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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Improve Patients' Rights to Life through the Development of Health Insurance System

First of all, let us tell you a story about chronic myeloid leukemia survivor. Nineteen years ago, when Liu Zhengchen, founder of the New Sunshine Charitable Foundation was a post-graduate student at Peking University, he was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia. At that time, his doctor told him that the only cure for him was to do a bone marrow transplant. Since then, to help himself and other patients, Liu launched the Sunshine Marrow Donor Registry. In 2009, Liu registered as the New Sunshine Charitable Foundation. In 2013, Liu got the certificate of public fund-raising. Then, with the development of the Chinese bone marrow registry, our focus shifted to providing financial support and other supportive services to patients. At present, New Sunshine Charitable Foundation are one of the largest charity foundation in medical field in China, has funded more than 6000 leukemia patients with total amount over 190 million yuan.

Before 2017, the biggest difficulty for Chinese patients until 2017 is that many expensive new drugs to treat cancer were not covered by our public health insurance drug catalog. China made only two national health insurance drug catalog adjustments in 2004 and 2009. While, after 2017, there is an annual adjustment to the health insurance drug catalog. More than 200 new drugs have been included in the national health insurance drug catalog. Before drugs enter the catalog, the National Healthcare Security Administration and pharmaceutical companies have negotiation on prices, which normally reduce the prices by about 60 percent. As a result, the out-of-pocket costs of patients are reduced as well.

China's health insurance system has been gradually developed in the past 27 years with the development of China's economy. In 1994, China's public-funded health and labor insurance system was on the verge of collapse. Thus, China has started piloting health insurance for workers in Jiujiang city and Zhenjiang city. Pilots were expanded to more than 40 cities in 1996. In 1998, the Ministry of Chinese Resources and Social Security established basic medical insurance for urban workers in urban areas. In 2003, China's Ministry of Health established a new type of rural cooperative health care in rural areas. In 2007, the Ministry of Chinese Resources and Social Security established basic health insurance for urban residents, which included the elderly and children. In 2018, the National Health Security Administration was established to integrate health insurance services, which had been scattered across different ministries into one. These services were: Health insurance for urban workers and urban residents managed by the Ministry of National People's Social Welfare, new rural cooperative health insurance managed by the Ministry of Health, medical and medical service prices managed by the Development Committee, and national medical assistance administered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

The development of China's healthcare system is closely integrated with the development of China's economy. China's economic reform and opening up began in 1978. A broader and more comprehensive economic development began in 1992. The pilot of healthcare security in China began in 1994. The cost of insurance for urban workers comes from a certain percentage of each person's salary. Rural residents' insurance comes from a combination of about 300 yuan out-of-pocket fee and a 580 yuan of subsidy from the government, which means that the government pays for a larger proportion of it. Therefore, it can be said that the development of China's economy has promoted the development of the healthcare system, bringing about the improvement of patients' right to life.

Although China's healthcare system has made a lot of progress, but in some western regions, because the economy is not yet developed, the revenue of health insurance funds is limited. However, drug prices are the same nationwide, so the co-pay is still a relatively heavy burden for some patients. Therefore, more support from the central government is also needed to enable people from western regions to enjoy high-quality and accessible healthcare services.

China's health insurance system is a multi-level health security system. Its foundation and core is the health insurance (annually claims expenditure of 2 trillion yuan), as well as health insurance for major diseases, commercial insurance and medical assistance. Medical

assistance includes state medical assistance (26 billion yuan a year) and charitable medical assistance. The charity's medical assistance is also an integral part of China's multi-level health care system, with annual financial support and drug donations of about 30 billion yuan. In addition to direct financial support for patients, we also promote faster access to the Medicare drug catalog for cost-effective drugs through policy research and advocacy.

Many Chinese NGOs including the New Sunshine Charity Foundation, also work with the World Health Organization. They support WHO to develop financial assessment tools for the National Cancer Control Plan, to promote them in various countries, and to promote patients' participation in healthcare decision-making process. We look forward to working with organizations in more countries to improve patients' access to health care and their rights to live.

New Sunshine Charity Foundation, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.