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AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



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[Editor's Note] In recent years, Chinese NGOs have been actively participating in global human rights governance through introducing China's philosophy and achievements in the field of human rights on the occasion of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions. From February 28 to April 1, 2022, the 49th session of UNHRC was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 20 Chinese NGOs including China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU), Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, China Foundation for Human Rights Development, China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture, China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), and Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges attended online. From June 13 to July 8, 2022, the 50th session of UNHRC was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 20 Chinese NGOs including CNIE, CAFIU, China Foundation for Human Rights Development, China Ethnic Minorities' Association for External Exchanges (CEMAEE) and CFRD attended the session online. Mainstream media of China including CCTV, People's Daily, XinhuaNet, Guangming Daily, China News Service.com published extensive reports on the oral and written statements as well as parallel events contributed by Chinese NGOs.

Chinese NGOs Cast Strong Voice at UNHRC

China Daily

Since the opening of the 49th session of the UNHRC, Chinese NGOs have been active for the session online to make their voices heard in such fields as protecting and promoting human rights against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the protection of ethnic minorities' culture.

Lin Songtian, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, said that increasing people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and safety in all countries is the fundamental duty and common goal of the world's human rights cause. China has always adhered to a people-centered concept of human rights, effectively safeguarding the people's right to survival, life and health and helping every one of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese out of poverty, bringing the highest level of happiness to its people. In contrast, the world's largest developed country preaches human rights every day but allows nearly 1 million people to die from COVID-19. It goes without saying what human rights mean for such a country.

Representatives of China Foundation for Human Rights Development and YouChange Social Entrepreneur Foundation spoke about their experience and practices in carrying out public welfare programs, spreading human rights knowledge, and advancing the progress of China's

human rights cause, especially using technology to provide online training to young teachers in rural areas and high quality education resources to students there. They emphasized that the right to a happy life is the most important human right, and development is the key to deliver benefits to the people.

Based on self-experience, a Uygur representative of China Ethnic Minorities' Association for External Exchanges briefed on the social and economic development in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the achievements of fighting against terrorism and extremism, and rebutted the rumors of the West about Xinjiang with solid facts and statistics. Representatives from China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture and China Tibetology Research Center made an overall introduction of the outstanding achievements Tibet had made in preserving intangible cultural heritage and museum development.

Beijing Peaceland Foundation and Beijing Crafts Council briefed on their work of pandemic prevention and control and humanitarian assistance in various countries since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, calling for common efforts of the international community to take concrete actions to protect peace and promote the building of a home of civilizations.

Chinese NGOs Submitted Written Statements to the 49th Session of UNHRC

China Daily

The 49th session of the UNHRC is running on in Geneva, Switzerland. Chinese NGOs have been participating in the session online by submitting written statements. They have actively told the stories of China's successful practice of promoting prosperity and development of its regions inhabited by ethnic groups, safeguarding the rights of women and children, and promoting human rights and democracy worldwide, adding Chinese wisdom and solutions to the improvement of global human rights governance.

Promoting the prosperity and development of

regions inhabited by ethnic groups by putting people at the center

The representative of China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture said that since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Tibet has been fighting against poverty and eliminated absolute poverty through targeted policies and assistance. At present, the annual per capita disposable income of Tibetans who are lifted out of poverty exceeds 10,000 yuan (about 1,570 U.S. dollars).

The representative of China Ethnic Minorities'



Association for External Exchanges emphasized that in recent years, China has continued to promote sports in ethnic areas by improving facilities, vigorously training ethnic minority athletes and regularly holding sporting events such as the National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities. These measures have promoted exchanges among ethnic groups, national fitness and a sense of fulfillment and happiness in people of all ethnic groups. Among the 176 Chinese athletes participating in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, there were 20 athletes from nine ethnic minorities including Tibetan, Uyghur, and Hui, accounting for 11.36 percent of all Chinese athletes -- a vivid example of different ethnic groups in China striving for better performance together in sporting and cultural events.

Opposing double standards, while insisting on and developing whole-process people's democracy

The representative of the Chinese Association for International Understanding said that some countries, such as the United States, have weaponized human rights. They judge their own human rights situations and those of other countries with double standards, abuse unilateral sanctions under the pretext of human rights, interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, seriously infringe on the right to survival and development of people in other countries, and greatly hinder the cause of international human rights. Facts have proven that democracy is a common value of mankind and that human rights are the common pursuit of all peoples. Democracy promotes the protection of human rights,

and the safeguarding of human rights promotes democracy. The two concepts are inextricably linked. China's whole-process people's democracy not only upholds the people's status as masters of the country and ensures the splendid achievements of China's human rights cause, but also enriches the forms of political civilization and significantly contributes to the development of human rights worldwide, which makes it worth developing..

Promoting gender equality and women empowerment to facilitate high quality development of women's

The representative of Beijing Changier Education Foundation pointed out that China always attaches great importance to gender equality and the development of women. For more than 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chinese women have been equally exercising their democratic rights according to the law, participating in the social and economic development and enjoying the results of reform and opening up, enhancing their sense of fulfillment, happiness and security.

The representative of China Social Entrepreneur Foundation said that with the support of the Chinese government and enterprises, Chinese NGOs carry out e-commerce skill training in rural areas to strengthen capacity building of women there, promote their participation in the development of rural areas and agriculture and facilitate the implementation of the strategy of rural vitalization.

Sharing China's Experience of Development, Promoting Global Governance of Human Rights

During the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), online parallel events were co-hosted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), United Nations Association of China and other NGOs and human rights institutions. NGO leaders, experts and scholars from China, Pakistan, Cambodia, Argentina, the UK and other countries, had extensive and in-depth discussions and exchanges on 12 topics, which included Human Rights Progress and the Happy Life of All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang, Development Experience Sharing on the Whole-process People's Democracy, and US Human Rights Concept and Its Harm to Global Human Rights Governance, among others. Participants agreed that China has made remarkable achievements in its cause of human rights development, playing its role and providing its solutions to the world at large. All countries should work together to promote the development of global human rights governance in a fairer, more just, more equitable and more inclusive direction.

"When all ethnic groups work together, we can surely create a promising future for China."

Facts of social stability, economic development and progress of human rights in Xinjiang, Tibet and other places in China, were told at these events, strongly

refuting smears and slanders of some western countries.

Zuliyati Simayi, Vice President of Xinjiang University, said that Xinjiang has achieved all-round social development and progress through economic development. The improvement of housing, medical security and education increased the sense of happiness of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, laying a solid material foundation for local development of human rights.

Abdumijit Abdulla, Chief of Circulation Department, Ethnic Library of China, said that he was from Xinjiang, witnessing changes occurred over the years. Fellow villagers are now driving their saloons on an asphalt road, replacing those sand ones in the past, enjoying a blissful life.

Laurence Brahm, J.D., School of Law, University of Hawaii, with his experience of filming documentaries in Tibet, told the Chinese government's achievements in protecting the natural environment of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and introduced the people of all ethnic groups' living and working in peace and contentment based on multicultural common prosperity.

Yang Liyuan, assistant research fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Studies, China Tibetology Research Center, said that the Chinese government has made every effort to energize the economic and social

development of Tibet, and is committed to the protection and inheritance of Tibetan traditional culture, delivering remarkable results in protecting and passing down Tibetan language, characters and relics.

Mark Levine, an American expert at Minzu University of China, said that on the campus, teachers and students of all ethnic groups respect each other, united and friendly as one, fully demonstrating ethnic solidarity and common progress.

"The joint efforts of all ethnic groups will definitely make China a better place," said Robert Lee, a Canadian expert at the Northwest Minzu University.

"China's democracy improves people's well-being."

Participants of the events fully acknowledged that China steadfastly pursues a path for human rights development that suits its national conditions, as China upholds a human rights philosophy that puts people at the center, develop the whole-process people's democracy, and promote common prosperity for all.

Dong Qiang, Associate Professor of the College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, introduced the CPC's people-centered development philosophy with the example of the poverty alleviation process of Hebian Village, a Yao ethnic village in Mengla County, Yunnan Province. He said that China has won the battle against poverty, and the rural landscape has undergone tremendous changes.

Canadian scholar Arnold August has long been following China's poverty reduction. He believes that the Chinese government has always focused on improving people's livelihood, with a series of effective policy measures taken. This is a historical solution to poverty with historic achievements.

Pang Chunxue, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that after a century of exploration and practices, the Communist Party of China, leading the Chinese people, has found a form of democracy that suits China's national conditions - the whole-process people's democracy. It boasts a complete system and procedures to ensure the full participation of the people.

Zhang Xiaomeng, Deputy Dean of the School of Marxism Studies, Renmin University of China (RUC), said that the whole-process people's democracy shows, vividly, China's respect and protection of people's rights, the improvement of national governance efficiency, and the enrichment and development of human political civilization. It is in line with China's national conditions and the fundamental interests of the Chinese people, as well as the common pursuit of the world's citizens at large. "China is embarking on a right path, as its democracy has improved the well-being of its people," said Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

"While visiting China," Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, said, "I saw that the Chinese people were fully confident with the CPC and the government. You can tell that from their faces." She indicated that China's democracy matters to the rest of the world, especially to the developing countries.

Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and President of the United Nations Association of China, said that the whole-process people's democracy is the CPC's great creation to unite and lead the people to pursue, develop and realize democracy, a vivid practice of running the country by the people. China's development achievements and exploration of democratic values extended and innovated the connotation and denotation of democracy. It

enriched and developed the political civilization of mankind, providing reference and confidence for other countries to find a development path that suits their own national conditions. This is China's new contribution to the world's democracy theories and democratic politics.

“Promote human rights governance towards a fairer, more just, more equitable and more inclusive direction.”

Participants agreed that the shared values of mankind should be carried forward, to practice multilateralism in the real sense, and advance international cooperation in human rights.

Mao Junxiang, Executive Director of the Human Rights Studies Center, Central South University (CSU), said that the international community should balance the relationship between the universality of human rights and cultural diversity, striving for a model of consultations and exchanges based on equality, freedom and commitment.

Dr. Felim Hedemeyer, lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies at University College Cork, Ireland, said that the system of globalization needs adjustment and regulation. Countries should work

together to enhance cooperation and dialogue on human rights, and consolidate North-South consensus.

"We advocate the development of human rights governance in a fairer, more just, more equitable, and more inclusive direction, to jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind." said Yang Chunfu, Director of the Academic Committee, the Institute of Human Rights at Southeast University (SEU).

Zuo Wei, Secretary of SEU's Party Committee, believes that a universal and objective attitude should be adopted on human rights issues. He said that we should adhere to multilateralism, promote constructive dialogues and international unity and cooperation, to defend the fruits of global human rights governance.

Prof. Letlhokwa George Mpedi, Deputy Vice-chancellor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, quoted, "He who travels alone goes fast, but he who travels in company goes far." He added, on the road to practice human rights, countries need to carry out extensive cooperation and work together to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Chinese NGOs Submitted Written Statements to the 50th Session of UNHRC

People's Daily

At the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) held in Geneva, Switzerland from June 13 to July 8, Chinese NGOs submitted written statements about China's achievements in human rights and China's contribution to the reform and improvement of global human rights governance.

The representative of China Ethnic Minorities' Association for External Exchanges said that China always adheres to the people-centered human rights philosophy and takes effective measures to help Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region realize rapid social and economic development. People of different ethnic groups there enjoy happiness and safety, and their wonderful traditional culture is well protected. The sole purpose for certain countries in the West to make up rumors and lies about Xinjiang is to damage China's international image and contain China's development. The UNHRC should make a clear distinction between right and wrong and stay unaffected by misinformation.

The representative of China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture said that under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the higher education in Tibet has made profound changes after developing for over 70 years. One example is Tibet

University, which has turned from a "camp school" to a university in the "211 Project" and "Double First-Class" University Project. While building up its disciplines, the university also carries out international exchanges and cooperation, exploring its way towards successful modern higher education in a highland ethnic minority-inhabited area in border regions.

The representative of Beijing Women's International Exchanges Center pointed out that the pandemic unseen in a century has worsened the gender inequality around the world. Chinese NGOs carried out the "Empowering Girls with Technology and Promoting Gender Equality" Action that provided girls with education resources and training to improve sci-tech knowledge and capability, a practical move to realize gender equality in emerging sci-tech fields.

Representatives of Beijing Changier Education Foundation and Chunhui Children stated that as a State Party of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the hosting country of the Fourth World Conference on Women, China has been actively implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and ensuring that the special needs to protect girls and stay-at-home children in rural areas are met. China is ready to work with the international

community to promote the healthy and overall development of children across the world.

The representative of China Social Entrepreneur Foundation said that with the support of the government, Chinese NGOs opened computer science classes in rural areas, making efforts to narrow the digital gap and ensuring more equitable, qualified and inclusive education.

The representative of Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation believes that sports play a significant role in engaging people with disability with the healthy people. Through carrying out sporting events, Chinese NGOs enhance communication between people with disability and the healthy people, pass on the care and support of the entire society to them and providing them with more respect and good wishes.

The representative of Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges said that in recent years,

Chinese NGOs upheld the philosophy of building a community with a shared future for mankind and made positive efforts in carrying out international cooperation to fight COVID-19, promoting people-to-people connectivity, enhancing people-to-people exchanges and improving global environmental governance. The international civil society should further enhance cooperation, champion real multilateralism and make greater contribution to building an equal, harmonious and green world.

The representative of Greenovation Hub stated that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a significant symbol of human rights. On the basis of human rights, the international community should join hands to cope with problems including climate change and the loss of biodiversity and habitats and promote green and low-carbon development, so as to accelerate the delivery of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China Human Rights Stories Told by Chinese NGO Delegates at the 50th Session of UNHRC

The 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council was convened in Geneva, in which Chinese NGOs actively participated online. During the session, Chinese NGOs vividly interpreted China's human rights philosophy by introducing the achievements in poverty reduction, fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic and international cooperation in human rights, thus firmly refuted the false accusations and attacks from the west.

Mr. Du Lei from China Society for Human Rights Studies pointed out that China has eliminated absolute poverty by finding the historic solution to the problem of regional poverty. China will take follow-up measures such as continued support to the development of industries with local features and to people who have been relocated from unfavorable areas in a bid to prevent relapse into poverty. Mme. Ling Hui, Secretary General of YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation emphasized that China have explored various ways of innovation in the battle against poverty, one of which is to support companies and businesses. On one hand, sustainable jobs were offered to people out of poverty; on the other hand, achievements in poverty alleviation were consolidated and further expanded for the cause of common prosperity. Ms. Yang Bochao from China University of Political Science and Law delivered a speech during the session on behalf of

China Society for Human Rights Studies. She said that for developing countries the rights to subsistence and development are the primary human rights. China has coordinated with the UN, G20 and other multilateral mechanisms to keep up global economic recovery, as well as to expedite the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Wu Ruilong from Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges spoke on behalf of Hong Kong religious circles. He believed that the One Country, Two Systems principle has guaranteed the religious, academic and speech freedom in Hong Kong in the past 25 years. After the adoption of Hong Kong National Security Law, churches in Hong Kong have the freedom to organize major religious events and run church schools. People from the religious circle in Hong Kong will continue to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region. Mr. Liu Zhongheng, youth representative from UN Association of China expressed that the Hong Kong National Security Law and the new electoral system have well protected the rights of Hong Kong people and local businesses. From disarray to good governance, Hong Kong has entered a new phase of prosperity. There is no single set of criteria for democracy that is universally applicable. The US has claimed itself to be a country of democracy with the longest history, but instead of solving its domestic problems such as the most

severe inflation ever over the past 40 years, the skyrocketing oil prices, the mass shooting against children at schools etc., US willfully started the trade war against China and broke the international rules. That is not the democracy people crave for.

Ms. Zhang Yinjun, Chairwoman of Beijing Changier Education Foundation delivered a speech on the protection of children's rights. She criticized the crimes of child trafficking in some western countries, which is as lucrative as drug trafficking. The root of such phenomenon lies in the wicked deeds and evil chains of western colonial period such as slaves trafficking. Ms. Rao Ningning from the Human Rights Institute of Southwest University of Political Science and Law of China delivered a speech on behalf of China Society for Human Rights Studies. From her point of view, the unilateral economic sanctions of US imposed outside of the US territory violated the sovereignty of other countries and rights of their people and relevant entities, gravely impacted the freedom of international trade and navigation. The

unilateral sanction in the name of human rights severely hampered multilateral cooperation and bring nothing conducive to international solidarity.

NGOs such as China Foundation for Rural Development, the Amity Foundation, Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association and China Ethnic Minorities' Association for External Exchanges have also elaborated on the protection of human rights in China and development philosophy on such topics as combating human trafficking, fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting lepers' rights. Before the convening of the session, NGOs in China submitted written statements to United Nations Human Rights Council under such themes as Advance Rule of Law for Human Rights, Promote Equality and Inclusiveness, China's Rule of Law Enactment on Counter-Terrorism, the Fact of Respecting and Protecting Human Rights in Xinjiang, Right to Education of Tibet Ethnic Group, Politicization, Racialization and One-Sidedness of U.S. Human Rights, etc..

Contributing to the Development of International Human Rights

During the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council, China Society for Human Rights Studies, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, United Nations Association of China and other Chinese NGOs hosted a number of online parallel events, in which representatives of Chinese and foreign NGOs, experts and scholars discussed in a hybrid manner on such topics as "Effectiveness of Rights Protection: the Reality and Reflection of Minority Policies in Western Countries", "Education Development and Rights Protection in Ethnic Areas of China" and "Strengthening Global Human Rights Governance and Promoting Common Values of All Humanity". Participants agreed that China has made great achievements in human rights and played an important role in the process of global human rights governance. China's experience is of great significance to the human rights protection of other countries, especially developing countries, contributing to the development of the international human rights cause.

"A Correct Path for Solving Ethnic Issues with Chinese Characteristics has Been Developed."

A number of parallel events are themed on social stability, economic development and continuous progress of human rights in Xinjiang and Tibet. Participants believe that China insists on combining the principle of universality of human rights with China's reality, commits itself to promoting economic and social development, enhancing people's well-being, strengthening the protection of human rights under the rule of law, promoting social justice, and safeguarding all rights of ethnic minorities in accordance with law, which provides important

reference for the international community in governing ethnic affairs.

At present, Xinjiang enjoys social security, stability and improved development, and its people live and work in peace and happiness. In recent years, more than 2,000 diplomats, officials of international organizations, experts, journalists and religious figures from more than 100 countries and regions have visited Xinjiang. Foreigners who visited Xinjiang say that what they saw and heard in Xinjiang is completely different from the descriptions given by western politicians and media.

At the parallel event, Rafael, a Brazilian media practitioner, gave a vivid description of the fact that all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are living together in harmony, all sectors are developing rapidly, and the people's well-being has increased significantly, based on his personal experience in Xinjiang.

Ming Zhu, Research Fellow at the Globalization Think Tank in Pakistan, believes that China's achievements, especially the development progress in Xinjiang, provide an example for human rights protection in developing countries. In response to the malicious disinformation of a few western countries on Xinjiang, Ming Zhu called for continued international exchange activities to let more people understand China's development achievements and get to know a real Xinjiang.

Marco, Research Fellow at the Brazilian Institute for Social Research on Three Continents (International), said that a few western countries spread fake news through the media and manipulate the agenda setting in international public opinion. To break the barriers of inaccurate information they have built,

Latin American countries and China should deepen their people-to-people exchanges, so that Latin American people can access real information from China's minority regions more easily.

Experts and representatives of international students, including Jackson from the UK, Bahe from Kyrgyzstan, Lini from New Zealand and Emma from Rwanda, positively evaluated China's equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmonious ethnic relations and its practice in safeguarding the rights of ethnic minorities in accordance with the law based on their personal experiences and feelings in China. Bajishbek, an expert from the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of Kyrgyzstan, and Chang Ying, Director of the Institute of Public Administration Research and Training of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Laos, said that China's practices and experiences in governing ethnic affairs in accordance with the law are worth studying and learning from.

Tom Zwart, Director of the Center for Intercultural Human Rights Studies at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, believed that the policy of ethnic assimilation vigorously carried out by a few western countries have forced ethnic minorities to give up their cultural, religious and social rights.

Ye Bo, Executive Deputy Secretary-General of China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges said, "China has always adhered to the principle of equality among all ethnic groups, established a relatively complete system of laws and regulations to protect the rights of ethnic minorities, governed ethnic affairs in accordance with the law, and developed a correct path of solving ethnic issues with Chinese characteristics."

Chang An, Executive Director of the Human Rights Research Center of Northwestern University of Political Science and Law of China, said that minority rights protection is an important element of human rights protection. Some western countries have minority rights protection problems of their own and need to reflect on them properly. In this regard, the concept and practice of minority rights protection in China can provide more reference for the world.

"China is Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development through a series of Positive Measures."

With the overall development of China's economy and society, there is an increasing emphasis on environmental rights.

The Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to China, Isabel Dominguez, said that we need frequent communication and joint efforts to take fundamental and effective measures to build a green and eco-friendly world, where everyone becomes an active contributor to the world's sustainable development.

Huang Wenyi, Dean of the Law School of Renmin University of China, said that with the comprehensive development of China's economy and society, the importance of environmental rights has been on an increase. As a new type of human rights, environmental rights need to find its roots of solution to theoretical issues such as how to define the concept of environmental rights, how to express it in the constitution and laws, and how to coordinate it with other interests from the local community and from mutual learning among different countries.

Lv Zhongmei, Vice President of the China Law Society and President of the Environmental Resources Law Research Society, said that currently, environmental rights as human rights are fully reflected in China's policies. The compilation of an environmental code that reflects the characteristics of the times, practical features and future orientation will provide a more substantial legal guarantee to meet people's new demand for environmental protection.

Participants also discussed equal rights and judicial protection for women, people with disabilities, the elderly, Indians and other groups.

Lucy Williams, a professor at the Northeastern University School of Law in China, analyzed the tortuous process of seeking judicial remedies for women who have suffered domestic violence in the United States, saying that it can be contributed to social and cultural reasons, the lack of government

responsibilities and imperfect laws. Andrew Goldberg, a New York public interest attorney, analyzed that the current U.S. judicial system faces enormous challenges in protecting the rights and interests of specific groups based on his own experience in providing legal aid to vulnerable people in the local area, which further highlighted the significance of providing legal protection for vulnerable parties.

Richard Collins, a professor at the University of Colorado Law School, analyzed the American Indian possessions and their constitutional issues, highlighting the widespread poverty faced by Indians.

Zhang Wanhong, Director of Wuhan University's Human Rights Research Institute, described China's laws and policies as systematic and strategic in highlighting priority issues, bottom-line standards, monitoring and evaluation methods for human rights protection for specific groups. "China has promoted inclusive, sustainable development, substantial equality and comprehensive development for all members of society, including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities through a series of positive measures."

"China Plays a Unique Role in Promoting World Peace and Human Rights Governance."

During the seminar, Chinese and foreign participants expressed that the international community should respect the diversity of human rights and oppose the application of a single model and judging criteria.

Wang Chao, President of the United Nations Association of China, said that in recent years, under the influence of the intertwined changes of the century and the COVID-19 pandemic, hegemony, racism, protectionism and narrow nationalism have risen, poverty and inequality have intensified, double standards have prevailed, and global human rights governance has suffered serious impact. All countries should engage in dialogues and exchanges on human

rights issues on the basis of equality and mutual respect, enhance mutual understanding and trust, expand consensus and narrow differences, and join hands to address the common challenges facing humanity.

In many countries, economic development has instead increased the gap between rich and poor, said Piet Herman, member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. "How to use economic development to improve people's livelihood? How to create more wealth for the people? China has given the answer with its actions."

"China's idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind transcends nationality and race and is highly compatible with the UN human rights cause and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." According to Sephora, director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the Institute of International Relations of the National University of La Plata, Argentina.

"China plays a crucial role in today's world." Felim Hedemeyer, a lecturer at the School of Applied Social Studies at the National University of Ireland, Cork, said China can build bridges between the East and the West and between countries in the South and the North and "play a unique role in promoting world peace and human rights governance".

Liu Xinsheng, member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, said that developing countries should strengthen solidarity and put forward their own human rights ideas and views, while carrying out fair exchanges and cooperation in the field of human rights as a way to improve each other's capacity for human rights protection. "This is not only the right choice to safeguard national interests, but also meets the need for the healthy development of international human rights protection."

Chinese and International Experts and Scholars Discuss the Protection of Minority Rights

During the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the parallel event with the theme of "People-centered, Respecting and Guaranteeing the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Ethnic Minorities", was held at Minzu University of China on Sep 21. Officials and experts from China, Cambodia, Canada and other countries held online and offline discussions.

Tian Liangang, Vice President of China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges, said that China pursues a people-centered human rights philosophy, adheres to ethnic equality, promotes legitimate rights of all ethnic groups, and

continuously enhances the sense of gain, happiness and security of people of all ethnic groups. China's human rights advocacy and practice are in line with China's national conditions and follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Bai Yu, Associate Professor at the School of Economics of Minzu University of China, believed that the Communist Party of China has been committed to helping and developing ethnic areas and has made great achievements. Strengthening and improving the Party's overall leadership is the fundamental political guarantee for the Party's ethnic work in the new era.



Mark Levin, an American expert from Minzu University of China, said that he felt unity and solidarity of the Chinese nation from every aspect of campus life. Teachers and students of all ethnic groups respect and understand each other, and love each other like family members. Canadian expert Li Weishen from Northwest Minzu University said that he respect the diversity of China and appreciate it that all Chinese ethnic groups work together in unity to make the country a better place.

As a fellow Uyghur from Xinjiang, he has witnessed the changes in his hometown, where gravel roads are replaced by asphalt roads and people have bought small cars. "Everyone lives a happy life," said Mijiti, Director of the Reading and Collection Department of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities. The U.S., with its own poor record of human rights, has repeatedly used Xinjiang to fabricate rumors and trouble, which is an outrageous reversal of black and white.

According to Rob Zhaxi, Deputy Director of the Institute of Tibetan Medicine of the China Tibetology Research Center, in the new era, the traditional cultures of Tibetan ethnic groups, including Tibetan medicine, are developing in the course of inheritance.

The representative of China NGO Network for International Exchanges introduced that Chinese

NGOs are active in the protection and development of minority rights, carrying out frequent international human rights exchanges and cooperation. Prof. Pan Hongxiang, Dean of the Law School of South-Central Minzu University, introduced the story of Wuhan to illustrate the successful practice of China in safeguarding the rights and interests of minority migrant population.

At the parallel event, representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development of Cambodia and the Ministry of Ethnic Minority Affairs of Myanmar introduced the relevant practice of their respective countries in safeguarding and promoting the rights of ethnic minorities, in the hope of strengthening exchanges and cooperation with counterparts of China and other countries.

The participants agreed that China's ethnic minorities enjoy economic, social and cultural rights on an equal basis, and that experience sharing should be strengthened in the future so that we can jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The parallel event was organized by China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges.

Chinese and International Experts and Scholars Discuss Protection of the Right to Work and a Better Life for All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang

Xinhua News Agency

The Seminar on “Protection of the Right to Work and a Better Life for All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang” hosted by China Foundation for Human Rights Development and co-hosted by Xinjiang University was held on June 30 in a hybrid format. This event is one of the “cloud parallel events” of the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Experts and scholars from China, Brazil, Pakistan, and Cameroon among other countries had discussions and exchanges of views on labor and employment protection and human rights development of Xinjiang region, China.

Zuo Feng, Director General of the Bureau of Human Rights of the State Council Information Office of

China, said that Xinjiang had always been committed to the people-centered human rights philosophy, allowing people of all ethnic groups to share the fruits of reform and development, and that the cause of human rights had made new achievements. However, for a period of time, some Western countries led by the United States have been hyping up and distorting the human rights situation in Xinjiang, fabricating and spreading false information, imposing unilateral sanctions, politicizing, weaponizing and instrumentalizing human rights, seriously undermining the sound development of the global human rights cause. The international community should work together to improve global



human rights governance and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Work changes life, creates value, and enhances happiness. Yao Qiang, President of Xinjiang University, believes that Xinjiang's working and employment policies and practices are in line with China's Constitution and laws as well as international labor and human rights standards, and meet the strong desire of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang to live a better life. The Xinjiang-related sanctions imposed by the United States and Western anti-China forces interrupt normal work and employment of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, and should be firmly opposed.

With his personal experience in Xinjiang, Rafael Henrique Zerbetto, a Brazilian media practitioner, vividly described what he saw in Xinjiang, where people of all ethnic groups live in harmony, various industries and sectors develop rapidly, and people's well-being has been improved significantly. Based on the field study of various places in Xinjiang, Zhang Jianjiang, Dean of Law School of Xinjiang University, gave an in-depth introduction to the specific practices of Xinjiang in protecting people's rights to work and promoting the happiness of all ethnic groups, focusing on the effectiveness of governments at all levels in promoting employment, the employment of key groups, and vocational education and training.

In response to the United States' hyping up of Xinjiang-related issues, Wang Dong, Executive Director of Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding of Peking University, believed that the

short-term intention of the US playing the "human rights" card is to meet its domestic partisan strife and power grabbing needs, while its long-term strategy aims to make China a target of the new Cold War, thus providing moral support for suppressing China and maintaining US hegemony.

Marco Fernandes, research fellow at the Tricontinental from Brazil, said that some Western countries spread fake news through media and manipulated the agenda setting in public opinion globally. In order to break the barriers of false information about Xinjiang, China and Latin American countries should deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, so that Latin American people can obtain real information about Xinjiang more easily.

Zoon Ahmed Khan, a Pakistani research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, believes that China's achievements, especially the development and progress of Xinjiang, provide an example for developing countries in protecting human rights. In the face of the malicious rumors of the United States and the West about Xinjiang, Zoon Ahmed Khan called for continuous international exchanges, so that more people can understand China's development achievements and know a real Xinjiang.

Zuliati Simayi, Vice President of Xinjiang University said, "Xinjiang's achievements in human rights development are an epitome of the development of China's human rights cause, a symbol of the progress of human rights globally, and a true portrayal of the good life of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang."

Chinese and International Experts and Scholars Discuss Law-based Protection of Legitimate Rights and Interests of Ethnic Minority People

Xinhua News Agency

The thematic parallel event of the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on “Law-based Protection of Legitimate Rights and Interests of Ethnic Minority People” was held on July 5 in a hybrid manner, with the participation of 18 experts and scholars from 7 countries, including China, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Laos, New Zealand and Rwanda. The event was hosted by China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE) and South-Central Minzu University.

Pan Hongxiang, Vice-President of CEMAFEE and

Dean of the School of Law of South-Central Minzu University, said that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, China has always adopted a law-based manner for the management of ethnic affairs and the protection of the rights and interests of ethnic minorities.

Ye Bo, Executive Deputy Secretary-General of CAMEFEE, said in his address that China has always upheld the principle of equality of all ethnic groups, established a relatively complete system of laws and regulations to protect the rights of ethnic minority people, and administered ethnic affairs in a law-



based manner, thus embarking on a right path with Chinese characteristics of addressing ethnic issues. He said that the United States recently formulated and implemented the so-called “Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act”, which fully exposed the malicious attempt of US hegemony under the guise of human rights to wantonly undermine the basic human rights of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and undermine the prosperity and stability of Xinjiang.

Wang Xigen, Dean of the Law School of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Zhang Wanhong, Dean of the Human Rights Research Institute of Wuhan University, Cairang Wangxiu, Deputy-dean of the Law School of Southwest Minzu University, and other Chinese experts and scholars introduced China’s practices in ensuring the law-based protection of ethnic minorities’ political, economic, cultural and educational rights. Riziwanguli Kurban, a Uyghur teacher at North Minzu University, shared the story of how her four sisters have grown up and received education.

Jackson Thomas James from the United Kingdom, Raimbekova Baktygul from Kyrgyzstan, Kaloumaira Losalini Vosarara from New Zealand and Emmanuel Nisingizwe from Rwanda and other experts and overseas students, based on their personal

experiences and opinions, spoke positively of the ethnic relations featuring equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony as well as China’s practice of safeguarding the rights of ethnic minorities in a law-based manner.

Raiymbekov Bagyshbek Zhakypbekovich, chief specialist from the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of Kyrgyzstan, and Chantha Onxayvieng, President of the Public Administration Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Laos, respectively introduced the practices of their countries, and agreed that China’s practices and experience of managing ethnic affairs in a law-based manner offer a lot to draw upon.

Delegates at the event agreed that China is a unified multi-ethnic country. China insists on combining the universal principle of human rights with China’s reality, and is committed to promoting economic and social development, improving people’s wellbeing, strengthening law-based protection of human rights, promoting social fairness and justice, and ensuring legal protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. China’s practice has provided an important reference for the international community in managing ethnic affairs and made important contribution to the development of human rights globally.

Tibetan Culture is an Important Part of the Chinese Civilisation

Peng Huijing, China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture

The time-honoured and distinctive Tibetan culture is an important part of the Chinese civilisation. Tibet is home to nearly 800 intangible cultural heritages, 1,177 intangible cultural heritage inheritors, and more than 80 performing organisations of traditional dramas. There are 4,277 registered cultural relic sites of various kinds in Tibet, including 1,985 protected ones. An ocean of literature written in Tibetan language has been passed on from ancient times, second only to those written in Chinese Mandarin in terms of quantity. The Tibetan language is extensively used today. There are 16 Tibetan periodicals and 12

newspapers. A total of 7,185 types and 40.09 million volumes of Tibetan books have been published. The Tibetan TV and 74 local TV stations across seven prefectures/cities and 74 counties are serving the Tibetan-speaking residents living on the plateau. There are 44 public medical institutions practicing Tibetan medicine, and Tibetan medicinal bathing has been listed as a UN Intangible Cultural Heritage. During the battle against COVID-19 pandemic, the *Plan for Preventing and Controlling COVID-19 with Tibetan Medicine* formulated and implemented in Tibet has proved highly effective.



Xinjiang has Witnessed Steady Progress in Human Rights

Liu Yang, Chinese Association for International Understanding

Some anti-China organizations, such as “Human Rights Watch” “Amnesty International” “Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights” “Society for Threatened Peoples” among others, made preposterous lies and spread disinformation regarding Xinjiang and made groundless accusations against China a few days ago. Our Association, together with a large number of NGOs in China, express firm opposition to them. These organizations have always viewed China with biases, and maliciously denigrated China regardless of facts and truth. Essentially they are whitewashing terrorism which violated the human rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, and seeking to undermine China’s ethnic unity and contain China’s development under the pretext of human rights.

In fact, the various ethnic groups in Xinjiang have long been part of the Chinese nation. Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Uygur population has increased rapidly, whose life expectancy has seen a substantial increase. Their human rights are better protected, and the rights of women and children have been well protected by law. China has upheld a people-centered approach to human rights protection, given priority to securing and improving people’s wellbeing, so as to guarantee the equal rights to participation and development of people of all ethnic groups. Thanks to these efforts, the human rights condition has made steady progress in Xinjiang. I sincerely hope friends from all over the world could know a real Xinjiang based on facts.



Miao Culture in Guizhou

Zhao Guichen, Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation

Guizhou, located in the southwest of China, is one of the most mysterious, colorful and brilliant places in the ancient country. Here lives the most magical ethnic minority group, the Miao, with a large population and numerous sub-groups and varied culture and lifestyle. Among them, the “Black Miao” is of particular fame. Wearing colorful costumes and silver ornaments with beautiful patterns, they have always upheld the cultural characteristics of their own and kept their worship to heaven, earth and nature.

There is a thousand-year-old intangible cultural heritage Miao-style embroidery, which was listed in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage in May 2006. The strands, needles, hammers and

strokes all draw inspiration from the mountains and rivers, glittering in the depths of the marvelous Miao Township.

92.5% of Guizhou Province is mountainous, without modern large-scale industrialization or pollution. The mountains are bred with colorful culture and famous specialties. We hope that through the efforts and NGOs and the market, the intangible cultural heritage will fly out of the mountains, and the special products made by the villagers will make their way to Beijing.

What belongs to one nation also belongs to the world. More can be done to protect the thousand-year intangible cultural heritage, so that the culture of ethnic minorities become a treasure of the world.



Vigorous Development of Sports and Human Rights of Ethnic Minorities in China

China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges

In recent years, the sports and cultural undertakings of ethnic minorities in China have made great progress. In the coming February, we are about to embrace the Chinese Lunar New Year, as well as the 24th Olympic Winter Games, which has attracted worldwide attention. Taking this opportunity, CEMAFEE and the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) conducted a research concerning the development of sports of China's ethnic minorities. We wish to share the research outcome with friends from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

As for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, there are 176 athletes in the Chinese delegation. Among them, 20 are from nine ethnic minority groups, including the Tibetan, Uygur, Manchu, Hui, Kazak, Hani, Jing, Korean and Bouyei ethnic groups, accounting for 11.36% of all the athletes. This proportion is higher than that (8.89% according to the Seventh National Population Census) of the population of the ethnic minorities in China's total population. We have summarized four features of the sport development of ethnic minorities in China according to the research.

The first is supporting the ethnic minority areas to build sports facilities and venues, so as to satisfy people's aspiration for a better life.

In order to carry out extensive fitness-for-all

programs and speed up efforts to build a country strong in sport, China has continuously increased its support for the construction of sports facilities and venues across the country, especially in ethnic minority areas. The state has invested a large amount of central funds to support the construction of community fitness centers, sports park facilities, hiking trails, community multi-purpose sports fields and other fitness-for-all facilities in ethnic minority areas.

What's more, ethnic minority areas themselves have also released relevant documents to speed up the construction of sports stadiums and venues. For example, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has issued the *Implementation Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Fitness Venues and Facilities in Xinjiang to Develop Sports for the General Public* based on its local conditions. This document aims to promote high-quality development of fitness activities for all the people in Xinjiang through multiple measures, such as expanding the residents' fitness places, charging no or low fees for the use of sports stadiums, and realizing full coverage of the smart fitness environment in the community. According to statistics, there were already 67,700 of all kinds of sports fields in Xinjiang in 2021, with per capita sports field covering 2.03 square meters, while there were only 425 sports fields in Xinjiang in 1955.

The second is carrying out sports events and activities related to ethnic minorities' traditional sports to encourage more exchanges and interactions among different ethnic groups.

Attaching great importance to ethnic traditional sports events, China hosts national games like National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities, "Ethnic Sports Cup" National Traditional Singular Games of Ethnic Minorities, as well as regional games which are organized by the provinces and ethnic autonomous regions.

Among them, National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities is the highest level ethnic sports event in China with the greatest influence. According to the *Provisions of the State Council on Implementing the Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional Ethnic Autonomy*, National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities in China is held every four years. So far, 11 sessions have been successfully held. As for its content, there are Huapao (Chinese Rugby), Pearlball (a traditional game of Manchu ethnic group combining the features of basketball, handball and soccer, evolving from the labor of picking pearls), dragon boat racing and other 14 permanent games, as well as the performance programs created by provinces and ethnic minority regions on the basis of digging, sorting out the local ethnic and folk traditional games.

This traditional sports game, with the aim of promoting national unity and fitness-for-all, is enriched with the colorful ethnic cultures, which distinguishes it from other competitive games. During the 11th National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities of China held in 2019, 7,009 athletes of all ethnic groups, consisting 34 delegations from 31 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government), Xinjiang construction regiment, army and Taiwan province,

participated in 17 sports and 194 performance programs. In addition, Traditional Ethnic Sports Culture Exhibition and a performance gala featuring the rich culture of all ethnic groups were also held during the games.

Hosting various forms of traditional sports events of ethnic minorities in China has played an active role in protecting and developing the traditional culture of ethnic minorities, promoting exchanges and interactions among different ethnic groups, and advancing national unity and progress.

The third is actively promoting the development of the sports industry in ethnic minority areas to promote the local economic and social development and rural revitalization.

China takes full advantage of traditional ethnic sports, strengthens the development of traditional ethnic sports resources and enhances the support for relevant industries, promotes the integrated development of traditional ethnic sports with tourism and culture, which contributes to the economic and social development and rural revitalization of ethnic minority areas.

In recent years, General Administration of Sports of China has actively advanced the development of the sports industry in ethnic minority areas by focusing on sports and leisure featured town pilot project, national sports industry base and outdoor sports industry. All these measures contribute to poverty alleviation and achieving a well-off society in an all-round way, which has made great progress so far. By the end of 2020, General Administration of Sport of China has named and identified 29 national sports industry bases in ethnic minority areas, and also released 15 boutique routes for sports tourism during the golden week (5-day or 7-day holidays like the Spring Festival, the Labor Day and the

National Day Holidays in China) in ethnic minority areas together with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. These routes, with wide coverage in areas, long consumption cycle and prominent effects in stimulating the local economic growth, have greatly driven the development of the local industry.

The fourth is promoting the development of sports undertakings in ethnic minority areas, to cultivate sports talents, and promote the health-for-all.

China actively supports the development of sports undertakings in ethnic minority areas. The state supports the selection and training of sports talents in ethnic minority areas through the training by national team, assigning coaches, high-tech medical supporting team, etc. In this year's Beijing Winter Olympics, female athlete Yongqing Lamu and male athlete Ciren Zhandui from the Tibet Autonomous Region won the qualification for the competition. These two will participate in the Snowboard Cross and Cross-country Skiing respectively. Thanks to the Tibet Sports Talent Training Program, sportsmen from Tibetan Autonomous Region are qualified for the Winter Olympics for the first time in history.

In the preparation for the Beijing Winter Olympics, Xinjiang and other ethnic minority areas have made their own contribution. For example, Altay in Xinjiang is one of the training bases for the national team, which is also the origin of human skiing. In addition, the State carries out national fitness competitions, actively mobilizes and guides sports departments in ethnic minority areas to make full use of occasions such as holidays and anniversaries to carry out sports and fitness events that are popular among the general public.

Through the above-mentioned research study, CEMAFEE and CAFIU believe that the vigorous development of sports for ethnic minorities in China has promoted exchanges and interactions among different ethnic groups, enhanced the in-depth integration between fitness-for-all and health-for-all, and increased the sense of gain and happiness of all ethnic groups. We are willing to share more information with friends interested in sports development of ethnic minorities in China and enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation with relevant organizations from other countries in the ethnic field.

Tibet Wins Anti-poverty War

China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture

Tibet has contiguous poor areas that feature the most extensive and dire poverty and the highest cost and greatest difficulty of alleviation. Consistently upholding the policy of poverty eradication, the Chinese government has carried out targeted measures and aid to help Tibet win the battle against poverty, making sure its residents of all ethnic groups are sufficiently fed and clad and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing.

By the end of 2019, all the 628,000 registered impoverished residents in Tibet Autonomous Region had been lifted out of poverty, and 74 impoverished counties had been removed from the poverty list, putting a historical end to absolute poverty in the region. These people now have a per capita disposable income of more than RMB 10,000 per year – the successful anti-poverty war has brought about earth-shaking changes to the life of local residents.

First, great efforts are made to develop local industries. In 2020, there were 162 leading enterprises in Tibet engaged in industrialized agriculture and animal husbandry, with a combined output value of agricultural and livestock processing of RMB 5.7 billion, twice as much as that at the end of 2015. E-commerce, tourism and cultural sectors have flourished. Since 2016, Tibet has allocated RMB 75.38 billion agriculture-related funds to poverty alleviation cumulatively, with which it has carried out 3,037 projects, lifted 238,000 registered poor residents out of poverty, and granted RMB 64.768 billion subsidized loans and RMB 6.332 billion micro loans, strongly supporting industrial development.

Second, great efforts are made to improve education.

The Chinese government has consistently allocated more educational funds to impoverished regions, basic education and vocational education to help those regions improve the conditions for schooling. A student sponsorship system covering the whole path from preschool to higher education has been established across Tibet, detailing 40 specific policies that encompass all schooling stages, both public and private schools, and all students from economically straitened families. At present, the standard of “three-guarantee” funds (for food, accommodation and basic study needs) has been raised to RMB 4,200 per year per student, and not a single student from impoverished families drops out of school. Universities are urged to recruit students from agricultural, pastoral, and poor areas, and 46,700 poor college students were sponsored cumulatively during the 13th Five-year Plan period. Vocational education is provided based on market demand and the will of impoverished people to enable them to find relatively stable and better-paid jobs.

Third, great efforts are made to raise the level of social security. Tibet has provided social relief and livelihood guarantee for 114,000 registered impoverished residents. The standard of subsistence allowance for urban and rural residents has been increased to RMB 10,164 and RMB 4,713 respectively, and the basic living allowance for extremely impoverished people to RMB 7,070 for those individually supported in rural areas and to RMB 13,213 for those collectively provided for in cities or the countryside. The average standard of provisional relief has been raised to RMB 4,334/person time. Children’s health improvement programs have been carried out in 74 state-level impoverished counties to improve the nutritional status of children aged between 6 and 24 months.

Protect the Right to Food for Disadvantaged Groups

Chen Hongtao, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation

People have the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes the right to food. However, across the world, more than 800 million people do not have enough food. According to recent estimates by WFP, 45 million people in 43 countries are at the risk of sliding into famine.

In response to the hunger problem faced by children in developing countries, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation launched the Smiling Children School Feeding Program in 2015. The Program provides free meals to school students and helps the beneficiary children of the Program to avoid hunger and grow up healthily. In 2020, in order to overcome the

challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, we made adjustment to the Program model in a timely manner, providing take-home food packs instead of providing daily meals at schools. This ensures the beneficiary children studying at school with adequate food. In the past two years, the Program was carried out in Ethiopia, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan, with a total investment of RMB 13.52 million, benefiting more than 50,000 children.

With the pandemic continuing in the foreseeable future, we call on all stakeholders of the international community to come together to protect the right to food for the disadvantaged groups.



Development is the Key to Improving People’s Wellbeing

Men Lijun, China Foundation for Human Rights Development

A happy life for the people is the most important human right, which is concluded by China from its historical practice. China adheres to the people-centered approach, and is committed to enabling all of its 1.4 billion people to live a happy life, so that the fruits of development can benefit people of all ethnic groups fairly. China’s 56 ethnic groups have worked together to eliminate absolute poverty and build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. All human rights have been effectively guaranteed.

The China Foundation for Human Rights Development actively carries out public welfare activities and spreads human rights knowledge. Such activities are carried out in Xinjiang, Tibet and other regions, in the form of building digital libraries, offering disease prevention and treatment, improving people’s quality of life, etc. We welcome friends from all over the world to visit China, to exchange experience in human rights protection and to enjoy China’s development and changes.

At present, COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have exacerbated poverty and inequality around the world, and have had a serious impact on human rights of people of all countries.

Development is the key to improving people’s wellbeing. We call on the UN Human Rights Council to pay more attention to the problem of unbalanced development among countries, and provide more support and assistance to developing countries in areas such as poverty reduction, vaccine distribution, and development financing.

We look forward to strengthening exchanges and mutual learning with NGOs from various countries, carrying out cooperation on people’s livelihood, and helping to promote the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We firmly believe that balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development will help eliminate the root causes of conflict and allow all peoples to enjoy peace and human rights.



Adhere to the People-centered Human Rights Concept

Lin Songtian, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

The people are what human rights and democracy are all about. It is the inherent goal and common pursuit of the world to continuously enhance the sense of fulfillment, happiness and security of people of our own countries and beyond.

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have always been committed to the people-centered human rights philosophy. Facing the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government has always put people first, safeguarded the life, health and safety of every Chinese citizen at all costs, and never gave up anyone's right to live. Faced with the problem of poverty, the CPC and the Chinese government have set the aspirations of all people for a better life as their goal. As a result, more than 1.4 billion Chinese people have been lifted out

of poverty and led a better life. According to the 2020 global survey report released by the French polling agency Ipsos, China is the country with the highest happiness index, and the proportion of Chinese people who feel very or relatively happy is as high as 93%.

The government of the world's largest developed country preaches human rights every day, but adopts an irresponsible and inactive policy against the raging pandemic in its own country. It has allowed a quarter of its population to be infected, and nearly one million people have died of the pandemic. Thousands of people are still dying of the pandemic every day. What about human rights in such a country? The answer is self-evident.



China Stands Ready to Share Poverty Alleviation Experience with the World

Liu Wenkui, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation

To “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” is the first Sustainable Development Goal adopted by the United Nations. Within it, to “eradicate extreme poverty by 2030” is its first target. China successfully eradicated domestic extreme poverty at the end of 2020, ten years ahead of the SDG schedule, setting an example for other developing countries.

The practice of poverty reduction in China provides valuable experiences for other developing countries in their endeavor of poverty reduction and development. I believe that there are four components that have universal value. The first one is to set mid- and long-term plan at the national level, to ensure the poverty reduction goal is carried

out according to plan. The second is the adequate top-down poverty reduction mechanism, to ensure the poverty reduction work proceeds in an orderly manner. The third is to register the population in poverty systematically, to ensure poverty reduction actions are accurate and targeted. The fourth is to adhere to the actual need and focus on the actual solution in exploring poverty reduction models.

We would like to call upon all NGOs to work together and share best practices in eradicating extreme poverty around the world. China Foundation for Rural Development is willing to cooperate with NGOs worldwide in achieving SDG goals.



Consolidating Poverty Reduction Achievements by Industrial Development

Ling Hui, YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation

Extreme poverty is one of the major challenges in the course of human development. In 2021, China delivered its promise and achieved total victory of the battle against extreme poverty, which marks the start of the national strategy for rural revitalization.

This groundbreaking event shows the united faith and strength of the Chinese people to overcome severe challenges and encourages the global endeavor of poverty alleviation. During the battle against poverty, China has practiced multiple innovative methods, one of which is poverty alleviation by industrial development.

Since 2019, YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation has been working with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Light Industrial Products and Arts-Crafts Hair Products Division to guide wig manufacturers to set up poverty alleviation workshops in poverty alleviation relocation areas in Leishan County, Guizhou Province. By the end of 2021, the workshop had nearly 1200 square

meters of factory area with an annual output of more than 4000 pieces and had developed from hiring only 8 workers to providing jobs for 110 workers with an average income of ¥3000 per person per month. Currently, the workshop is organizing the pre-job training for 24 new workers.

These wigs which are produced in the remote mountainous area in Guizhou are shipped to North American market by the supply chain of cross-border e-commerce, bringing RMB 1,500,000 of income for local people in 2021 alone.

In rural development, we should look beyond agriculture, explore innovative approaches, and seek for the coordinated development of multiple sectors. More importantly, we need to abandon the “blood transferring” poverty alleviation and create sustainable livelihoods for population out of poverty. By doing so, we shall consolidate our current achievements and stride toward common prosperity.



China Will Continue its Contribution to Global Poverty Reduction

Du Lei, China Society for Human Rights Studies

Extreme poverty is a major challenge to the right to survival, health and life. Under the robust leadership of the Communist Party of China, China has adopted targeted measures such as boosting the economy, relocating poor people, improving education to reduce poverty. Nearly 800 million population have been completely raised from poverty. Regional poverty and extreme poverty have been historically eradicated in China.

China is helping people stay out of poverty by continuous support for developing rural specialty industries and providing follow-up support to resettled population.

China has provided and will continue to provide solutions with Chinese wisdom in poverty alleviation and human rights protection to the international community.



Chinese NGOs Actively Introduce Achievements in Protecting the Rights of Women and Children at the UN Human Rights Council

China Daily

Recently, at the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, a number of Chinese NGOs delivered speeches via video link, and actively introduced China's ideas and practices of protecting the rights of women and children.

The Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges gave a comprehensive introduction to the positive contribution of the Beijing Winter Olympics in promoting women's rights to enjoy sports and called on the international community to create a more inclusive social environment for women's cultural equality. The representative of the Chinese Association For International Understanding briefed on the protection of the rights of women of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, stating that the development environment for women of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang continued to improve, and that more and more women participated in Xinjiang's economic and social development, playing an important role in "supporting half of the sky".

China Soong Ching Ling Foundation introduced the innovative project "Building a community with a shared future for mankind and promoting

the participation of young people in sustainable development" jointly launched with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers Programme, expressing its willingness to work closely with all parties to jointly safeguard children's rights and promote their development. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (now China Foundation for Rural Development), Chunhui Children, etc. delivered speeches, introducing practices in response to the rural revitalization strategy, establishing and improving the educational assistance mechanism for students from financially disadvantaged rural families, as well as the beneficial practices of providing free meals and safeguarding the rights to food for children from developing countries like Ethiopia and Nepal. Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, etc. introduced the mobilization of mass sports and the assistance projects for children with disabilities, and called on the international community to strengthen cooperation and take more effective actions to eliminate violence against children.

Promote Women's Equal Rights to Enjoyment of Sports

Li Yue, Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges

Due to historical, social and cultural influence on gender differences, women face many obstacles in enjoying their cultural rights. The 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have taken a historic step in enabling women to enjoy the right to sports on an equal footing.

The 2022 Olympic Winter Games is the one with the highest proportion of female athletes, and the largest number of events participated by female athletes, throughout the winter Olympics history. The equal right of participation of female athletes is fully considered in the new events. The Gender Equality Commitment issued by the Organising Committee, which is of cross-era significance, makes 14 commitments in four aspects, including equal

participation, ensuring a safe sporting environment, promoting gender equality in leadership and workforce, and promoting equal opportunities for employees.

We call on the international community to pay attention to the positive efforts made by the Chinese people and the Chinese government to promote women's equal enjoyment of sports rights all over the world, jointly expand the positive impact of the achievements of women's cultural equality in the Beijing Winter Olympics. We encourage more international organisations and governments to create a more inclusive social environment for women's cultural equality.



Ensuring Ethnic Minority Women’s Rights in Sharing the Fruits of Social Development

Liu Lanlan, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation

Enjoying economic, social and cultural rights equally is a basic human right for women. China has always placed great attention to the coordinated progress of women’s economic and social development, in particular, the enjoyment of economic and social rights of rural ethnic minority women. Last year, the Chinese government solemnly announced the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, lifted hundreds of millions of rural people out of poverty, and achieved the poverty elimination goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule.

The Foundation I work for is a prestigious non-profit organization in China focusing on the development of women and children. It was established in memory of Mme. Soong Ching Ling, the pioneer of the Chinese women’s liberation movement. Mme. Soong cared about women’s liberation, advocated equality between men and women, and paid special attention

to the important role of education in women’s development. Ten years ago, our Foundation launched a project aimed at helping rural women of the Miao ethnic minority in southwest China. We focus on poverty alleviation through education, combine traditional craft training with market demand to help rural Miao ethnic women improve their economic and living conditions. By doing this, we have not only achieved the goal of poverty alleviation, but also helped protect, inherit and promote the traditional culture of ethnic minorities.

We hope that the international community and governments of all countries take practical measures to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, make women’s development a priority, enhance women’s empowerment, continuously improve women’s education, and promote women’s all-round development.



Building a World Free from Violence for Children

Tong Lihua, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center

Children are mentally and physically immature, so they are more likely to fall victim to violence because of their vulnerability. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, children face more risks of domestic violence. Due to the rapid development of the Internet, children face more complicated school violence, online violence and sexual violence. Due to the proliferation of guns, children face more shooting violence in some countries. In wars and regional conflicts, children are more vulnerable to violence. All kinds of violence against children not only seriously violated children's right to life and health, but also planted the seeds of violence for the future of the world. If such violence is allowed to rage, it will be difficult for human society to effectively solve the tragedy of the vicious cycle of violence.

As an NGO that has long been engaged in children's rights, we call for strengthening international

cooperation and taking more effective measures to eliminate violence against children. The international community should seriously study the root causes of violence against children, and give full play to the United Nations mechanism for eliminating violence against children. It is necessary to strengthen the coordination of international organizations, governments and NGOs, to carry out more effective actions to care for those children who have been victims of violence, and to pay special attention to the role of Internet service companies in preventing violence against children.

Finally, we should pay more attention to the serious consequences of violence against children, and improve people's understanding of mutual tolerance and mutual respect, so as to build a world free from violence for children.



Chunhui Village Program

Chunhui Children's Foundation

The Chinese government puts rural rejuvenation and education for disadvantaged children on top of its agenda. In 2021, it issued the *Suggestions on Consolidating Achievements of Rural Education and Driving Rural Revitalization*, specifying the need to further promote education, poverty alleviation, and development of rural areas. According to the Suggestions, systems need to be set up to aid children of poor rural families.

In recent years, Chunhui Children's Foundation has been running a village program for left-behind children and at-risk children in Henan and Guizhou provinces. The program partners with local governments to set up three-level (county-township-village) minors protection systems. In local rural communities and resettlement areas, program supervisors provide such Chunhui-inspired services as policy popularization, policy consulting, rights advocacy, emotional support, developmentally appropriate experiences, academic mentoring, community engagement activities, interest-development classes, and risks prevention. The ultimate goal is to create a nurturing environment and promote children's physical, language, cognitive and social-emotional development.

The program has been carried out in Henan and Guizhou provinces.

Until now, it has been in operation in 57 villages of Henan Province, serving a total of 22000 children and impacting 350,000. It also set up two county-level early learning and training centers in the province which have trained 560 local women into child care mentors.

On March 26, 2021, Chunhui Village Program-

--Pilot Services for the Minors—was launched in Jiangkou and Yanhe counties, Tongren City of Guizhou Province. It is designed for children living in communities, de facto unattended children and at-risk children. As of now, the pilot program has facilitated 70 group activities, 4 large-scale events and 420 home visits in four resettlement areas.

In Oct 2021, ten new village sites were set up in Yanhe County of Tongren City.

The four-year program evaluation completed by China Development and Research Foundation shows that the children have made strides in physical and social-emotional development, and improved problem-solving, learning, writing and language skills. The changes of child care models have contributed to children's all-round development as well. 84% of the caregivers have used what they learned from the training into their work with the children. The caregivers' child care skills progressed, and children have easier access to toys, learning materials and emotional support than the non-participating controlled group of children.

Chunhui Village Program contributes its value in three aspects. Responsive care & education replaced conventional child care models. The program is rooted in rural communities and confronts tough problems head on. Training is provided for grass-root child welfare officials, local resources is pooled, and local teachers are cultivated to help the government reach underprivileged children in the most "off-road" areas.

In 2022, Chunhui Children will continue to work with local governments and operate its village programs in 4 resettlement areas and 15 villages of Guizhou.

Chinese Experience: Safeguarding the Rights and Interests of Women and Children through Gender Equality

Zhang Yinjun, Beijing Changier Education Foundation

In November 2016, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, delivered the famous speech "Can the Sustainable Development Goals Deliver on their Promise of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by 2030?", which systematically expounded upon the relationship between gender equality and sustainable development in the arena of the UN. Ngcuka believes that all the 17 sustainable development goals mentioned in the report "Transforming our World by 2030 – a New Agenda for Global Action" released by the United Nations in 2015 are of great significance for realizing gender equality. In particular, she gave a detailed introduction to Goal 5, which involves the following important issues: first, pay attention to structural discrimination against women; second, focus on ending violence against women; third, pay attention to behaviors that harm the rights and interests of women and girls, such as rife child marriage, female genital mutilation, etc.; fourth, pay attention to the huge workload of nursing and housework undertaken by women; fifth, address women's participation ability in various decision-making processes; sixth, pay attention to sexual and reproductive health; and seventh, address women's informal employment. Based on Ngcuka's introduction and China's situation, we have reason

to believe that China is at the forefront of the world in implementing gender equality and sustainable development.

In 1954, after the founding of New China, "gender equality" was enshrined in the first Constitution of the People's Republic of China and implemented as a basic national policy. In China, during the era of Mao Zedong, the greatest historic leap was the progress made by women, and "women can hold up half the sky" became the loudest slogan of that era. In the era of Deng Xiaoping, Chinese women were further liberated, and their social status, ability to participate in politics and progressive role in the family and country were promoted on a scale previously unseen. In recent years, Chinese women have achieved all-around development in politics, economics and culture. At the end of 2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping visited Qufu, the hometown of Confucius, and fully affirmed the historical progress of Confucius and Confucianism, opening up the chapter of implementing the national policy of "gender equality" in China's inherent cultural field. More than 70 years after the founding of New China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chinese women have made a historic leap in achieving "gender equality" from their initial political liberation

to their later economic and cultural liberation. In 2021, China revised the Law on the Protection of Minors and promulgated the *Outline Programme for the Development of Chinese Women (2021–2030)* and *Outline Programme for the Development of Chinese Children (2021–2030)*, laying a solid legal and regulatory foundation for further implementing the basic national policy of gender equality in sustainable development.

In September 2021, President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative at the 76th UN General Assembly. It conforms to the strong desire of people all over the world to pursue a better life, and calls upon all parties to jointly push the world towards a "new development stage" of balance, coordination and inclusiveness, and build a "global community of development with a shared future". China proposes to adhere to prioritizing development and people-centered, inclusive, innovation-driven and harmonious coexistence between man and nature, as well as action orientation. This provides a new "China's proposition" for the global realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the

promotion of global gender equality. In particular, adhering to the people-centered principle highlights the humanism of global development.

I was born in the 1960s, and five generations of women in our family witnessed the historical progress of Chinese women "standing up and becoming the masters of their fate" since the founding of New China. My grandmother and my mother are illiterate with bound feet. From my generation to those of my daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Chinese women have gained increasing educational opportunities in the overall development and progress of society, and the protection of various rights and interests has been increasingly improved. Looking back over the development history since the founding of New China, Chinese women can proudly say that in terms of gender equality and the promotion of sustainable development, China has provided useful experience of gender equality under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and guaranteed the development rights and interest of women and girls.

Women's Right to Development: Knowledge and Practice from NGOs in China

YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation

The right to development is a multi-dimensional concept that involves various social issues and actors. YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation (hereafter YouChange Foundation) recognises that women in rural China are especially in need of capacity building and empowerment.

Rural Women in Need

Currently, 250 million women workers are living in rural China. It is common to see these women bear the double burdens of agricultural activity and household duty. As a result, they often lack the knowledge, resources, and confidence to pursue a career for a meaningful and fulfilled life outside the household and farmland.

Women Empowerment via E-commerce

The opportunity to improve rural women's lives emerged as the development of Internet Communication Technology (ICT) prompted the boom of e-commerce in China. Since 2015, YouChange's "Women Up!" e-commerce training programme has helped rural women to start their own businesses. The programme identifies three dimensions of women's needs and responds to them:

- First, the programme provides courses in financial management, marketing, and online platform operation taught by professional volunteers to equip rural women with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- Second, each participant is assigned a grant to purchase materials, equipment, and open an online store.

- Third, female leadership, family relation, and mental health courses are also given to enhance their inner strength.

With mobile internet service covering most rural China, more training can be delivered to a broader range of beneficiaries at a much lower cost. From 2015 to 2021, over 16,000 rural women have completed the "Women Up!" training, and 65% of whom have successfully started their businesses and increased income from USD100 to USD450.

In addition, the programme has brought significant improvement in women's psychological condition and social relations. According to third-party evaluation, around 70% of participants feel they gain a better sense of female leadership. During in-depth interviews, many participants say they can handle communication and emotions (their own and others') better after training; children consider them role models, and marriages become more harmonious.

The inspiring result is not the sole effort of YouChange Foundation. Instead of giving and aiding, we consider the aim of our work is to discover and to connect.

- On the one hand, there are incredible organic products, traditional handicrafts and indigenous aesthetic designs in China's rural areas waiting to be shown to the mainstream market. The programme is only successful because rural areas have unlimited potential to thrive.
- On the other hand, a collective impact is consolidated by the central and regional governments, multi-national corporations (as donors), local training partners, and women

participants themselves to construct an ecosystem that allows the programme to operate with abundant resources and smooth implementation.

Shuzhen Yang: Remarkable Woman Becomes Village Leader

We would like to present the case of Shuzhen Yang, a woman who changed her own life and entire village by becoming a proud entrepreneur and village leader. Like many women in her village, Shuzhen left for the city for opportunities with her husband, only to return when they couldn't afford the living expenses in urban area anymore. Desperate to find the meaning of her life and earn enough money for her two children to attend school, she came up with the idea of selling self-made embroidery. Starting a business turned out to be much more challenging than Shuzhen initially imagined. Barely earning any money, she was frequently faulted by her family and taunted by the village. Even her eldest son started to blame her for always being busy, resulting in his poor academic performance at school.

When "Women Up!" programme was launched in Shuzhen's county, she was one of the first to join. During the training, she has learned how to run an online store and social media channel. But it was in the course "Female Leadership" where she started to explore the power within herself. When she gave her first public speech at a group session, looking down at women like herself, with hope in their eyes, she realised that they could achieve great things together.

After finishing the training, she talked several other women into joining her workshop and established a specialised cooperative. Shuzhen posted beautifully filmed videos of their exquisite embroidery on their social media channel, attracting many customers from thousands of miles away. To encourage more women to join her, Shuzhen decided to run for the deputy secretary of the village committee. It was no surprise that she was elected almost unanimously since she has brought higher income to many households in the village. However, what made Shuzhen most proud is that after seeing her working so hard for the family, Shuzhen's son forgave her and

began to try harder at school.

Women's Right to Development: Multi-dimensional Task Requiring Joint Efforts

When a woman is given the choice and ability to control her own life, there is truly no limit to what she can achieve. YouChange Foundation firmly believes that the development of human is the greatest development of all. We would like to contribute to the knowledge and practice of the right to development by stressing the following points:

First, more attention should be given to promoting women's right to development, which will further facilitate other aspects of sustainable development. For example, more family resources will be allocated to maternal care and education when women contribute more to family income, which will lead to lower infant mortality and higher school attendance.

Second, the right to development consists of multiple dimensions. In our case, three levels of women's needs are identified during programme design: the right to higher income, the right to social status, public expression and respect, and the right to long-term emotional and mental care. Only when those needs of the targeted group are met can the programme bring overall development to the people and the region.

Third, promoting the right to development is a long-term undertaking requiring a considerable amount of investments. Instead of making individual efforts, various actors who share the same vision should join forces and establish collective impact. The participation of NGOs is crucial since it can act as the bridge between private and public sectors.

The initiation of China's rural revitalisation strategy is an opportunity and responsibility for us to make our impact. By influencing policymaking and developmental practice, we can direct more resources and attention to people's rights to development, especially for rural women like Shuzhen. Together, we can bring hope and strength to those who are stuck in predicaments but still fighting for a better tomorrow.

Chinese and International Experts Discuss Bridging Digital Divide and Promoting Human Rights Protection

Xinhua News Agency

The parallel event of the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, with the theme of “Bridging Digital Divide and Promoting Human Rights Protection”, was held on March 17 in a hybrid format. Representatives from UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, China, Brazil, Cuba and other countries attended the meeting.

The participants had in-depth discussions on topics such as the expansion of global digital divide resulted from cyber hegemony, the impact of digital divide on the cause of international human rights, and building a community with a shared future in cyberspace. They also had exchanges on the experience and practices in digital poverty reduction, digital village construction, and digital transformation of the economy and society.

Dora Giusti, Chief of Child Protection Section of UNICEF China Office, after analyzing the role of digital technology in protecting children’s rights, said that the effective use of digital technology can help children safeguard their rights. However, if the inclusiveness of digital technology is not guaranteed, there will be greater inequality.

Zhao Hui, Secretary-General of China Federation of Internet Societies, said that if the digital divide cannot be effectively addressed, it may become a new source of unbalanced development.

Participants believed that opposing cyber hegemony and promoting the building of a community with a shared future in cyberspace is the only way to bridge the digital divide and promote human rights.



“Internet hegemony endangers the entire international order.” Zhi Zhenfeng, research fellow at the Institute of Law of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, believed that it is necessary to respect Internet sovereignty, improve the rule of law on the Internet, improve the digital literacy of citizens, and make everyone share the dividends of digital civilization.

“The fundamental solution to bridging the digital divide is for developing countries to unite and cooperate to pursue digital justice.” Xiao Junyong, Executive Director of the Center for Science, Technology and Human Rights, Beijing Institute of Technology, believed that a “new world information and communication order” should be built.

Men Lijun, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of China Foundation for Human Rights Development, introduced China’s efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote human rights. He said that China proposed to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace, emphasizing common development, common security, and common participation in governance and the sharing of achievements, which contains rich connotations of respecting and protecting human rights.

Shahbaz Khan, representative of the UNESCO China Office, believed that to promote the building of a community with a shared future in cyberspace, countries should give priority to inclusiveness and quality in accordance with the principles of social and

economic development, fairness and equality, and respect for human rights.

Igor Montero, Minister Counselor of the Cuban Embassy to China, believed that China has proposed the Belt and Road Initiative to promote the construction of the “Digital Silk Road” and share Chinese experience and technology with Cuba and related countries. As for Cuba, without the cooperation with China and the Belt and Road Initiative, it will be difficult for people living or visiting Cuba to have access to high-speed Internet and mobile communications.

Experts and industry insiders from Zambia, Somalia and other countries took Chinese enterprises providing high-quality and low-cost Internet services to African countries as an example, saying that the construction of the “Digital Silk Road” will help achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is an important measure globally to promote human rights protection.

Dong Le, program officer of FAO China Office, said that China’s digital village construction is inspiring, and the experience of digital poverty reduction is worth sharing.

The meeting was co-hosted by China Foundation for Human Rights Development and China Federation of Internet Societies.

Protecting Children in the Digital Age: Challenges and Experience of Different Countries

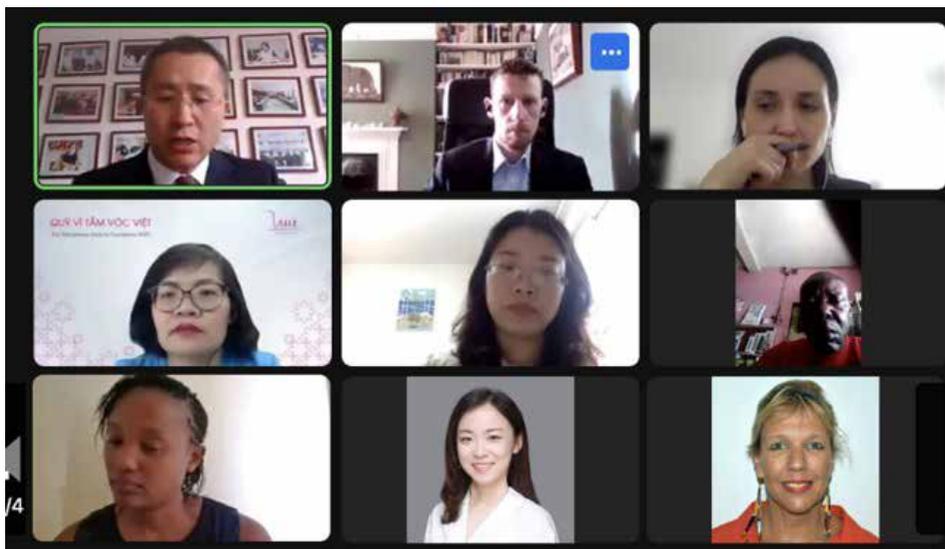
Xinhua News Agency

During the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center held an on-line parallel event on March 21 with the theme of Protecting Children in the Digital Age: Challenges and Experience of Different Countries. International organizations such as UNICEF and law experts on the protection of children from China, the Philippines, Kenya, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and other countries attended the event.

Tong Lihua, Director of the Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center, introduced China’s recent improvement of legislation of protection of children Internet safety, to clearly stipulate that

the government, enterprises and related parties should bear respective responsibilities, emphasize the responsibility of Internet companies, and further strengthen judicial protection. “Building a children-friendly Internet protection system with the participation of multiple parties not only requires the government and enterprises to take responsibilities, but also requires teachers and parents to improve their Internet literacy and play a more important role in children’s Internet safety.” Tong Lihua said.

At the parallel event, experts discussed issues related to the protection of minors’ Internet safety, and shared experience and solutions from different countries.



Global Human Rights Governance: A Bigger Role for the Business Community

An online meeting organized in parallel to the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), with the subject of “Business and Human Rights: A National Perspective”, was held on July 6, 2022. Participants, home and abroad, fully affirmed the efforts made by relevant parties to respect and protect human rights in the business area. Governments, enterprises and industry associations were suggested to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning, playing a bigger role in improving global human rights governance.

Sun Lihui, Director, Development Department of China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters (CCCMC), introduced the practical experience of the Responsible Cobalt Initiative (RCI) in protecting

children’s rights. “While carrying out construction projects abroad, we also diversified our business such as child labor relief and vocational education around local communities, providing agricultural demonstrations and technical support through agro-parks.”

“Companies shoulder the responsibility of promoting gender equality,” said Lin Jialei, Programme Manager of UN Women China. To advance gender equality and the protection of women’s rights and interests, UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) jointly launched the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). As of this June, more than 6,700 companies around the world have signed on to the Principles, showcasing their support for gender equality and women’s empowerment.



Sajjad Khan, Senior Program Officer of the Asia Foundation Bangladesh, shared the foundation's projects in cooperation with companies in Bangladesh and the practical experience of promoting gender equality. "We provided training for employees to increase their awareness of gender equality and social inclusiveness. Female employees were given opportunities to deepen their understanding of occupational safety and labor rights. Younger women were encouraged to start their own businesses, with loans and other support covered by the foundation."

Ines Kaempfer, CEO, the Center for Child Rights and Business, said industrial standardization matters to the solving of child labor and rights protection. She believed that programs should be built catering to different children's situation, such as short-term emergency relief funds, and long-term relief and education relief programs.

In the view of Chen Dapeng, Vice President of China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), the global economic growth is slowing down nowadays, blowing the market and supply chain, in which women and children suffer more. It's a challenge for all to establish an inclusive and sustainable industrial pattern. "We'd better cooperate in eradicating poverty, enhancing women's leadership, and addressing gender and digital divides, in such ways, to jointly promote high-quality and sustainable business development, and further improve global governance of human rights."

Dante Pesce, Executive Director of the Center for Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development at the Catholic University of Valparaiso, Chile, believed that to achieve gender equality and the protection of children's rights in international investment and trade, it calls for concerted efforts from the United Nations, governments and major enterprises. It is recommended to integrate relevant initiatives and projects, to deliver the coherence and consistency in policy-making and execution.

Liu Meng, Head, Asia and Oceania Networks of UNGC, said the concept of gender equality is not only favorable to the protection of women's rights and interests, but also to the development of enterprises and the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Zhu Jingfang, research fellow, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), said that greater opportunities and more space of development would be created for responsible and respected companies, through communications between enterprises, experts and scholars, industry associations, and NGOs. Better dialogues will enable the business community to play a more constructive role in improving global human rights governance and boost the sound development of the world's human rights cause.

The parallel event was co-organized by CNIE, CCCMC and CNTAC.

Parallel Event of UNHRC50 Held in Beijing: Climate Change & Sustainable Development of Human Beings

On July 6, 2022, a parallel event, organized during the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC50), was co-hosted by Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges (BNIE), China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) and Beijing International Peace Culture Foundation (IPCF). The subject of this meeting focused on addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development of human beings. Experts, scholars and representatives of international organizations from relevant institutions at home and abroad had in-depth exchanges and discussions, making NGOs' contribution to international affairs and global ecological environment governance.

Dai Jianjun, Vice President and Secretary General of BNIE, Isabel Domingos, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to China, and Li Ruohong, Chairman of the IPCF, delivered speeches at the meeting.

Dai said, coping with the severe challenge of climate change is a global issue, and no country can stand alone. We should respect nature and accept the close connection of environmental rights, survival

rights and development rights, which are in line with the fundamental interests of mankind and is the only way to achieve sustainable development.

Isabel Domingos proposed that to realize a green and eco-friendly world, we need to exert more efforts and carry out enhanced communication. With fundamental, urgent and effective measures, each and every one of us will be committed to being an active promoter of sustainable development.

Entrusted by Nada al-Nassif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Benjamin Schachter, Environment and Climate Change Coordinator of OHCHR, sent a video message to the meeting, calling on all parties to strengthen cooperation to safeguard basic human rights and to create a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

This parallel event has built a platform for more institutions and representatives to promote exchanges and cooperation. Participants expressed their willingness to actively engage in and make concerted efforts to tackle climate change, restlessly advancing the sustainable development for all human beings.



