the victims of violence, and nearly 9,200 women and children were helped and sheltered.

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## 15. Strategies used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls.

*First, prevented domestic violence over women.* Measures to prevent domestic violence are clearly defined in the laws. The second chapter of the “Anti-Domestic Violence Law”, entitled “Prevention of Domestic Violence”, stipulates measure to prevent domestic violence, including training, publicity, education and mediation. The “warning system” and “personal safety protection order system” effectively prevent the recurrence of domestic violence. After the official implementation of the “Anti-Domestic Violence Law” on March 1, 2016, as of the end of 2018, the National Court has issued a total of 3,743 personal safety protection orders. A large-scale anti-domestic violence training for judicial personnel and social workers has been organised. Also, many public security officers have received the anti-domestic violence training; studied the law; and clarified the authority and functions of public security organs in anti-domestic violence issues.

*Second, fought against trafficking crimes against women.* In 2013, the State Council issued the “Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020)”, establishing a long-term mechanism for anti-trafficking and setting the general goal of “effectively curbing the crime of human trafficking” and “ensuring that victims are promptly rescued and properly resettled.” In 2016, the Supreme People’s Court issued the “Interpretation on Several Issues Concerning the Specific Application of Laws in the Trial of Trafficking Crime against Women and Children”, punishing the illegal and criminal acts of trafficking and effectively protecting the legitimate rights and interests of women. From 2015 to November 2018, the national courts concluded or completed the first trial of 2,806 cases concerning trafficking in women and children. Also, the courts concluded 288 cases of purchasing women and children trafficked.

China actively uses information network technology to crack down on trafficking activities, further protecting the rights and interests of women and children. China continues to carry out national “Fight Trafficking” special actions and promotes tasks including investigating/detecting, arresting traffickers, and finding/rescuing abducted women and children. In 2009, the Ministry of Public Security established the world’s first DNA information database which has helped more than 5,500 abducted children reunite with their families. In 2016, the Ministry of Public Security established a “fight trafficking” system called “Reunion”. As of September 2018, the platform has released 3,419 missing children’s information and retrieved 3,367, with a recovery rate of 98.4%.

*Third, prevented sexual harassment.* In order to prevent sexual harassment in colleges and universities, the Ministry of Education issued “Ten Codes of Conduct for Teachers in Higher Education Institutions in the New Era” and the “Guiding Opinions of the Ministry of Education on Addressing Misbehaviours of Teachers in Higher Education Institutions”, to determine the code of conduct for university teachers. It is

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required to carefully select teachers, provide training when teachers are recruited and introduced, and directly veto the misbehaviours in annual assessments. For those who have serious misbehaviours such as abuse, obscenity, and sexual harassment, once verified, they will be revoked teacher qualification, dismissed, cleared out of the teaching force, and recorded in the National Teacher Management Information System. No school can appoint those misbehaved teachers to engage in teaching, research or management. The judicial organs shall be promptly informed of the suspected illegal crimes and take action accordingly.

It is required that schools take main responsibility, and establish and improve the mechanism for accepting and investigating the misconduct of teachers. Schools will be held accountable according to the management authority, if they are in dereliction of duty and cause adverse effects or serious consequences, including failing to supervise the misconduct of teachers, refusing to punish, delaying the punishment, shirking responsibilities or concealing information. In August 2018, the People's Procuratorate and Education Bureau of Xihu District, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province took the lead in jointly publishing China's first anti-sexual harassment mechanism on campus—"Opinions on Establishing the Punishment System for Sexual Harassment against the Minor on Campus," clarifying the definition of sexual harassment on campus. It is required to report sexual harassment within 6 hours, and conduct an investigation or report directly to the public security organ within 24 hours.

## **16. Actions in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology.**

First, strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions concerning cyber violence. In July 2013, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued the "Regulations on the Protection of Personal Information of Telecommunications and Internet Users", requiring telecom operators and Internet information service providers to take effective measures to protect the information that can identify the users, including name, date of birth, ID number, address, telephone number, account name and password. The Regulations prevent the disclosure, destruction, tampering or loss of the user's personal information. China has assisted the law enforcement agencies of different countries in investigating online child-related sex crimes such as cross-border child pornography dissemination. Also, China has contributed to the detections of several cases. At the policy level, the problem of "using the Internet to threaten to disclose/arbitrarily disclose women's privacy and other personal information" has been addressed.

Second, strengthened legislation and regulatory provision concerning online car-hailing violence. Since the advent of online car-hailing business model, there have been many vicious cases in which women had been raped and killed by drivers. In order to regulate the online car-hailing services and to ensure operational safety as well as legitimate rights and interests of passengers, in July 2016, seven ministries including

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the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology jointly issued the “Interim Provisions on the Administration of Online Car-Hailing Operations and Services”, imposing strict requirements on the qualifications of online car-hailing platform and drivers. In May 2018, the Ministry of Transport issued the “Reputation Assessment Measures for Taxi Services”, officially incorporating online car-hailing service into the assessment system. By measures such as enhancing the supervision of “the qualifications of the drivers” and “the employment process”, the violence against passengers is prevented and reduced.

**17. Actions in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media.**

*First, enacted, strengthened and enforced legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media.* Article 9 of the “Advertising Act” clearly prohibited any advertisement content “containing obscenity, pornography, gambling, superstition, terror, violence, and ethnic/racial/religious/gender discrimination.” The law was amended in 2015 to strengthen penalties for offenders. It is forbidden to discriminate against women’s independent personality. The “Programme for Women’s Development (2011-2020)” proposes the main goal of “improving the gender equality supervision mechanism in media” in the section of “Women and Environment”. In the strategic measures, it proposes to strengthen the positive guidance and management of the media, as well as to improve women’s ability to use media to acquire knowledge and information. In 2016, 10 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities formulated and implemented the “13th Five-Year Plan on Women and Children.” Promoting the coordinated development of women and the media is an important guiding principle.

In response to the commercialisation, adultization and over-entertainment of minor programmes in the media, China has introduced relevant regulations. The Advertising Act clearly stipulates that minors under the age of 10 are not allowed to be spokespersons. Also, minors are strictly controlled to participate in programmes based on quantity, content and broadcast time. It is forbidden to publish advertisements concerning breast-milk substitutes, tobacco and pornography. Furthermore, China has carried out special monitoring of the mass media regarding the advertisements for minors, and cleaned up/rectified illegal and harmful advertisements affecting the growth of minors.

*Second, promoted the popularisation of the gender equality concept through the integration of traditional and new media.* In recent years, China has fully implemented the basic state policy of gender equality, promoting the process of gender mainstreaming. In the past five years, the mainstream media such as People’s Daily and Xinhua News have published more than 500 thousand news reports, advocating gender equality and promoting achievements and contributions of women’s development. China has proposed to “clean up the vulgar commercial advertisements with the female body as a selling point on the national key news website page” and “demonstrate the

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concept of gender quality in mass media”, creating a gender-equality social and cultural environment.

*Third, supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct, and improved media monitoring mechanisms to eliminate discrimination.* The mainstream media advocates self-discipline, publishes the list of banned words/phrases concerning gender discrimination, and promotes gender equality in media content. Xinhua News Agency issued two times in 2015 and 2016 “The Banned and Cautiously-Used Words in Xinhua News Report”, which include several phrases of gender discrimination. For instance, “leftover female (who are not married)” and “straight men cancer” are banned. To standardise the wording of content highlights the sense of responsibility of the media, helps to change stereotypes in the media, improves women and children’s images, and promotes gender equality.

The “China Women’s News” publishes “Top Ten Gender Equality News Events” every year and issues “Observation and Analysis of Public Opinion concerning Women and Children”. Through the monitoring of media reports, it actively promotes the mainstreaming of gender equality in the media. The Media and Women Research Centre of the Communication University of China released the report “Gender-Sensitivity Monitoring of Chinese Media Reports.” Media gender-sensitivity indicators are designed to assess gender sensitivity in media institutions and media content, determining whether they are consistent with the principle of gender equality. The indicators have been promoted in research and practice. In recent years, movies and television programmes have created a large number of positive female images. Their independence and confidence have changed the stereotype of women in traditional culture. In 2017, the advertisements of “Audi” and “Juewei” were suspected of insulting women. Media had a clear-cut stand, promoting the concept of gender equality.

## **18. Actions in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination.**

China pays special attention to and helps women living in remote and rural areas, as well as migrant women.

*First, introduced documents guaranteeing the rights of women living in remote and rural areas.* In October 2018, the Supreme People’s Court issued the “Opinions on Providing Judicial Service and Guarantee for the Implementation of Rural Revitalisation Strategy”, requiring that the personality rights of rural women should be protected in accordance with the law, and the judicial protection of human rights in rural areas should be strengthened. To violate the personal freedom and dignity of rural women in order to recover debts is punished. Also, China severely punishes crimes such as ill-treatment and abandonment, striving to protect the legitimate rights and interests of empty nesters in rural areas. Moreover, crimes such as rape, indecency, abduction, purchase and fraud against left-behind elderly and women are penalised. The linkage

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mechanism between the “elderly/women’s judicial protection” and “administration/family/school/social protection” has been actively explored. The pilot linkage mechanism has been promoted, to prevent and reduce violence against women in remote and rural areas.

Second, carried out special investigations to protect the rights and interests of migrant women. According to the National Population Statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2016, as of 2015, there were 3.74 million migrant women in Beijing, 4.554 million in Shanghai, 3.764 million in Guangzhou, and 3.931 million in Shenzhen. Migrant women in these four cities reached 15.989 million in total. In order to fully understand the situation of migrant women suffering from domestic violence, in 2018, the specialised agencies conducted a survey on the situations of women after domestic violence in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, collecting 1,884 questionnaires targeted on migrant women (24-55 years old). Challenges such as “how can they seek assistance and cope after encountering violence”, “can they use the warnings and protection orders in the anti-domestic violence law to protect themselves”, “how to deal with problems such as identification of domestic violence, the division of property in case of divorce, and child custody” were highlighted. The research report put forward opinions and suggestions on further improving the anti-domestic violence law based on the situations of migrant women.

## **Challenges and Strategies**

First, further prevent domestic violence. Further enhance the promotion and education of anti-domestic violence law, popularise the knowledge of the law, and strengthen citizens’ awareness of anti-domestic violence. China will further strengthen the training of law enforcement personnel, enhance their sense of responsibility, and improve the implementation of mechanisms such as mandatory reporting system, warning system, and personal safety protection order system. At the same time, China will focus on the statistics concerning the implementation of anti-domestic violence law, as well as the evaluation of the implementation effect, to provide support for the improvement of anti-domestic violence law.

Second, further prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault. China will formulate special laws on sexual harassment and prevention at the national level, clarify the definition and standard of sexual harassment, and resolve problems such as the scatter of provisions in relevant laws and inadequate linkage. Also, China will establish an effective sexual harassment prevention mechanism, incorporate prevention training into freshmen/teacher’s enrolment education, and promote enterprises to develop sexual harassment prevention and governance mechanisms. For industries with close contact with children such as education, training, medical care, tourism and entertainment, employees are required to provide the certificate of criminal record when they join the companies. China will strengthen the supervision and management of sexual offenders after their release from prison. A database of sexual offenders will be

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established; the information queries of sexual offenders, as well as an information disclosure system within a certain scope will be formulated, to solve the problem of high recidivism rate of sexual crimes. China will explore the establishment of a rescue and protection mechanism for sexual harassment and sexual assault victims.

*Third, further eliminate gender discrimination and prejudice in the media.* China will strengthen gender analysis and assessment of media management policies, develop and implement gender-responsive regulatory measures, and prohibit gender discrimination and prejudice against women and children in the media. The government will improve media supervision mechanisms, increase gender monitoring indicators, and involve gender experts in media monitoring activities. The media is encouraged to pay attention to gender issues and promote the basic state policy of gender equality. It is necessary to pay attention to the gender awareness training of media workers, incorporating gender awareness/knowledge into media training programmes and professional journalism/communication courses. China will increase the proportion of women in the media decision-making level through institutional design, enhancing women's position in industry and institutions, as well as creating a gender-equal media working environment.

*Fourth, further strengthen the supervision of media violence, and encourage and support women to have a voice in new media.* In response to the change of media environment such as the fierce competition in news dissemination and the difficulty in regulating supervision, as well as the persistence of discrimination and prejudice against women in new media, China will strengthen the supervision of media violence, protect the rights and interests of women and children, and encourage/support women to have a voice in new media. Also, China will strengthen the capacity building of women in new media, improve women's (especially grassroots women) access to online resources and opportunities to learn Internet technology, provide relevant support and training, and enhance women's media literacy. Women are supported and encouraged to use new media to acquire information and express will.

#### **IV. Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions**

##### **19. Actions and measures in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making.**

*First, reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level.* The revision of the Constitution in 2018 reaffirmed that China guarantees women equal rights with men in all aspects. It also reiterated the basic principle for the selection of female cadres. Article 6 of the "National People's Congress and Local People's Congress Election Law" revised in 2015 stipulates that "Representatives of the National People's Congress and local People's Congress should be broadly representative; there should be a number of women representatives, and the proportion should be increased

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gradually.” The “Programme for Women’s Development (2011-2020)” and “National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020)” propose the goal of promoting women’s equal participation in the management of national and social affairs. China has gradually increased the proportion of women in the People’s Congresses and the Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at all levels.

It is determined that by 2020, the proportion of women in village committees will be more than 30%, the proportion of women presidents will be more than 10%, and the proportion in residents’ committees will remain at around 50%. In 2018, the proportion of women representatives in the 13th National People’s Congress reached 24.9%, an increase of 1.5 percentage points over the previous Congress; the female representatives in the 13th National CPPCC accounted for 20.4%, an increase of 2.6 percentage points over the 12th. In 2018, the proportion of female in the People’s Congresses and CPPCC committees at the provincial level was 27.33% and 25.69% respectively. By the end of 2017, female members of the village committees nationwide accounted for 23.1%, and female presidents represented 10.7%. Also, women accounted for 49.7% of the members in residents’ committees nationwide, and 39.9% of the presidents were women.

*Second, convened special meetings to strengthen the training and selection of female cadres.* In 2015, the Organisation Department of the CPC Central Committee held a special symposium to train and select young/female/minority/non-party cadres, and deployed tasks concerning female cadres’ training and selection. In addition, in working plans such as the “Development Plan of the National Party and Government Leading Group”, the “National Medium and Long Term Talent Planning Outline”, and the “National Cadre Education and Training Plan”, as well as in special tasks such as the province/city/county/township leadership change, investigation on back-up cadres, and investigation on young cadres, clear requirements have been made on the training and selection of female cadres. Also, the Organisation Department and other departments strictly monitor and supervise the training and selection.

After the re-election in 2018, a total of 106 female leading cadres above the deputy provincial level were selected in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, accounting for 13% of the 813 leaders in People’s Congresses, governments and CPPCC at the provincial level. Twelve women were elected as “top leaders” of the provincial leadership teams. In 2015, the proportion of newly recruited female civil servants in the central government and its affiliated institutions accounted for 51.9% of the total, more than 50%, and an increase of 12.5 percentage points over 2011.

*Third, strengthened capacity building, and cultivated female cadres.* Since 2014, the Organisation Department has set up special training on women’s leadership in the national civil service training programme. Each year, the All-China Women’s Federation and the National School of Administration jointly hold special training on women’s leadership for the cadres at the bureau level. Training is organised for women

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cadres at the department/prefecture level with development potential from Central State Organs, Provincial Organs, Prefecture/City Party Committees and Governments. At present, 8 special training courses on women's leadership have been successfully held, and a total of 380 people have been trained to help them enhance their confidence and improve their leadership skills.

## **20. Actions in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media.**

*First, taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls.* In 2015, the State Council issued and launched the "Broadband China" special plan to implement a number of measures to accelerate the construction of high-speed broadband networks, to increase broadband speed, and to lower rates for internet services. According to the 2018 and 2019 Chinese government working reports, China will develop and expand new driving forces, continuously promote the network to speed up and reduce fees. These measures enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women, and provide strong support for women to participate in "Internet+" actions. By the end of 2017, Chinese female Internet users accounted for 54.58% of the total female population, 47.4% of the total Internet users (772 million). The proportion of female Internet journalists in China reached 55.9%.

*Second, provided support to women's media networks and organisations.* The government supports the All-China Women's Federation to organise an Internet and New Media Thematic Training within the Women's Federation system. Major publications units for women are invited to effectively help cadres/advocacy officers in Women's Federations at all levels improve their ability to use the Internet to carry out work on women issues. The All-China Women's Federation has opened "Women's Voice" integrated service platform on the website, WeChat (Chinese version of WhatsApp), Weibo (Chinese version of Twitter), and application, as well as Women's Federation cloud working platform.

All Women's Federations above the prefecture/city level have opened an official WeChat account. The entire women's federation system has established nearly 8,000 new media platforms, covering 220 million people. The Women's Federations at the province/city/county/township/village level have established more than 900 thousand working and contact groups nationwide, directly contacting nearly 45 million women and Women's Federation cadres. Various women's media networks and organisations use cyberspace and new media platforms to serve women. China provides multiple online services by establishing learning and training platforms, platforms for social projects helping women and children in difficulties, women entrepreneurship platforms and networking platforms.

*Third, women make suggestions through the media and ICT channels.* In order to promote the broad participation of citizens in national governance, in recent years, the

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People's Congresses and relevant government departments have opened online platforms for citizens to express their opinions and suggestions. For instance, "E-Two Sessions (the National People's Congress/the CPPCC)" and E-platforms that collect public opinions and suggestions during the law-making process. Through the online platform set up by the legislature, women submit proposals, and actively express interest claims in the process of soliciting public opinions on a number of draft laws (including the Anti-Domestic Violence Law, and especially the Civil Code). Women have played an important role and made their voice in the formulation of the Civil Code, in the improvement of supporting policies for women's rights protection (such as employment rights) in the implementation of the "Universal Two-Child Policy", and in the elimination of discriminating provisions/concepts in village regulations.

**21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

Since 2014, the Chinese government has increased its budget to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. National budget in areas closely related to women's development, such as education, employment and social security, maternal and child health, has increased year by year. In 2017, the general public budget expenditure of the central and local government was 20.30855 trillion yuan, an increase of 7.7% over the previous year with the same statistic scale, and an increase of 44.8% over 2013. The final account of education expenditure was 3.01518 trillion yuan, 2.461168 trillion yuan for social security and employment, and 1.445063 trillion yuan for medical care and family planning, which was 107.4%, 115% and 108.25% of the final account of the previous year respectively. They accounted for 14.8%, 12.1% and 7.1% of the national general public budget expenditure respectively.

The All-China Women's Federation has promoted to incorporate some major issues in women's development into the national major livelihood projects and government special plans. For instance, the cervical and breast cancer screening project for rural women and the fiscal interest subsidy policy for women's small-sum secured loans. Also, the All-China Women's Federation has secured relevant budget through jointly issuing documents with the Ministry of Finance and the People's Bank of China. The budget arrangement and the specific input provide financial support for gender equality and women's empowerment, and provide opportunities for women and girls' equal access to and sharing of development policies.

In particular, the budgetary expenditures included in the national major livelihood projects have played an important and fundamental role in eliminating the health risks of rural women, and improving women's economic ability and income. The State Council Working Committee on Women and Children and the National Bureau of Statistics focus on tracking gender-related budgets, as well as edit and publish the "Statistical Information on the Situation of Women and Children in China" each year, listing relevant budgets and special inputs in different topics.

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**22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

In 2015, at the “Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” co-organised by Chinese government and UN Women, President Xi Jinping pledged to support the development of UN Women, provide financial assistance to women in developing countries, and donate USD 10 million to UN Women to support the implementation of the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”, as well as the “2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”. From 2015 to 2020, China plan to help developing countries implement 100 “Maternal and Infant Health Projects”, to send medical expert groups to carry out medical visits, to implement 100 “Happy Campus Projects” which provide schooling subsidies for poor girls and improve girls’ enrolment rate, to invite 30 thousand women from developing countries to attend training in China, and to train 100 thousand female technicians in developing countries.

Under the South-South Cooperation Development Assistance Fund, the relevant funds established by China in cooperation with the United Nations, as well as the framework of South-South Cooperation and “One Belt, One Road” initiative, the Chinese government actively supports various projects benefiting women in developing countries with relevant international organisations. For instance, China Women’s University has held 14 foreign aid training sessions for female officials in developing countries.

**23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?**

*First, the national macro development plan clarifies the goals and tasks of gender equality and women’s empowerment.* The “13th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development (2016-2020)” issued in 2016 proposes to adhere to the basic state policy of gender equality and to effectively strengthen the protection of women’s rights and interests, ensuring fair participation and sharing of development results. In the section “Promoting Women’s All-round Development”, it is clearly stated: “Implement the programme for women’s development. Guarantee women’s equal access to rights and opportunities such as schooling, employment, matrimonial property and participation in social affairs. Safeguard rural women’s land rights and interests. Increase women’s participation in decision-making and management. Strengthen women’s poverty alleviation, labour protection, health care, maternal care, social welfare, legal assistance and others. Severely crack down on illegal and criminal activities such as trafficking and violence against women. Eliminate discrimination and prejudice against women. Improve women’s development environment.”

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In addition, in other relevant chapters, it is also proposed to “establish and improve the service system for left-behind children, women and the elderly”, “fully implement the subsidy system for hospital delivery, and provide pregnant women with free basic medical care services for the entire reproductive process”, and “comprehensively improve the capacity of maternal and infant health services, and enhance the prevention and treatment of key diseases for women and children.”

*Second, the national action plan for women’s development specifies goals and measures.* “Programme for Women’s Development (2011-2020)” sets seven priority areas, 57 main targets and 88 strategic measures, covering the general suggestions of international conventions, especially “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, recommendations put forward by “Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women”, and Goal 5 of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” The 2016 mid-term assessment report on the implementation of the “Programme for Women’s Development (2011-2020)” shows that main goals continue to advance, including women’s health, education, economy, participation in decision-making and management, social security, environment and law. Also, the national maternal mortality is decreasing, enrolment rate of women at all levels of education is increasing, and the goal to increase the proportion of women’s employment has been achieved ahead of schedule. Women’s development has made new progress.

*Third, strengthen the implementation of national strategy and action plan for women’s development, and allocate sufficient resources in relevant budgets.* China regards the implementation of the national women’s development strategy and programme as the responsibility of the government, assigning them to relevant government departments and incorporating them into departments’ special plans to coordinate the arrangement of funds and tasks. For instance, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development has increased women’s toilet seats in the revision of “Urban Public Toilet Design Standards”, alleviating the long-term situation that the ratio of toilet seats for men and women in public toilets is not compatible with actual needs. Also, the funds for the cervical and breast cancer free screening project for rural women, as well as the interest subsidy for small-sum loans (both are included in the national major livelihood projects), are jointly sponsored and operated by the central and local governments.

Local governments focus on integrating women’s development goals and tasks into local regulations, policies, and economic/social development plans. For instance, Jilin Province includes the aviation education and training project for women, called “Soaring Phoenix”, in the government development plan, promoting women’s (especially minority women’s) access to high-tech and high-skilled fields.

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**24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?**

After being reviewed in 2014, the Chinese government submitted the concluding observations of the “Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8) to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the Supreme People’s Court, the Supreme People’s Procuratorate and all members of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children. It is required that the relevant issues raised by the Committee be implemented and resolved in policy planning and in the work. When formulating the objectives and tasks of the “Programme for Women’s Development”, China fully considered the general suggestions made by the Convention and the Committee. Also, China strengthened the supervision. In conjunction with the recommendation of the Committee that the definition of discrimination should be further clarified, the gender equality review of the assessment mechanism plays a full role in the formulation of laws, administrative regulations, as well as in the introduction of rules and regulations. China strictly examines whether the relevant provisions violate the spirit of the Convention, and ensures that there is no gender discrimination against women in relevant laws, regulations and policies.

In the preparation of the “National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020)”, China fully considers the issues raised by the concluding observations of the Committee. The special chapter on “Women’s Rights” proposes series of measures to eliminate gender discrimination, improve women’s development environment and guarantee women’s legitimate rights and interests, including promoting the quotas for women’s equal participation and management in national/social affairs; striving to eliminate gender discrimination in employment, remuneration, and career development; safeguarding women’s health rights; improving urban and rural maternity protection system and providing basic health care services for pregnant women during the entire reproductive process; guaranteeing women’s rights in marriage and family; establishing the system of paternity leave; vigorously developing child care institutions for children under 3 years old and supporting women’s work/family balance; protecting women’s property rights in marriage and family; implementing the Anti-Domestic Violence Law and improving the multi-sectoral cooperation mechanism for preventing and suppressing domestic violence; enhancing the integrated working mechanism of prevention, stop and rescue; and encouraging and supporting social organisations to participate in anti-domestic violence work.

Also, China implements the “Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020)”, effectively preventing and combating criminal trafficking in women, as well as preventing and stopping sexual harassment against women.

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## 25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

China has positively responded to the UN “Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”, developed and implemented the “National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2010)”, the Action Plan (2012-2015), and the Action Plan (2016-2020) in succession, and identified the phased goals and tasks for the protection of women’s human rights.

China has established a joint meeting mechanism for the National Human Rights Action Plan, composed of more than 50 departments led by the State Council Information Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and responsible for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the action plan. The member units include the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children responsible for women’s affairs, the All-China Women’s Federation led by the CPC, and most members of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children.

The Working Committee on Women and Children and the All-China Women’s Federation are committed to promoting gender equality and eliminating gender-based discrimination. The member units of the Working Committee combine the departmental functions and the goals/tasks of promoting women’s development, and intensify their efforts in various fields and in all aspects of work to promote gender equality.

### Challenges and Strategies

*First, further strengthen the policy system that promotes the broad participation of women in decision-making and management.* At present, the proportion of women participating in politics is still low. There is a gap from the 30% target advocated by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. China will further strengthen the preferential policies promoting women’s participation in decision-making and management, and enhance implementation.

*Second, further strengthen the capacity building of the national mechanism for the advancement of women, and ensure the effective implementation of the objectives and tasks of the “Programme for Women’s Development”.*

*Third, further clarify and enhance gender budgeting in the national budget.* China will implement the goals and tasks of gender equality and women’s development formulated in plans such as the “Programme for Women’s Development” and the “National Human Rights Action Plan”.

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## **V. Peaceful and inclusive societies**

**26. Actions in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda.**

**27. Actions in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings.**

China has always been committed to promoting the establishment of a peaceful and inclusive society and actively advocating sustainable development. The Chinese nation is peace-loving. China adheres to the path of peaceful development; pursues peace, development, cooperation, and win-win results; abides by the foreign policy objectives of safeguarding world peace and promoting common development; unswervingly develops friendly cooperation with other countries on the basis of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence; promotes the establishment of a new type of international relations of mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation; calls on the people of all countries to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity; actively promotes the “One Belt, One Road” international cooperation, strives to achieve policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds, and builds a new platform for international cooperation to create new driving force for shared development. China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of international order. The Chinese military has always been a staunch force upholding world peace.

*First, China actively promotes the establishment and maintenance of a peaceful environment for women’s development.* In September 2015, China and UN Women jointly held the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment with the United Nations marking its 70th anniversary and the World Conference on Women in Beijing marking its 20th’s. President Xi Jinping presided over the summit and delivered a speech entitled “Promoting Women’s All-round Development and Building a Better World for All”. He proposed that “Women and children are the ones who suffer most when peace or tranquillity is disrupted. We must stand firmly for peace, development and beneficial cooperation, cherish peace dearly and uphold it so that every woman and child will enjoy the sunshine of happiness and tranquillity.”

*Second, Chinese women are actively involved in maintaining and promoting peace.* China is a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and the largest troop

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contributor in the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Since 1990, the Chinese military has participated in 24 peacekeeping operations and dispatched more than 39 thousand peacekeeping military personnel. China's peacekeeping force has actively provided safety protection and humanitarian relief for women, children and people in the countries involved; built and repaired roads of more than 16 thousand kilometres; cleared more than 9.8 thousand mines and various explosives; treated more than 200 thousand patients; and transported 1.35 million tons of various materials.

Nearly one thousand women peacekeepers from China have participated in UN peacekeeping operations. China has a combat squad consisted of 10 female soldiers in the South Sudan peacekeeping infantry battalion. While performing their duties, they have donated stationery to children in refugee camps, popularised the common knowledge of women rights protection, and brought joy to children. In 2017, Mao Ping, the first Chinese female commander to carry out peacekeeping missions, was awarded the "Outstanding Women Award" by the Lebanese government. The Chinese peacekeeping medical team led by her is known for its "healing hands and warm heart", providing medical services for local people and poor families, and sowing friendship and peace in the country of cedar. In recent years, China has co-organised an international training for women peacekeeping officers in Beijing with UN Women, improving the capacities to perform peacekeeping tasks. Also, China has established a ten-year, one billion dollars "China-United Nations Peace Development Fund", making new contributions to world peace and development.

*Third, China deeply participates in and actively promotes cooperation and exchange of women's affairs around the world.* China has actively promoted the establishment and development of multilateral women's cooperation mechanisms. Since 2014, the All-China Women's Federation has hosted the APEC Women and Economic Forum, the G20 Conference on Women, the China-Arab States Forum on Women, and the first women's forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, promoting the international governance of women affairs in the principle of "achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration". China supports women in developing countries to build capacity, facilitates equal development of men and women, and promotes common development with all countries. China has substantially increased its donations to UN Women and supported the implementation of the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" and the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Since 2015, China has helped developing countries implement more than 60 "Maternal and Infant Health Projects" and more than 60 "Happy Campus Projects", invited nearly 20 thousand women from developing countries to participate in training held in China, and trained 60 thousand female technicians within the countries concerned. Entrusted by the Ministry of Commerce, China Women's University has held training sessions for leading female officials in developing countries. Chinese women's organisations actively participate in women's livelihood cooperation. Since

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2014, with the support of the International Department of the Central Committee of CPC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, the All-China Women's Federation has provided 23 batches of small-scale material assistance for 18 countries involved in the joint construction of "One Belt and One Road", including sewing machines, overlock machines, projectors, computers, printers, maternal health packages and other production/living materials. China has provided assistance in improving women's living and working conditions, increasing their income and enhancing self-development capabilities. Also, China has built women training and exchange centres in developing countries, organising skills training which is popular with local women.

**28. Actions in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response.**

*First, strengthened international law enforcement cooperation, and taken measure to combat trafficking in women and children.* Firstly, severely crack down on the criminal activities of abducting foreign women and children. The Chinese governments' judicial and public security departments have cooperated with the judicial departments of Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand to launch a special joint action against trafficking. A total of 634 cases of trafficking were solved; 1,130 suspects (153 foreigners) were arrested; 1,130 foreign abducted women (530 returned) and 17 children (2 returned) were rescued. 126 cases of marital fraud were solved, and 202 suspects (109 foreigners) were arrested. In November 2018, representatives of China and Thailand signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Preventing and Curbing Human Trafficking".

Secondly, severely crack down on abducting women and forcing them into prostitution abroad, timely destroy criminal gangs, and rescue women who had been abducted and forced into prostitution. China has made full use of mechanisms such as the UN Conference on Fighting Human Trafficking, the China-EU Anti-trafficking Cooperation Platform, the International Criminal Police Organisation, continuously improving the ability of the public security department to fight and rescue.

*Second, fully implemented the national anti-trafficking action plan, and promoted the comprehensive social governance of combating trafficking crimes.* China has paid equal attention to traditional and new media, and vigorously carried out anti-trafficking advocacy activities. Also, the government has raised the awareness of anti-trafficking, created a good social environment in which everyone cares about and participates in anti-trafficking. According to the "Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020)", the anti-trafficking training for heads of county-level government departments should be run annually, and the legislative process of anti-trafficking law should be promoted actively. The "Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020)" will

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expire in 2020. China is actively summarising experiences, analysing future challenges and problems, and formulating a new round of national anti-trafficking action plan.

## **29. Actions in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child.**

*First, strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training through children's charity project "Spring Bud" and "Girls Protection" implemented by the All-China Women's Federation.* Through the implementation of "Spring Bud" project, covering education aid, personal development, employment and protection, the girls in poverty-stricken areas have been supported to continue studying and flourish. Up to now, the "Spring Bud" project has funded 3.69 million girls, donated 1,811 schools, conducted vocational education training for 527 thousand girls, and prepared 2.17 million project brochures. China has offered vocational education and training for older girls in poor areas, providing practical and substantial technical training that is in line with local needs, including poultry farming, vegetable and fruit growing, home services, beauty services and catering. The training helps girls gain skills. Since 2015, 1 million sets of "Spring Bud Project: Girls Protection Action---Girls Protection Handbook" have been printed, distributed to 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities). The handbooks promote knowledge about girls' protection, raise the awareness of girls and parents, and improve preventive abilities.

*Second, implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices.* China attaches great importance to the protection of girls' rights and interests. From 2014 to 2019, China has continuously promoted laws on the protection of minors. The "Criminal Law Amendment (IX)", passed in August 2015, strengthens the protection of women, especially of girls. The crime of "soliciting underage prostitutes" has been abolished, and all sexual behaviours with young girls under the age of 14 are handled as rape, reflecting the high level of protection of girls' sexual safety by the law. In 2015, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Civil Affairs formulated the "Opinions on Handling Certain Issues Concerning the Guardians' Infringement of the Rights and Interests of Minors in Accordance with Law", providing institutional guarantees for the punishment of guardians' misbehaviours such as sexual assault, sale, abandonment, abuse and violence.

In response to girls' sexual assault on campus, the Ministry of Education issued the "Notice on Further Strengthening the Prevention of Sexual Abuse against Students in Primary and Secondary Schools (Kindergartens)". It is required that education administrative departments and schools take sexual abuse preventative education as a top priority, take various effective measures to ensure the safety and stability of schools, and guarantee the safety of students. Judicial authorities across the country are also exploring a restrictive employment mechanism to prevent the potential risks of

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violations against girls' rights. For instance, in 2017, the Procuratorate of Cixi City, Zhejiang Province, together with the Court and public security organs, jointly issued the "Measures for the Information Disclosure of Offenders of Sexual Assault on Minors". The Procuratorates of Minhang District, Shanghai took the lead in signing the "Measures for Restricting Employment of Offenders of Sexual Assault (Trial)"; launched China's first "Mechanism for Restricting Employment of Offenders of Sexual Assault"; and established the "Offenders of Sexual Assault Database", enhancing the entry examination of specific industries such as education to protect minors from potential sexual assault.

Also, China has carried out special activities for the protection of girls. In 2013, around 100 female journalists across the country launched the "Girls Protection" public welfare project, together with media units such as People's Daily Online and China Youth Daily. In 2015, "Girls Protection" was upgraded to a special fund, established under the China Foundation of Culture and Arts for Children. "Girls Protection" aims to protect children from sexual abuse by "popularising and enhancing children's preventative awareness". By the end of October 2017, "Girls Protection" has covered 2.1 million students and 450 thousand parents in more than 600 counties of 29 provinces. Millions of netizens have participated in regular online training and lectures on different platforms.

*Third, strengthened cultural advocacy, and promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.* Party and government departments at all levels, women's federations and other social organisations have actively incorporated gender equality values into textbooks and classes; strengthened gender equality content in curricula and textbooks; and guided students to understand the inequality and its harms still existing in Chinese society. Since 2003, China has launched the "Care for Girls Action", promoting the concept of gender equality in the whole society; educating and guiding the masses to gradually change some traditional values such as "putting men before women" and "carry on one's ancestral line by boys"; guiding local governments to formulate preferential policies and measures for girls; improving girls' living and development environment; and helping girls enjoy basic health and education services.

At the same time, China has severely cracked down on behaviours that are not conducive to the growth of girls and detrimental to the health of girls. Also, China has banned all kinds of "Women's Virtues Class" that imprison or limit women's mind. Nine departments issued the "National Family Education Guiding Outline (Revised)" to guide family education and protect the rights of girls. China relies on nearly 360,000 parent schools in urban and rural communities and more than 180 thousand children's houses to promote the correct concepts of raising, to popularise the knowledge about adolescent education, disease prevention, mental health and safety education, to create a good family environment for girls' healthy growth.

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## **Challenges and Strategies**

*First, be alert of and severely punish the online violations of girls.* As the Internet becomes more and more influential in daily life and the users of social software/games are increasingly younger, online violations of girls, as well as victims of online pornographic images and videos, have occurred frequently. China will formulate special laws to protect the cybersecurity of minors as soon as possible; strengthen multi-party cooperation; establish a mandatory reporting system, an effective sexual harassment prevention system, as well as a restrictive employment system; and enhanced preventative education on sexual assault against girls.

*Second, beware of the erosion of girls' values and spiritual life by vulgar culture.* Through the platforms of school education and mass media, China will deliver the correct values of gender equality to girls, cultivate and enhance the spirit of "self-esteem, self-confidence, independence, and self-reliance". Relevant government departments will strengthen the supervision and management of various training/educational institutions that claim to promote the traditional culture, severely cracking down on various crime violating girls' interests and rights.

## **VI. Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation**

Promoting gender equality and environmental protection is not only a constitutional requirement but also a basic state policy. In the past five years, these two major development themes have gradually formed a normalised interaction and an institutional intersection. The gender perspective is constantly being reflected in environmental conservation, protection and projects.

### **30. Actions in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies.**

*First, supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance.* Women continue to enter the field of environmental protection and have made positive contributions to protecting the ecological environment, coping with climate change, and maintaining energy and resource security. The female members of the Environmental and Resources Protection Committee of the National People's Congress, the female mayors in charge of environmental issues at all levels of government, and female Secretaries for Environment have been increased. As of the end of 2014, the proportion of female cadres in the Ministry of Environmental Protection was 31.2%. The Chinese government supports the Women's Federation to play a role in ecological progress. In 2017, the All-China Women's Federation began to implement the "Women's Action Plan on Village Revitalisation", participating in the ecological progress in rural areas. "To implement Women's Action Plan on Village Revitalisation" was written in the 2018

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China Central Committee Document No.1 “Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Implementing the Rural Revitalisation Strategy”.

In recent years, the All-China Women’s Federation has re-mobilised and re-deployed the construction of “Beautiful Homes”. In some places, the construction of “Beautiful Homes” acts as an entry/breakthrough point for the “Women’s Action Plan on Village Revitalisation”. Women have participated in a variety of environmental activities in the principle of achieving shared growth through collaboration. The “Programme for Women’s Development (2011-2020)” prioritises “Women and Environment” as one of the seven key areas, including “advocating women to participate in energy conservation, emissions reduction and low carbon living” and “improving women’s ability to prevent and cope with disaster risks. The programme not only broadens the environmental issues but also becomes more practical in coping strategies.

*Second, monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls.* In 2015, the Environmental and Economic Policy Research Centre of the former Ministry of Environmental Protection (now Ministry of Ecology and Environment) carried out the “Study on the Vulnerability to Climate Change with a Gender Perspective” with the support of UN Women’s Office in China. In 2016, the results report was released. In 2018, China’s high-level advisory body, the Executive Committee of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, organised a discussion panel on “how to better understand gender issues and gender equality strategies” and “how to ensure they are reflected in research and policy recommendations for the Chinese government”. The panel adopted the “Gender Equality Guide”. The “2019 Work Plan” of the Council emphasises the mainstreaming of gender issues.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued the “Urban Public Toilet Design Standards”, increasing the ratio of female toilet seats to male’s to 3:2. In areas with a large flow of people, the ratio is 2:1. In 2017, the Shanghai Government published a new version of the “Public Toilet Planning and Design Standards.” In addition to the appropriate proportion of male and female toilets seats in accordance with locations and functions, it is required to set up gender-neutral toilets in some places. In the same year, Shanghai built China’s first unisex public toilet. At present, all provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) are revising and improving the “Urban Public Toilet Design Standards” in due course. From 2005 to 2015, China has solved the problem of safe drinking water for 520 million rural residents and 47 million rural school teachers and students. From 2016 to 2018, the water supply for 173 million rural residents has been consolidated and improved. By the end of 2018, the proportion of rural centralised water supply has reached 86%, and the penetration of tap water has reached 81%. In 2017, the penetration of rural hygiene toilets was 81.8%, and 62.7% for non-hazardous hygiene toilets, an increase of 14.4 and 17.7 percentage points over 2010 respectively.

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*Third, increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources.* To help women in the western arid regions get rid of serious water shortages, the China Women's Development Foundation has been working on the "Water Cellar for Mothers" project for 18 years. By the end of 2018, a total of 139.6 thousand rainwater collection cellars and 1,846 centralised water supply points have been built in 25 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities) mainly located in the western part, helping 3.04 million people obtain safe drinking water. The project has gradually expanded to a "1+N" comprehensive development model, with water cellar as the core and integrating biogas, plantation, hygiene, landscape beautification and others.

### **31. Actions in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation.**

*First, supported women's participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects.* China attaches great importance to the team-building of female technical experts and managerial cadres in the field of meteorological forecasting and disaster reduction services. The gender awareness of and women's participation in the climate departments are constantly improving. Women have become a living force in the development of meteorological issues. By the end of 2017, the female staff of the national meteorological department accounted for about 40%, and the female chief forecaster represented nearly 70%. In the leading team of the China Meteorological Administration, there are 2 two female directors. Among more than 2,170 county-level meteorological bureaus, more than 160 are headed by women.

*Second, strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters.* The Chinese government attaches importance to statistics on women and other vulnerable groups in disaster reduction. In June 2014, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National Committee for Disaster Reduction jointly issued the "Statistical System for Losses in Significant Natural Disasters." In the "Basic Indicator Table", the female population is listed separately. Also, the "Population Having Needs for Transitional Life Assistance", including women and other vulnerable groups, are separately calculated in the "Chart of Persons Affected by Disasters."

*Third, took care of the special needs of women in emergency management of sudden-onset natural disasters.* The Chinese Red Cross and other institutions have increased daily necessities for women, especially sanitary napkins and other women's products, in the reserve and distribution of post-earthquake and post-disaster relief supplies. The China Women's Development Foundation sends special "Mother Parcel" to the disaster areas in the rescue services for natural disasters such as earthquakes. Various measures have been taken to enhance women's ability to cope with climate

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change and disasters. In some places, special disaster prevention training targeted on rural women has been organised. The design of teaching materials and cases tries to be concise and understandable, in line with women's needs in production and daily life.

### **Challenges and Strategies**

At present, there are still many “blind spots” in promoting gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and practices. Environmental legislation and policies do not often touch on gender equality and women's empowerment. The constraints of environmental systems make daily practices unsatisfactory. In order to better implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve a “win-win” between gender equality and environmental protection, the following recommendations are put forward:

*First, incorporate a gender perspective in environmental legislation and policies development.* In legislation and policies development, potential policy barriers to gender mainstreaming should be identified. Also, social awareness among policy/decision-makers should be enhanced.

*Second, further safeguard the rights of women and other beneficiaries to participate in environmental decision-making.* In environmental protection and ecological progress, the assessment of impacts on gender equality should be carried out. China will improve the gender awareness and capacity building of personnel in relevant fields, including financial support.

*Third, further strengthen the collection, analysis and use of gender statistics in the environmental field.*

### **Section Three: National institutions and processes**

China attaches great importance to promoting gender equality and women's development; continuously improves and innovates the national mechanism for women's advancement; integrates various social resource; actively implements the global strategy of “gender mainstreaming” proposed in the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”; and accelerates the progress towards gender equality and women's development in China.

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**32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.**

China's national institutions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment include the women's working groups of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the women's working organisations under the leadership of the State Council, as well as the CPC.

The important roles of the NPC and CPPCC in national legislative decision-making and deliberative democracy has determined their significant functions in promoting gender equality and enhancing the national mechanism for women's empowerment. The women's working group of the NPC is the "Trade Union, Youth League and Women's Federation Office" under the "Supervisory and Judicial Affairs Committee." The office mainly reviews the legislation; organised the enforcement check on the "Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women" and other relevant laws; regularly listens to reports of the Commissions and relevant departments on gender equality; conducted researches on relevant issues; promotes gender equality and protects women's rights and interests.

The "Subcommittee of Social and Legal Affairs" of the CPPCC has established the working group on women and children. The working group advises on the difficulties in the development of women and girls; actively puts forwards proposals for promoting gender equality and women's development; conducts researches and holds discussions on relevant proposals through sector groups of the All-China Women's Federation; and supervises and inspects government's work.

The State Council Working Committee on Women and Children is a specialised agency of the Chinese government responsible for women and children affairs. The committee is composed of 35 member units including the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the All-China Women's Federation. The Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the relevant government departments to implement the relevant targets and responsibilities set by the "Programme for Women's Development"; fulfilling the duties of protecting women's legitimate rights and interests; solving outstanding problems concerning women's development in the working fields; providing necessary human/financial/material resources for women's development tasks; and guiding, supervising and inspecting the working committees on women and children of provinces/autonomous regions/municipalities/Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. All province/city/county governments across the country have established corresponding working institutions. The committees at different levels have set up offices responsible for daily work.

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The All-China Women's Federation is a mass organisation consisted of women from all walks of life for further liberation and development; a people's group under the leadership of the CPC; a bridge between the party/government and women; and an important social pillar of the state regime. At present, an organisational system has been established, including six levels (all-china, province/autonomous regions/municipalities, cities/prefectures, counties/districts, townships/sub-districts, and villages/communities) and several member institutions. The coverage of women's organisation continues to expand to new fields/formats/classes/groups. In accordance with the statute, the Women's Federation focuses on the overall situation of the Party and the country in different periods; extensively publicises the Party's theory, line, principles and policies; unites and guides women to firmly follow the path of socialist women's advancement with Chinese characteristics; gives full play to its unique role in social and family life; and makes contributions to the cause of socialist modernisation with Chinese characteristics.

The All-China Women's Federation took the lead in setting up the leading groups of activities such as "Learn Knowledge and Skills, Compete for Performance and Contributions" and "Women Pacesetter"; establishing the coordination group of "Five-virtue Family Development (law-abiding/diligent study/family planning/domestic harmony/industrious and thrifty management of the household)"; building the coordination mechanism for safeguarding the rights of women and children, as well as creating harmonious families. As a member unit, the Federation participates in the work of the "Central Leading Group for Rural Work", the "Central Spiritual Civilisation Construction Guiding Committee", the "Coordination Group for Popularisation and Obedience of the Law" in the "Central Committee for Comprehensive Rule the Country by Law", and the "State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development." The Federation reflects women's interests and represents women to participate in the democratic decision-making/management/supervision of state/social affairs.

In the new era, the Women's Federation further maintains and enhances its political advancement and its role as a mass organisation through reform and innovation; fully plays the role of a reliable and powerful assistant for women affairs; consolidates women with the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics; contacts and serves women as the main tasks; establishes a long-term mechanism for direct contacting and serving women; strives to consolidate and expand the Party's class/female mass foundation; leads other women's organisations to serve women; and promotes gender equality and women's development.

The Women Workers Committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions is a female employees' organisation that guarantees the rights and interests of women workers and promotes gender equality. As the office of the Women Workers Committee, the Department of Women Workers of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions is

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responsible for promoting the implementation of the basic state policy of gender equality in the field of labour, expressing and safeguarding the legitimate rights and special interests of women workers.

**33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation?**

In order to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China has established an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism consisted of 45 government departments. The State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, the National Health Commission and the All-China Women's Federation are member units of this mechanism. The persons in charge of the abovementioned institutions are also members of the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism. In addition, more than two-thirds member units of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children are also parts of the mechanism, the same for the members.

**34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

The formal mechanism in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children. The Committee actively engages women's rights organisations and experts from academia/think tanks to participate in relevant work.

a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The members of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children such as the All-China Federation of Trade Union, the All-China Women's Federation, and the China Disabled Persons' Federation represent and protect the interests of women. Government departments such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the National Health Commission and the National Bureau of Statistics, as the main departments responsible for implementing the main goals related to women's development, directly participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration. The State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, the National Health Commission, the All-China Federation of Trade Union, the All-China Women's Federation, and other member units of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children participating in the

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inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, actively promote the participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalised groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

China respects and guarantees the rights and interests of marginalised groups and prioritises women and girls in a series of special mechanisms. First, set quotas for seats in political institutions. All ethnic minorities should have appropriate numbers of representatives in the National People's Congress, including female representatives. They exercise their rights in national legislative activities and submit proposals on issues of concern. The female members of the CPPCC come from democratic parties, non-parties and ethnic minorities. They participate in multi-party cooperation and political consultation and submit proposals on issues of concern.

Second, pay attention to the special livelihood needs of women and girls in difficulties. In major strategies of poverty alleviation, women and girls are key targets. China pays particular attention to helping people increase confidence in their own abilities to lift themselves out of poverty and get access to education/training. Through targeted measures such as entrepreneurship and employment, asset income, health promotion, education and training, ecological progress, and life support, all women and girls are supported to get rid of poverty. Third, continuously improve the rights and interests of women and girls with disabilities. China comprehensively promotes the participation of the disabled women in economic and social development, ensures that the protection policies and care actions are in place, and guarantees the equal sharing of economic/social development outcomes.

c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.

The State Council Working Committee on Women and Children has worked closely with mass organisations such as the All-China Women's Federation in preparing the national reports, engaging them to participate in writing and providing data/opinions/suggestions. Experts and scholars from Women's Studies Institute of China, China Women's University, Peking University, Beijing Normal University, Communication University of China, Capital University of Economics and Business and Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security have directly participated in the writing of relevant parts of the report and provided references.

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### **35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/ strategy for SDG implementation?**

In September 2016, the “China’s National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was released, detailing the specific plan on implementing 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets. Issues related to women and girls’ empowerment are all listed as priorities. In the aspect of poverty alleviation, it is required to formulate and improve laws and policies to ensure women’s equal participation in economic development; to ensure women’s equal access to economic resources and effective services; and to ensure that women enjoy equal contracted land use rights, homestead use rights and collective income sharing rights. In the elimination of malnutrition, it is required to provide nutrition guidance and intervention for adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and elderly women. In terms of maternal mortality, the goal to reduce the rate to 18/100,000 by 2020 and 12/100,000 by 2030 has been set. In the aspect of gender equality education, it is required that the principle and concept of gender equality are fully reflected in the standards and teaching processes of all levels of education. In terms of women’s employment, the “Employment Promotion Law” is required to be implemented and effective policy measures on women’s employment are expected to be formulated.

The national plan breakdowns nine targets of Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, emphasising adherence to the basic state policy of gender equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination and prejudice against women and girls. The plan prevents and stops all forms of violence against women and girls; prohibits child marriage and interference in the freedom of marriage; promotes women’s employment and entrepreneurship, develops childcare services and advocates the joint family responsibilities of men and women; formulates and improves relevant regulations and laws promoting women’s participation in decision-making and management, enhances the training and selection of female cadres, and increases the proportion of women in grassroots self-governing organisations such as neighbourhood/village committees; improves the maternity insurance system and reproductive health services; enhances women’s capacity in various technical skills such as information and communication; and constantly improves the legal system that guarantees the rights and interests of women and children.

China has coordinated the implementation of the national plan and comprehensively deployed tasks in seven aspects, including strategies integration, institutional guarantee, social mobilisation, resources investment, risk management, international cooperation, and supervision and evaluation. China has developed a task division plan, assigning each target to a specific responsible department and promoting gender equality and women’s development in a step-by-step/cooperative manner.

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## Section Four: Data and statistics

China's gender statistics are centred on the "Programme for Women's Development", with the "Departmental Comprehensive Statistical Reporting System" of the National Bureau of Statistics as the starting point; with statistical products as carriers, such as the "Statistics on Women and Children in China", the "Women and Men in China" and the "Statistics Monitoring Report on China Women's Development"; with the "Chinese Women Social Status Survey", the "Time Use Survey" and relevant international cooperation projects as important supplements. A gender statistics work system across departments has been formed. Since 2014, gender-specific indicators such as employment, unemployment and labour security have been further improved; gender-specific data have been collected regularly; relevant indicators have increased by more than 10% annually; gender statistics publications have been published regularly or irregularly; and the National Bureau of Statistics has added gender statistics to its visual products.

### **36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?**

*First, conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialised topics.* In 2018, the National Bureau of Statistics organised the second "National Time Use Survey", covering 11 provinces (municipalities). Relying on a national unified survey sample of household income and expenditure, more than 20,000 households with nearly 50,000 people were interviewed. The Survey objectively reflects people's life pattern and quality of life from the perspective of time use. It is an important means to analyse and evaluate social progress, gender and development, as well as the improvement of people's livelihood. Compared with the first survey in 2008, the second survey obtained more detailed data on time use of Chinese citizens. It provides a reliable basis for comprehensively reflecting the living conditions of Chinese residents and making international comparison; provides a relatively complete data supplement for gender statistics of "Programmes for Women's Development"; addresses the data gap concerning time use by sex; improves the overall level of social statistics at the national level; and provides conditions for international cooperation in social statistics.

*Second, produced knowledge products on gender statistics.* The National Bureau of Statistics, UNFPA and UNICEF have been implementing joint data projects for many years and have been working on creating easy-to-understand products on gender statistics. The jointly edited "China Children's Development Indicators Atlas (2014)" and "2015 China Children's Population Status- Facts and Data" published in 2017 are rich in content and gender statistics analysis. A multi-angle comparative analysis of gender differences in children has been conducted, including education and children's

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development, maternal and infant health care, national immunisation programme, nutrition, and the impact of population movements on children. The analysis is easy for the public to understand and disseminate.

*Third, developed a centralised web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics.* Based on the multi-sectoral statistical annual report, the National Bureau of Statistics has developed a comprehensive statistical database of social science, including gender statistics. The database is continuously revised and improved annually on the basis of full consultation of various departments' opinions and suggestions. At present, all statistical reports are published on a unified platform at a unified time with a unified format, realising the multi-department sharing. In 2015, the State Council Working Committee on Persons with Disabilities organised a special survey on the status and needs of basic services for disabled persons. Since 2016, the data has been continuously updated every year. The update work targets on persons holding the Disability Certificate, the main development projects for people with disabilities, and the basic public service facilities of all villages (communities) across the country. All data analysis is disaggregated by sex. Through the 2015 special survey and the dynamic update of information from 2016 to 2018, the status and needs of basic services for disabled people by sex are well explored.

**37. Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?**

*First, conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialised topics.* The National Bureau of Statistics plans to continue the "Time Use Survey" sometime in the future, to make up for the lack of data and to narrow the gap in gender statistics. Also, through the multi-department cooperation, the Bureau will develop the statistical analysis of the survey by sex, and produce relevant knowledge products. Also, China conducts a survey on the social status of Chinese women every ten years. In 2020, the All-China Women's Federation and the National Bureau of Statistics will jointly organise the fourth national survey on women's social status, covering education, economy, social security, political participation, marriage and family, health, lifestyle, law and human rights, and gender conceptions. The survey will comprehensively reflect the new changes in the social status of women, as well as obtain a large number of gender-disaggregated statistics. It is an important supplement to Chinese government statistics.

*Second, greater utilisation and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps.* China will actively explore and study the use of departmental administrative records/big data; continuously expand the sources of gender statistics; improve the quality of gender statistics; continuously promote the improvement and use of comprehensive statistical databases; integrate data collection, review, collation, preservation and utilisation through informationisation and platform; improve the standardisation of gender statistics, enhance the efficiency

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of data collation and utilisation; explore new ways to publish data; and establish new channels to collect feedback.

*Third, production of knowledge products on gender statistics.* China will continue to edit and publish knowledge products on gender statistics. Since 1995, the National Bureau of Statistics has edited and published five gender statistics publications “Women and Men in China-Facts and Statistics”, and is currently editing the sixth. Also, China will continue to edit the “Statistics on Women and Children in China” published annually, providing the latest gender statistics to relevant government departments, women’s organisations, gender research institutions and the public. Some local statistical bureaus have also published provincial gender statistics in succession.

In the next five years, through the analysis and application of advanced big data, China will analyse/apply/study/develop data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, promoting the scientific management of data on persons with disabilities, supporting decision-making, and realising targeted support for disabled people.

### **38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?**

The Chinese government has actively promoted the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and established the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The “China’s National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” defines the division of tasks among various departments. The National Bureau of Statistics attaches great importance to and actively participate in the formulation and implementation of the SDGs indicators and plays a central coordinating role in the follow-up monitoring and evaluation of China’s sustainable development agenda.

The National Bureau of Statistics has established a working group on SDGs indicators, composed of relevant units of the Bureau. The working group has begun to consider the needs of monitoring SDGs in the design of relevant statistical survey systems. The global indicator framework includes not only indicators with well-established definitions, methodologies and databases, but also indicators that could well reflect the progress but currently lack methodologies and databases. At present, the National Bureau of Statistics has sorted out and classified the monitoring indicators according to the functions of the departments. The next major task is to study and formulate a statistical monitoring system for SDGs that is suitable for China’s national conditions based on the global indicator framework.

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**39. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring is primarily based on comparable and standardised national data. China actively participates in the revision of the SDGs global indicator framework and carries out relevant work on the monitoring of domestic SDGs indicators. In response to Goal 5, the indicators that China has begun to collect and compile are:

*Indicator 5.1.1:* Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

*Indicator 5.4.1:* Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

*Indicator 5.5.1:* Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

*Indicator 5.6.2:* Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15–49 access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

*Indicator 5.a.2:* Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control

*Indicator 5.b.1:* Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Gender-specific indicators under other SDGs:

*Indicator 1.1.1:* Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex

*Indicator 1.2.1:* Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex

*Indicator 1.3.1:* Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex

*Indicator 3.1.1:* Maternal mortality ratio

*Indicator 3.7.1:* Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

*Indicator 4.2.2:* Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

**40. Which of the following disaggregations is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?**

The following ten disaggregations are all included: geographic location, income, sex, age, education, marital status, race/ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.