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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 Beijing Changier Education Foundation, 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.

[30 January 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



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

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 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 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 the era of Xi Jinping, 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. China has provided useful experience and references for other countries in the world with more than 70 years of construction achievements. 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 become increasingly perfect. In particular, the most representative is the great progress of Tibetan women "crossing the Millennium in one step". 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 the useful experience of gender equality realized under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and guaranteed the development rights and interests of women and children.
