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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 the China Society for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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

[2 March 2012]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Observation and reflection of human rights in China

To respect and safeguard human rights is an important improvement of human history. This is also a symbol of modern civilization. At the mean time, this has also been a non-stop value goal for Chinese people. Up to today, China has ratified 27 international human rights treaties, and passed over 160 laws covering the protection of civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; women's rights; rights of child; rights of elderly; rights of people with disabilities criminal justice; rights of environment etc. At the mean time, some laws and regulations were amended based on international treaties. This practice has made the protection on human rights clearer, and more specific. In particular, since 2004 of the human rights language inclusion into Chinese constitution, human rights were written into Chinese 12th five national development plan and the Charter of Chinese Communist Party. The first National Human Rights Action Plan provided another awareness raising excises throughout the national government ministries. When we looked back the last 30 years since the opening up of China, we realized that the economic development of the liberation of free thinking helped improve the development of human rights law in China; the social open policy and international cooperation further the incorporation of human rights ideas into Chinese legal process. As a result, we are very happy to see this historical positive change in Chinese society.

Due to the natural, historical, economic and cultural limitations, the human rights development in China is still facing many difficulties in the field of job opportunities, education, medical treatment, housing, social security, the distribution of social wealth, work safety and protection of environment etc. Some of above-mentioned problems are results of the lack of relevant legislations. Some of them are caused from time to time even though there are laws clearly in place. Or sometime the laws are in place, but the legislative standards are lower than the international treaties. For those reasons, individual human rights violations happen everyday here and there. Many of these issues happened in the past without the notice of society. Few of them are new in its existence. Due to the unawareness of human rights, many of things happened without making a good discussion in the society. On the surface, there are many human rights issues going on everyday in the media. But the discussions in the end will greatly contribute to the development of human rights in a longer term.

NGOs can play important roles in improving and developing human rights with the support of the whole society. China Society for Human Rights edited several readings for civil servants; organized Beijing Human Rights Forum, which invited international experts to discuss and share common experiences in the field of human rights protection. We also chaired a seminar to help promote human rights at Inner Mongolia University. In 2011, three national human rights education and training centers were established at China University of Political Science and Law, Nankai University, Guangzhou University. Civil Society plays an important role in help solve social problems and provides relevant consultation and suggestion.

China Society for Human Rights Studies devotes herself to the development of human rights in China. For this reason, we would like to make the following suggestion.

First of all, human rights education should be provided in the society to improve the awareness of rights for all. In this aspect, all human rights research institutions and their attached universities can play active roles through the help of social media, to establish a human rights culture respecting and protecting human rights.

Second, we would like to continue our open cooperation with UN bodies to contribute to the development of peace and development through all levels of wide dialogue and active participation.

Third, we would like to suggest that rule of law society should be developed. We advocate peaceful means to solve social problems. In this practice, a better protection of human rights can be realized by more and more legislative and judicial experiences.
