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مجلس حقوق الإنسان

الدورة الخامسة عشرة

البند ٤ من جدول الأعمال

حالات حقوق الإنسان التي تتطلب اهتمام المجلس بها

مذكرة شفوية مؤرخة ٣٠ أيلول/سبتمبر ٢٠١٠ موجهة إلى مفوضية الأمم المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان من البعثة الدائمة للصين

تمدي البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية الصين الشعبية لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف وسائر المنظمات الدولية في سويسرا تحياتها إلى مفوضية الأمم المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان، وتتشرف بأن تطلب إدراج التقرير المعنون "التقدم المحرز على صعيد حقوق الإنسان في الصين في عام ٢٠٠٩"* في عداد وثائق الدورة الخامسة عشرة لمجلس حقوق الإنسان ونشره على الموقع الشبكي للمفوضية.

* التقرير مستنسخ في المرفق كما ورد وباللغتين اللتين قُدم بهما فقط.

Annex

2009年中国人权事业的进展

2010年9月

前言

2009年是进入新世纪以来中国经济发展最为困难的一年。在这一年里，面对国际金融危机的巨大冲击和严峻复杂的经济形势，中国政府坚持以人为本的科学发展观，把妥善应对国际金融危机、保持经济平稳较快发展与促进人权事业发展有机结合起来，全面实施保增长、调结构、促改革、惠民生的一系列政策措施，有效遏制经济增长明显下滑的态势，在全球率先实现经济回升向好，同时推动中国人权事业取得了新的重大进展。

在这一年里，中国政府颁布实施了《国家人权行动计划(2009-2010年)》。这是中国政府制定的第一个以人权为主题的国家规划，是指导和推动中国人权事业全面发展的纲领性文件。计划将尊重和保障人权的宪法原则贯彻到政治、经济、文化和社会建设各个领域，贯穿于立法、执法、司法和执政、行政各个环节，明确规定了中国政府促进和保护人权的工作目标和具体措施。一年多来，《国家人权行动计划(2009-2010年)》得到全面有效的实施，公民人权意识得到普遍提高，人权事业得到全面推进。

中国是一个拥有13亿人口的发展中大国。由于发展不足和发展不平衡，中国的人权状况还存在着一些不如人意的地方。中国政府正在采取有力措施推动科学发展、促进社会和谐，为实现社会更加公正和谐，人民生活更有尊严、更加幸福而努力。

为增进国际社会对中国人权状况的了解，现将2009年中国人权事业进展情况公布如下。

一、人民的生存权和发展权

2009年，中国政府为应对国际金融危机的冲击，投入4万亿元，着力促民生、保增长、调结构，促进社会经济平稳较快发展，取得显著成效。据统计，2009年，国内生产总值达到34万多亿元，比上年增长9.1%。粮食产量5.31亿吨，再创历史新高，实现连续第六年增产。中国人民的生活水平在经济社会发展的基础上有了进一步的提高。

居民生活条件继续得到改善。2009年，中国农村居民人均纯收入为5153元，城镇居民人均可支配收入为17175元，分别比上年增长8.5%和9.8%。农村居民家庭恩格尔系数(即居民家庭食品消费支出占消费总支出的比重)为41%，城镇居民家庭恩格尔系数为36.5%。2009年，国家安排专项建设资金550.56亿元，基本建成各类保障性住房200万套，改造国有林区、垦区、煤矿棚户区和部分城市棚户区住房130万套，居民住房条件得到改善。到2009年底，全国民用轿车保有量3136万辆，比上年增长28.6%，其中私人轿车2605万辆，增长33.8%。全国固定及移动电话用户总数达到106107万户，比上年末增加7947万户，电话普及率达到每百人79.9部。全年国内出游人数达19亿人次，比上年增长11.1%。国内居民出境人数达4766万人次，增长4%。

国家加大扶持力度，促进农业发展、农村建设和农民增收。2009年，国家先后出台《关于2009年促进农业稳定发展农民持续增收的若干意见》和《关于当前稳定农业发展促进农民增收的意见》，中央财政投入资金7253亿元，比上年增长21.8%，有力地促进了农民生活条件的改善。2009年，80万户农村危房得到改造，9.2万户游牧民实现了定居，6069万农村人口饮水安全问题得到解决。2000年至2009年全国累计解决2.25亿农村人口的饮水安全问题，提前6年实现了联合国提出的“2015年前无法持续获得安全饮水人口比例减半”的发展目标。

国家高度重视改善贫困人口的生产生活条件。2009年，国家投入扶贫资金197.3亿元，比上年增加30亿元，通过财政贴息调动信贷扶贫资金投入252亿元。2009年，国家将农村扶贫标准提高到每人每年1196元，扶贫开发对象覆盖4007万人。到2009年底，农村贫困人口减少到3597.1万人，占农村人口的3.8%。国家扶贫开发工作重点县农民人均纯收入从2008年的2611元增加到2842元，增幅高于全国农村平均水平。

国家完善公共卫生体系，提高人民的健康水平。2009年，全国卫生总费用达17204.81亿元，人均卫生费用1192元，卫生总费用占国内生产总值比重达4.96%。国家安排基层医疗服务体系建设资金217亿多元，支持986个县级医院(含中医院)、3549个中心乡镇卫生院、1154个社区卫生服务中心建设，另拨付基层医疗卫生机构设备购置补助资金17.3亿元。全年共为农村1126万名孕产妇住院分娩实施补助，为1186万左右农村生育妇女孕前3个月和孕早期3个月免费补服叶酸，为200万农村妇女进行宫颈癌检查，为2800多万15岁以下人群补种乙肝疫苗。2009年，全国“百万贫困白内障患者复明工程”项目完成21万余例次手术，对3万处农村饮水安全集中供水工程进行水质卫生监测。到2009年底，全国艾滋病抗病毒治疗工作已覆盖31个省(自治区、直辖市)，累计治疗艾滋病病人79946例、艾滋病患儿1793人。2009年，国家迅速启动应急响应机制，有效防止甲型H1N1流感的传播。据统计，目前全国共有卫生机构28.9万个，卫生技术人员522万人，医院和卫生院床位396万张，乡镇卫生院床位91万张。中国居民人均期望寿命73岁，全国孕产妇死亡率为31.9/10万，婴儿死亡率为13.8‰。

国家加强安全生产法制建设和监管工作。2009年，国家颁布了《作业场所职业健康监督管理暂行规定》等12个部门规章，制定修改了53项安全生产标准和煤炭行业标准，进一步强化了对从业人员工作环境的安全防护。2009年，全国18个省(自治区、直辖市)建立了专门的安全生产执法队伍，所有地市级政府和97%的县级政府成立了安全监管机构，75%的乡镇(街道)设立了专职或兼职安全生产工作机构。煤矿安全监察系统增设了5个监察分局，全年全国生产安全事故责任追究处理29880人。2009年，全国安全事故总起数、死亡人数同比减少34930起、7980人，分别下降8.4%和8.8%。特别重大事故起数和死亡人数同比分别下降50%和56.1%。亿元国内生产总值生产安全事故死亡人数为0.248人，同比下降16.7%。在2010年3月28日的山西王家岭矿难中，有153名矿工被困井下，经过8天8夜的救援，成功救出115名矿工，创造了中国矿山事故抢险救援史上的奇迹。

二、公民权利和政治权利

2009年，中国政府继续把保障公民权利和政治权利贯穿于政治文明建设之中，进一步加强民主法治建设，努力扩大公民有序的政治参与，保证人民当家作主的权利。

在中国，人民行使国家权力的机关是全国人民代表大会和地方各级人民代表大会。全国人民代表大会及其常委会行使国家立法权。2009年1月至2010年3月，全国人大及其常委会共审议了25件法律和有关法律问题的决定草案，通过了18件，修改了选举法、邮政法等8部法律，进一步加强了人权的立法保障。其中，新通过的食品

安全法全方位构筑起食品安全法律屏障，为保证食品安全、保障人民身体健康和生命安全提供了新的法律依据。侵权责任法明确规定了侵害公民权益应承担侵权责任的基本原则和责任方式，进一步完善了公民人身权和财产权的法律保护制度。特别是2009年3月第十一届全国人民代表大会第三次会议作出的关于修改选举法的决定，明确规定城乡按相同人口比例选举人大代表，增加了人大代表的广泛性，更好地体现了人人平等、地区平等和民族平等，进一步完善了选举制度，扩大了人民民主权利。截至目前，中国现行有效的法律234件、行政法规690多件、地方性法规8800多件，已基本形成了以宪法为核心的法律体系和人权保障法律制度。

全国人大及其常委会有效行使监督权，监督实效进一步增强。2009年，全国人大常委会就应对气候变化工作情况、促进就业和再就业、加强民事执行工作、加强渎职侵权检察等工作听取和审议了国务院、最高人民法院、最高人民检察院14个报告；对食品安全法、工会法等3部法律的实施情况进行了检查；开展包括保障性住房建设、教育卫生等民生工程在内的部分中央重大公共投资项目实施情况专题调研，督促有关部门依法行政，公正司法，解决好关系人民切身利益和社会普遍关注的问题。

中国共产党领导的多党合作和政治协商制度是中国的一项基本政治制度，是符合中国国情、具有鲜明中国特色的新型政党制度，在国家政治生活中发挥着重要作用。人民政协通过提案、委员视察、专题协商、专题调研、反映社情民意等方式，开展议政建言活动，履行政治协商、民主监督、参政议政职能。2009年，全国政协共提出提案5820件，经审查立案5218件；编报社情民意信息267期，反映民生方面的意见和建议1435条；提交关于中小企业发展、民族地区经济社会发展等方面的视察报告和考察报告12份，并与有关部委就视察成果的采纳和落实情况进行交流，在反馈环节上探索建立健全制度。全国政协还就“着力扩大国内需求，保持经济平稳较快发展”、“加快发展方式转变和结构调整，提高可持续发展能力”、“保障和改善民生，促进社会和谐”等重大经济与民生问题召开专题议政性常委会和专题协商会。2009年，全国政协有关专门委员会积极为立法、执法工作建言献策，如，围绕民族区域自治法的贯彻实施深入考察调研，建议建立健全与民族区域自治法相配套的法律体系及相关政策，推动其贯彻落实；建议完善相关法律法规，明确非正常上访的法律概念以及责任主体，将信访工作纳入法制化轨道。另外，还就国务院法制办等单位送来的多部社会建设方面的法律法规草案提出了修改意见。

基层群众自治制度是保障人民群众直接行使民主权利的一项基本政治制度。2009年，国务院出台了《关于加强和改进村民委员会选举工作的通知》，就选举前准备工作、选举程序、选举后续工作、加强组织领导等方面提出了规范性要求，对维护村民委员会选举的公正有序、保障村民依法直接行使民主权利、发展农村基层民主具有重要意义。2009年，全国12个省份村委会和16个省份居委会完成了换届选举工作。目前，全国农村有村委会60.4万个，依法民主选举产生的村委会成员230多万人。国家开展村务公开，民主管理“难点村”专项治理，解决农村征地拆迁、土地承包等过程中存在的损害农民合法权益的问题。完善城乡社区服务体系，不断提高城乡社区建设的整体水平。

中国政府积极推进政务公开、健全新闻发言人制度和相关信息公开制度，依法促进公民享有更多的知情权、监督权和参与公共事务的权利。2004年《全面推进依法行政实施纲要》颁布实施以来，依法行政工作取得重大进展。中国政府更加注重有关社会管理和公共服务的立法，更加注重公众参与和专家论证，行政决策的科学化、民主化、法治化水平不断提高。进一步规范执法行为，大力推进行政执法责任制。2009年，各级人民政府部门认真贯彻落实《政府信息公开条例》，进一步丰富行政机关的政府信息公开平台。各级政府新闻发布会制度进一步健全。2009年，国务院新闻办公室、各部委各部门以及各省(自治区、直辖市)举办了1646场新闻发布

会。中国媒体与网民积极参与公共政策讨论并对政府行为进行监督与批评。2010年3月，财政部等8个中央单位先后在各自网站上公布了本年度财政预算，改变了传统上行政部门财政的运作方式，公众对此反响热烈，认为这一举措是中国向政治文明迈进的重要一步。

中国政府支持企事业单位完善以职工代表大会为基本形式的企事业单位民主管理制度，推进厂务公开，支持职工参与管理，维护职工合法权益。截至2009年底，全国已有22个省(自治区、直辖市)颁布了27个厂务公开、民主管理方面的地方性法规。截至2009年9月底，已建工会、实行厂务公开制度的企事业单位有175.2万个，覆盖职工12751.2万人；实行职工代表大会制度的企事业单位183.9万个，覆盖职工13338.7万人。全国基层工会组织达到184.5万个，覆盖企事业单位395.9万家；全国工会会员总数达到2.263亿人。最近五年，全国工会会员数平均每年净增1500万人以上，工会组建和发展会员工作创造了历史最高水平。

中国公民在互联网上的言论自由受法律保护，可以通过各种形式在网上发表言论。互联网得到广泛普及和运用，已成为人们获取各类信息和发表言论的重要途径。截至2009年底，中国网民人数达到3.84亿，互联网普及率达到28.9%，超过世界平均水平。中国境内网站达323万个。网站十分注重为网民提供发表言论的服务，约80%的网站提供电子公告服务。中国现有上百万个论坛，2.2亿个博客用户。据抽样统计，每天人们通过论坛、新闻评论、博客等渠道发表的言论达300多万条，超过66%的中国网民经常在网上发表言论，就各种话题进行讨论，充分表达思想观点和利益诉求。通过互联网了解民情、汇聚民智，成为中国政府执政为民、改进工作的新渠道。中国领导人经常上网了解公众意愿，有时直接在網上与网民交流，讨论国家大事，回答网民的问题。各级政府出台重大政策前，通过互联网征求意见已成为普遍做法。近三年来，每年通过互联网征求到的建议多达几百万条，为完善政府工作提供了有益参考。

中国政府十分重视互联网的监督作用，对人们通过互联网反映的问题，要求各级政府及时调查解决，并向公众反馈处理结果。绝大多数政府网站都公布了电子邮箱、电话号码，以便于公众反映政府工作中存在的问题，一大批通过互联网反映出来的问题得到了解决。为便于公众举报贪污腐败等问题，中央纪检监察机构和最高人民法院、最高人民检察院等开设了举报网站。

公民依法享有批评、建议、申诉、检举和控告的权利。中国政府通过开展绿色邮政、专线电话、网上信访、信访代理等多种渠道，为人民群众反映问题、表达诉求、提出意见建议提供便利。坚持实行党政领导干部阅批群众来信、定期接待群众来访、领导包案和责任追究等制度，切实维护人民群众的合法权益。2009年，中共中央办公厅、国务院办公厅转发《关于领导干部定期接待群众来访的意见》、《关于中央和国家机关定期组织干部下访的意见》和《关于把矛盾纠纷排查化解工作制度化的意见》三个文件，将定期接待群众来访的主体从县委书记层拓宽到各级各部门领导干部，将组织中央和国家机关干部下访规范化，把矛盾纠纷排查化解工作制度化，进一步完善信访工作法规制度体系。2009年，全国信访总量同比下降2.7%，连续5年保持了下降的态势。

三、人权的司法保障

2009年，中国进一步完善人权的司法保障体系，执法、司法中的人权保障得到进一步加强。

中国依法惩治犯罪，保障公民的生命财产安全和其他各项人权不受侵犯。2009年，检察机关共批准逮捕各类刑事犯罪嫌疑人941091人，提起公诉1134380人。各级人民法院审结一审刑事案件76.7万件，判处罪犯99.7万人，执结各类积案340.7万件，依法维护了被害人的合法权益。

公安机关坚持执法为民，出台便民利民措施进一步规范执法。2009年10月，公安部制定《公安机关执法细则》，明确规定公安机关办理行政、刑事案件的具体操作规范，为防止公安机关滥用职权侵犯公民权利提供了制度保障。各地公安机关也结合实际出台了执法规范，对执法活动中的人权保护提出了明确要求。2009年12月，公安部发布《关于修改〈机动车驾驶证申领和使用规定〉的决定》，进一步放宽对下肢残疾、手指残缺和听力障碍人员驾驶机动车的身体条件规定，满足了部分残疾人驾车出行的需求。2010年6月1日起施行的《公安机关人民警察纪律条令》，是中国第一部系统规范公安机关及人民警察违纪行为的纪律处分的部门规章。其中，对体罚、虐待违法犯罪嫌疑人、被监管人员或其他工作对象的行为规定了明确的处分措施。

检察机关履行法律监督职责，切实保护公民的权利。2009年，检察机关督促侦查机关立案19466件，督促撤案6742件，决定追加逮捕21232人、追加起诉18954人，决定不批准逮捕123235人、不起诉33048人。对侦查活动中的违法情况提出纠正意见25664件次。检察机关对认为确有错误的刑事裁判提出抗诉3963件，对刑事审判活动中的违法情况提出纠正意见4035件次。坚决查办侵犯人权的职务犯罪，立案侦查涉嫌利用职权实施非法拘禁、破坏选举、报复陷害等侵犯人权的国家机关工作人员478人。

司法透明度进一步增加。2009年，最高人民法院发布《最高人民法院关于司法公开的六项规定》，将审判公开落实到审判和执行的各个环节，进一步规范裁判文书上网和庭审直播，将司法的过程和结果公开，实行新闻发布会制度，拓展司法公开的广度和深度。颁布《人民法院工作人员处分条例》，全年共查处违纪违法人员795人，其中，移送司法机关处理137人。全年共办理群众信访30.3万件次，接待群众来访105.5万人次。

法律援助工作成效显著，有效维护困难群众合法权益。司法部于2009年6月部署开展“法律援助便民服务”主题活动，在全国推行十项便民措施。各地进一步扩大法律援助覆盖面，普遍将就医、就业、就学、劳动报酬、社会保障等与民生紧密相关的权益保护事项纳入法律援助补充事项范围。越来越多的地方将经济困难指标调整至最低生活保障线的1.5至2倍，努力使法律援助惠及更多困难群众。法律援助网络建设不断加强，截至2009年底，全国共建立省市县三级政府法律援助机构3274个，设立法律援助工作站58031个，方便了困难群众就近申请和获得法律援助。2009年共办理法律援助案件64万多件，提供法律咨询484万多人次，有效维护了困难群众合法权益。

律师在人权的司法保护中的作用不断增强。2009年，国家制定有关规章和规范性文件，细化了律师法的相关规定，促进律师法关于律师会见权、阅卷权、调查取证权有关规定的贯彻落实，推动律师诉讼业务的发展，为保障律师依法履行职责、在司法程序中发挥更大的作用提供有力的法律保障。据统计，2009年，全国律师共代理各类诉讼案件196万余件，有效维护了当事人的合法权益，促进了司法公正。

在押人员的合法权益依法受到保护。2009年，司法部制定实施《监狱教育改造罪犯工作目标考评办法》，全面推进教育改造各项工作考核；开展“规范执法行为、提高执法水平”专题教育实践活动，着力解决执法工作中存在的问题。监狱推广罪犯每周5天劳动教育、1天课堂学习教育、1天休息的“5+1+1”的改造模式；采取措施，确保罪犯的生活水平和医疗水平与社会经济同步发展。2009年，检察机关对超期羁押提出纠正意见337人次，对监管活动中的其他违法情况提出纠正意见22268件次；会同公安机关开展全国看守所监管执法专项检查，清理发现有“牢头狱霸”行为的在押人员2207人，对其中涉嫌犯罪的123人依法提起公诉；与司法部联合开展了“清查事故隐患，促进安全监管”专项活动，着力解决安全措施、监管工作不到位等问题，切实保护了罪犯的合法权益。

人民调解制度建设进一步加强。到2009年底，全国共建立人民调解委员会82.3万多个，共有人民调解员493.8万多人。全年共调解各类纠纷767.6万余件，防止民间纠纷转化为刑事案件4.8万多件，防止民间纠纷引起自杀1.8万多人。

四、经济、社会和文化权利

2009年，中国政府将保障人民的经济、社会和文化权利贯穿于促进经济社会平稳较快发展的全过程中，采取有效的措施积极应对国际金融危机，着力解决就业、医疗、社会保障、教育等关系人民群众切身利益的问题，取得显著成效。

劳动者的就业权受到保护。2009年，国家安排就业资金420亿元，比上年增长66.7%。全国城镇新增就业1102万人，下岗失业人员实现再就业514万人，城镇登记失业率4.3%，应届高校毕业生就业率达到87.4%。外出农民工总量1.45亿人，比上年增长492万人。国家直接帮助汶川灾区劳动者实现就业18.6万人，实现了灾区零就业家庭至少一人就业的目标。

发展职业培训，提高劳动者就业能力。2009年，国家出台《关于实施特别职业培训计划的通知》，决定从2009年至2010年实施特别职业培训计划，重点围绕受金融危机影响的各类劳动者的就业需求，开展针对困难企业职工、失去工作返乡的农民工、城镇失业人员和新成长劳动力等四类群体的技能培训。2009年共组织开展职业培训2160多万人次，其中包括困难企业职工培训260多万人次、农村劳动力转移就业培训1100万人次、城镇失业人员再就业培训450万人次、劳动预备制培训240万人次以及创业培训110万人次。

劳动者合法权益依法受到保护。2009年，国家制定《关于应对当前经济形势稳定劳动关系的指导意见》，积极发挥劳动关系三方机制在保企业、保就业、保稳定中的作用。2009年，全国劳动保障监察机构共主动检查用人单位175万家，涉及劳动者9029.8万人，查处各类劳动保障违法案件43.9万件，督促用人单位为1073.7万名劳动者补签劳动合同，为593.1万名劳动者追回工资等待遇89.2亿元，督促用人单位补缴社会保险费46.4亿元。各级劳动争议仲裁机构共立案受理劳动争议案件68.4万件，案外调解17.8万件。当期审结案件比上年增长10.8%，有效维护了劳动关系的和谐。

社会保障制度进一步健全。2009年，中央财政安排社会保障基金2906亿元，比上年增长16.6%。截至2009年底，全国参加失业保险人数为12715万人，比2008年底增加315万人；领取失业保险金的人数为235万人，比2008年末减少26万人。2009年，全国基本医疗保险总参保人数已超过12亿人，总体覆盖率达到90%以上。城镇职工医保、居民医保参保人数增加8325万人，参保人数超过4亿人。新型农村合作医疗参保人数增加1630万人，参合人口达到8.33亿人。城镇职工医保、居民医保和新农合最高支付限额基本达到当地职工平均工资、城镇居民可支配收入和农民人均纯收入的6倍左右，医疗费用报销比例进一步提高。国家2008年、2009年共安排509亿元解决关闭破产国有企业退休人员医疗保险问题。2009年，全国基本养老保险参保人数为23550万人，比2008年底增加1659万人，同比增长7.6%。新型农村社会养老保险试点在全国27个省、自治区的320个县(市、区、旗)和4个直辖市正式启动，试点覆盖率为11.8%，覆盖农村居民约1.3亿人，其中60周岁以上的约1530万人。2009年底，全国已有超过半数省份实现了工伤保险市级统筹，绝大多数省份已建立了工伤保险储备金制度。全国工伤保险参保人数已达14896万人，其中农民工参保人数5587万人，分别比2008年末增加1109万人和645万人。2009年生育保险参保人数达到10876万人，比上年底新增1622万人，全年享受生育保险待遇达174万人次。

公民受教育权得到保障。到2009年底，全国普及九年义务教育人口覆盖率达99.7%，普及九年义务教育的县数占全国县数的99.5%。城市小学新生中接受学前教育的比例达96.64%，农村小学新生中接受学前教育的达88.55%。小学学龄儿童净入学率达99.4%，小学五年巩固率达到99.31%，初中毛入学率达到99%，初中三年巩固

率达到94%，高中阶段毛入学率达79.2%。普通高校招生639.5万人，比上一年增加31.8万人，研究生招生51.1万人，比上一年增加6.5万人。

国家高度重视发展农村教育。2009年，中央财政下达农村义务教育保障机制专项基金587亿元，其中公用经费资金357亿元、免费教科书资金138亿元、校舍维修改造资金51亿元、补助家庭经济困难寄宿生生活费资金41亿元。免除了全国约1.3亿名农村义务教育学生学杂费和教科书费，按照小学每年500元、初中每年750元的标准，对中西部地区约1100万名农村家庭经济困难寄宿生补助了生活费。全国所有省份农村中小学预算内公用经费都达到了小学每生每年300元、初中每生每年500元的基准定额。到2009年底，已完成中西部地区农村初中校舍改造工程6063多所，完工校舍面积1281多万平方米。完成农村学校远程教育网络工程投资110亿元，为中西部地区的23个省份以及新疆生产建设兵团配备教学光盘播放设备40.2万套、卫星教学收视系统27.9万套、计算机教室和多媒体设备4.5万套，覆盖中西部地区36万所农村中小学。

国家健全家庭经济困难学生资助体系。2009年，中央财政下达中等职业学校国家助学金资金预算92.8亿元，资助学生约1200万人，占中等职业学校一、二年级学生总数的近90%；下达中等职业学校农村家庭经济困难学生和涉农专业学生秋季学期免学费资金24亿元，约440万名学生享受免学费政策。下达中央专项彩票公益金教育助学项目资金6亿元，资助60万名普通高中学校的家庭经济困难学生。中央财政下达70.5亿元高校国家奖助学金资金预算，全国普通高等学校有469.43万人次获得国家奖助学金。全国有24个省份启动了生源地信用助学贷款，22个省份发放了贷款，当年新增贷款学生人数约为60万人。2009年秋季学期开学时，全国普通高校有53.25万名家庭经济困难新生通过“绿色通道”顺利入学，占特困新生的95.5%，占家庭经济困难新生的36.1%，占当年入学新生的9.1%。

人民文化生活日益丰富。到2009年底，中国出版各类报纸437亿份，各类期刊31亿册，图书70亿册。全国共有艺术表演团体2478个、广播电台251座、电视台272座、广播电视台2087座、教育台44个。全国共有有线电视用户17398万户、有线数字电视用户6200万户。广播节目综合人口覆盖率达96.3%，电视节目综合人口覆盖率为97.2%。全年生产故事片456部，科教、纪录、动画和特种影片102部。全国共有档案馆4035个，已开放各类档案7991万卷(件)。

覆盖城乡的公共文化服务体系加快建立，服务能力和水平明显提高。2009年，全国共有县级以上公共图书馆2850个，县级以上群艺馆和文化馆3223个，文化站38736个。2009年，已有1749个公共博物馆实现免费开放。国家图书馆从2009年2月7日开始全面减免收费项目。

文化信息资源共享工程将中华文化进行数字化加工整合，通过互联网、卫星、电视、手机等进行传播，实现了先进数字文化在全国范围的共建共享。到2009年，全国已建成各级文化共享服务网点75.7万个。目前实现共享的数字资源总量为90TB，包括视频资源70132小时，电子图书52691种，电子期刊3604种。其中，少数民族语言视频资源1510小时、电子图书1250种，涉及藏语、蒙古语、维吾尔语、哈萨克语、朝鲜语5种语言。到2009年底，文化共享工程累计服务约7亿人次。

2009年，国家投入资金4.07亿元援建各类全民健身工程。国家颁布的《全民健身条例》是中国第一部全面、系统规范全民健身事业发展的专门性行政法规，对全民健身管理机制，全民健身计划、活动等方面作了系统规范。条例首次在国家法规中明确规定“公民有依法参加全民健身活动的权利”。

五、少数民族的平等权利和特殊保护

在中国，各民族公民平等地享有宪法和法律规定的全部公民权利。同时，少数民族公民又依法享有少数民族特有的权利。

国家依法保障各少数民族平等参与管理国家事务和地方事务的权利。目前，55个少数民族都有本民族的全国人民代表大会代表和全国政治协商会议委员；人口超过100万的少数民族都有本民族的全国人民代表大会常务委员会委员。历届全国人民代表大会中，少数民族代表人数占全国人民代表大会代表总人数的比例均高于同期少数民族人口占全国总人口的比例。155个民族自治地方的人民代表大会常务委员会中均有实行区域自治的民族的公民担任主任或者副主任；民族自治地方政府的主席、州长、县长或旗长均由实行区域自治的民族的公民担任。截至2009年，全国共有290多万少数民族干部，约占干部总数的7.4%。全国公务员队伍中，少数民族约占9.6%。

国家加大对少数民族地区发展的支持力度，少数民族人民的生活水平不断提高。近年来，国家相继制定《关于进一步促进新疆经济社会发展的若干意见》、《关于近期支持西藏经济社会发展的意见》、《关于进一步促进宁夏经济社会发展的若干意见》和《广西北部湾经济区发展规划》，有力地促进了少数民族和民族地区经济社会发展。2009年，国家投入12.4亿元少数民族发展资金加快促进少数民族地区经济社会发展。2009年，国家投入各类资金7.8亿元，累计有80%以上人口较少的民族聚居村率先达到了《扶持人口较少民族发展规划(2005-2010年)》确定的目标任务。加大兴边富民行动力度，扶持范围扩大到136个边境县和新疆生产建设兵团。2009年，国家实行新的扶贫标准，扩大覆盖范围，对民族地区农村低收入人口全面实施扶贫政策，民族地区的农村绝对贫困人口由2004年的1245万减少到2008年的770多万。2009年，民族地区基本实现了具备条件的特困村通路、通电、通电话、通广播电视；有学校、有卫生室、有安全的人畜饮用水、有安居房、有稳定解决温饱的基本农田或草场，人均粮食占有量、人均纯收入等达到国家扶贫开发纲要要求。

民族地区的公共卫生体系建设进一步加快。2004年至2009年，国家对民族地区的公共卫生体系建设、重点疾病防治、计划免疫、妇幼卫生、人才培养、农村合作医疗和民族医药等投入的资金累计达到47亿元。截至2008年底，民族自治地方699个县中有681个县实行了这个新制度，5个自治区及云南、贵州、青海等8个民族省区实现了全面覆盖，民族地区的推进速度超过了全国总体水平。

少数民族的受教育水平不断提高。目前，民族地方已形成从幼儿教育到高等教育的完整教育体系，少数民族人口的受教育年限显著提高。少数民族地区适龄儿童入学率达到98%。截至2009年底，民族自治地方的699个县中已有686个基本实现了普及九年制义务教育，基本扫除青壮年文盲的目标，剩余的13个县计划在2010年全部完成。截至2009年，全国共有各类民族院校15所，全日制在校生超过20万人，其中少数民族学生比例超过60%。2009年举办民族预科班和民族班的高校超过300所，招生人数达到3.1万人。

少数民族文化得到保护、繁荣和发展。2009年6月，国务院召开“全国少数民族文化工作会议”，出台了《国务院关于进一步繁荣发展少数民族文化事业的若干意见》，全面部署了当前和今后一个时期的主要任务、目标举措和保障措施，为繁荣发展少数民族文化事业提供了有力保障。民族地区文化设施建设不断加强。“十一五”期间，国家计划通过实施乡镇综合文化站建设规划，补助中西部地区约38.57亿元，建设2.34万个乡镇综合文化站，其中补助民族8省区和新疆生产建设兵团9.13亿元左右。国家资助更新改造一大批少数民族语广播影视译制设备，先后在内蒙古、西藏、新疆等省区扶持建立10个少数民族语电影译制中心，并研发出电影译制数字化新技术。国家加大对民族地区重点文物保护单位维修保护项目和珍贵文物征

集经费的支持力度。安排4亿元专项经费，用于“十一五”期间新疆20余处全国重点文物保护单位、古遗址的保护。目前，民族地区的全国重点文物保护单位已达366处，布达拉宫、丽江古城等被联合国公布为世界文化遗产。新疆维吾尔木卡姆艺术、蒙古族长调民歌、贵州侗族大歌、《格萨尔》史诗、青海热贡艺术、藏戏、新疆《玛纳斯》、蒙古族呼麦、甘肃花儿、朝鲜族农乐舞等入选联合国教科文组织“人类口头与非物质遗产代表作”。目前国家设立的4个文化生态保护实验区中有2个少数民族文化保护试验区。国家出台《关于做好少数民族特色村寨保护与发展试点工作的指导意见》，开展少数民族特色村寨保护与发展的试点工作。2009年，共投入5000万元资金专门用于121个少数民族特色村寨保护与发展的试点工作。

少数民族学习、使用和发展本民族语言文字的权利得到保障。国家切实保障少数民族语言文字在行政司法、新闻出版、广播影视、文化教育等各领域的使用，在普通高等学校招生入学考试中允许使用少数民族语言文字答卷。国家在民族地区推行双语教学。目前，全国共有1万多所学校使用21

个民族的29种文字开展双语教学，在校生达600多万人。

六、残疾人权益

中国大力发展残疾人事业，注重解决残疾人面临的突出困难，保障残疾人各项合法权益。

国家积极完善保障残疾人权益的法律法规。2008年4月24日修订的残疾人保障法进一步强化了残疾人权益的法律保障。2009年，国家发布《残疾人航空运输办法》，为保障残疾人航空运输权利规定了具体措施。目前正在加快制定《无障碍建设条例》、《残疾预防和残疾人康复条例》和国家残疾分类标准。2009年12月，国家修订了《机动车驾驶证申领和使用规定》，放宽了申请驾驶证的身体条件，为残疾人驾驶汽车提供了便利。2009年，全国成立了首批56个残疾人法律救助工作站，直接为残疾人提供法律救助服务。

残疾人社会保障体系和服务体系得到完善。2009年，国家制定《关于加快推进残疾人社会保障体系和服务体系建设的指导意见》，全国30个省、自治区、直辖市出台了加快建设残疾人社会保障体系和服务体系的实施意见。2009年，国家新型农村社会养老保险开始试点，明确要求地方政府为农村重度残疾人等缴费困难群体代缴部分或全部最低标准的养老保险费。

残疾人康复事业得到发展。2009年，620万残疾人得到不同程度康复，2376个市辖区、县(市)开展社区康复工作，984.4万残疾人得到社区康复服务。为残疾人提供辅助器具112.2万件，其中为贫困残疾人免费发放59.8万件。国家投入贫困残疾儿童抢救性康复项目资金7.11亿元，近6万残疾儿童受益。实施“康复人才培养百千万工程”，培训康复管理和技术人员2200多人、社区康复协调员近13万名。

残疾人教育事业不断发展。2009年，中国政府出台《关于进一步加快特殊教育事业发展的意见》，明确提出加快发展特殊教育，特别是加快发展以职业教育为主的残疾人高中阶段教育和高等教育，拓展了残疾人义务教育范围，针对特殊教育薄弱环节，提出完善特教经费保障机制、加强师资队伍建设、提高随班就读质量、多种形式扫除青壮年文盲等一系列措施。残疾少年儿童义务教育普及水平稳步提高。国家为78.5万人次残疾人提供职业技术培训。普通高等院校录取残疾人考生7782人。

残疾人公共服务得到加强。2009年已建立托养机构3474个，托养残疾人11万人。国家扶持108.5万农村贫困残疾人脱贫，为10.2万户农村贫困残疾人家庭实施危房改造，受益残疾人口14万人。自2009年至2011年，国家每年安排2亿元专项资金，用于补助各地开展就业年龄段智力、精神和重度残疾人托养服务工作。2009年新安

排35万城镇残疾人就业，城镇残疾人就业人数达到443.4万，农村残疾人就业人数达到1757万。

残疾人文化体育生活不断丰富。2009年，国家举办了第七届全国残疾人艺术汇演，逐级选拔选手3万人，直接参加汇演的演职员4000人。2009年，国家颁布《全民健身条例》，明确规定保障残疾人参加健身活动和参与体育的权利。中国残疾运动员先后参加第二十一届世界听障奥运会、第九届世界冬季特奥会、英国残奥世界杯、东京亚洲青年残疾人运动会、世界轮椅和肢残人运动会等19项国际赛事，共夺得金牌158枚。举办14项全国残疾人体育赛事，5000名运动员参与。特奥运动稳步发展，特奥运动员达到90万人。

残疾人参与社会生活的环境不断改善。中央人民政府门户网站设立“残疾人服务”专栏，创建国家级盲人数字图书馆。无障碍建设取得新进展，100个城市开展创建全国无障碍建设城市工作，积极推进主要街道和商场、医院、宾馆、影剧院、博物馆、机场、车站等公共建筑物及居民住宅无障碍建设和改造，为残疾人走出家门，充分参与社会生活创造了条件。政府和社会各界大力弘扬人道主义，倡导理解、尊重、关心、帮助残疾人的良好社会风尚。

七、人权领域的对外交流与合作

中国积极开展国际人权交流与合作，努力推动国际人权事业健康发展。

中国积极参与联合国人权机构工作，发挥建设性作用，推动各国以公正、客观和非选择性方式处理人权问题。

2009年2月，中国首次接受人权理事会国别人权审查。在审议中，中国以严肃和高度负责的态度全面介绍中国人权事业的发展、面临的挑战和努力目标，与各国进行了开放、坦诚的对话。中国在人权领域作出的努力和取得的进步受到许多国家的肯定，人权理事会全会于2009年6月核可了审议中国的报告。2009年，中国代表团出席了第六十四届联合国大会第三委员会会议、联合国人权理事会第十、十一、十二次会议，参与了人权理事会第四、五、六轮国别人权审查。中国专家出席了人权理事会咨询委员会第二、三次会议和人权理事会来文工作组第四、五次会议。中国积极参与了2009年4月召开的联合国反对种族主义世界大会审议会议。在上述机构和会议中，中国维护《联合国宪章》的宗旨和原则，认真履行职责，积极参加有关人权议题的审议和讨论。

中国政府高度重视国际人权文书在促进和保护人权方面发挥的重要作用，已加入包括《经济、社会及文化权利国际公约》在内的25项国际人权公约，并积极为批准《公民权利和政治权利国际公约》创造条件。中国政府采取措施履行已参加的国际人权条约的义务。2009年，中国着手撰写《经济、社会及文化权利国际公约》第二次履约报告、《儿童权利公约》第三、四次合并报告及《儿童权利公约关于儿童卷入武装冲突问题的任择议定书》、《残疾人权利公约》的首次报告。2009年8月，中国接受联合国消除种族歧视委员会对中国履行《消除一切形式种族歧视国际公约》第十至十三次合并报告的审议，委员会审议结论肯定了中国政府在发展民族地区经济、扶持人口较少民族发展、提高人民生活水平、促进医疗卫生和教育事业、保护少数民族文化等方面的政策、举措和成就。

中国政府积极参与国际人权文书的制定工作。2009年，中国政府派团参加了《儿童权利公约》来文申诉机制任择议定书制定工作组会议，中国积极推荐专家参与人权条约机构的工作。2009年，中国专家当选首届联合国残疾人权利委员会副主席，连任联合国禁止酷刑委员会委员。

中国积极开展人权领域的国际合作。中国重视与联合国人权事务高级专员办公室开展技术合作，自2000年中国与高专办签署《合作谅解备忘录》以来，双方在相

互尊重的基础上，开展了一系列人权合作项目。中国积极支持高专办的工作，2009年再次向高专办捐款2万美元。中国重视联合国人权特别机制在国际人权领域的重要作用，与其保持着良好的合作关系。中国政府本着负责任的态度答复联合国人权特别机制的每一封来函。中国政府已向人权理事会粮食权特别报告员发出访华邀请。中国继续与联合国儿童基金会驻华代表处就联合国儿童权利委员会审议中国报告结论后续工作开展合作，2009年举办了“《儿童权利公约》及其国内实施”国际研讨会和“《儿童权利公约》履约报告”研讨会。

中国坚持在平等和相互尊重的基础上与有关国家开展双边人权对话与交流。2009年，中国分别与欧盟、英国、荷兰、澳大利亚、挪威等举行了人权对话或磋商，与俄罗斯、老挝等国家进行了交流。通过对话与交流，增进了中国与其他国家在人权问题上的相互了解，减少了分歧，扩大了共识。

充分实现人权是中国全面建设小康社会、构建社会主义和谐社会的重要目标。中国将与国际社会一道，一如既往地促进中国人权事业的不断进步和国际人权事业的健康发展，为建设持久和平、共同繁荣的和谐世界作出不懈的努力和贡献。

Progress in China's Human Rights in 2009

Information Office of the State Council

The People's Republic of China

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Foreword

The year 2009 was the most difficult one for China's economic development since the beginning of the new century. In 2009, facing the great impact of the international financial crisis, and grave and complicated economic situations, the Chinese government, sticking to the Scientific Outlook on Development characterized by putting people first, combined the countermeasures to the international financial crisis with the maintenance of a stable yet rapid economic development and the promotion of China's human rights, and carried out a series of policies and measures to maintain economic growth, restructure the economy, promote reforms and improve people's livelihood, thus effectively curbing the economic slowdown, becoming one of the few countries making a turnaround in the economy, and promoting new and notable progress in China's human rights.

In 2009 the Chinese government promulgated and implemented the National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2009-2010). This was the first national action plan in China with human rights as the theme. It is a programmatic document for directing and promoting the comprehensive development of China's human rights. The Action Plan applies the Constitutional principle of respecting and protecting human rights to the various fields of politics, economy, culture and social construction, and the various links of legislation, law enforcement, judicature, governance and administration. The document expressly stipulates the objectives and concrete measures of the Chinese government in promoting and protecting human rights. Over the past more than one year, the National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2009-2010) has been effectively implemented, the Chinese people's consciousness of human rights has been enhanced, and the overall cause of human rights has been promoted in an all-round way.

China is a developing country with a population of 1.3 billion. Due to its inadequate and unbalanced development, there is still much room for improvement in its human rights conditions. The Chinese government is taking effective measures to promote the sound development and social harmony with a view to building a more just and harmonious society and ensuring that the people enjoy a more dignified and happier life.

To help the rest of the world gain a better understanding of the human rights situation in China, we hereby give an overview of the developments in the field of human rights in China in 2009.

I. The People's Rights to Subsistence and Development

In 2009, to overcome the impact of the international financial crisis, the Chinese government invested 4,000 billion yuan in the improvement of the people's livelihood, economic growth and restructuring, and steady yet rapid socioeconomic development. Remarkable results have been achieved in those fields. According to statistics, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009 exceeded 34,000 billion yuan, an increase of 9.1 percent over the previous year. The grain output hit a historical high of 531 million tons, an increase for the sixth consecutive year. Thus the Chinese people's general standard of living has been further improved on the basis of economic and social development.

The general standard of living of the people continued to rise. In 2009 the per capita net income of rural residents was 5,153 yuan, and the per capita disposable income of urban residents was 17,175 yuan, an increase of 8.5 percent and 9.8 percent respectively over the previous year. The Engel coefficient (i.e. the proportion of food expenditure in the total consumption spending) per rural and urban household was 41 percent and 36.5 percent,

respectively. In 2009 China allocated a special fund for construction totaling 55.056 billion yuan, built two million housing units for low-income residents, and renovated 1.3 million housing units in run-down areas in forest and reclamation areas, coalmining regions and part of the run-down urban areas. The housing conditions for urban and rural residents steadily improved over the past year. By the end of 2009 car ownership had reached 31.36 million, an increase of 28.6 percent over the previous year, among which 26.05 million were private cars, an increase of 33.8 percent. The combined number of fixed and mobile phone users reached 1,061.07 million, an increase of 79.47 million over that at the end of the previous year. There are now 79.9 telephones for every 100 people. The number of domestic tourists last year was 1.9 billion person/times, and the number of Chinese citizens traveling abroad reached 47.66 million person/times, increases of 11.1 percent and 4 percent, respectively, over the previous year.

In the meantime, China is taking further steps to promote agricultural development and construction in the rural areas, and to increase farmers' incomes. In 2009 the state adopted the Opinions on Promoting the Stable Development of Agriculture and Sustainable Increase of Farmers' Incomes in 2009 and the Opinions on Promoting the Stable Development of Agriculture and Sustainable Increase of Farmers' Incomes at Present. The appropriation from the central budget in this regard totaled 725.3 billion yuan, an increase of 21.8 percent over the previous year. The farmers' living conditions have effectively improved. In 2009 China renovated 800,000 dilapidated houses in the countryside, and helped build permanent housing for 92,000 nomadic families. The drinking water problems for 60.69 million rural residents were resolved. From 2000 to 2009, China solved the drinking water problems for 225 million rural residents, and reached the target in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of "reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015," six years ahead of schedule.

China attaches great importance to improving the production and living conditions of the impoverished population. In 2009 the state's input of money for poverty reduction programs in rural areas increased by three billion yuan over the previous year to 19.73 billion yuan, with additional input of 25.2 billion yuan in the form of credit funds through interest subsidies for the same purpose. In 2009 the state raised the poverty level to 1,196 yuan per person per year on average, and by this criterion there were 40.07 million people living under the poverty level in China. By the end of 2009 the size of the impoverished population in rural China had decreased to 35.971 million, making up 3.8 percent of the rural population. The per capita annual income of farmers in the counties which are key targets of the government's poverty reduction work increased from 2,611 yuan in 2008 to 2,842 yuan in 2009, a higher increase rate than that of the average level in China's rural areas.

China is also striving to improve the public health care system and the people's health in general. In 2009 the total health care expenditure in China reached 1,720.481 billion yuan, making up 4.96 percent of China's GDP, and the per capita health care expenditure was 1,192 yuan. The state allocated a special fund of 21.7 billion yuan for building the medical services system at the grassroots level, supporting the construction of 986 county-level hospitals (including hospitals of traditional Chinese medicine), 3,549 hospitals in central towns and townships and 1,154 community health service centers. The state also allocated 1.73 billion yuan in subsidies to medical institutions at the grassroots level for the purchase of medical equipment. In 2009, 11.26 million rural pregnant women and women in labor received government subsidies so that they could give birth in hospitals, 11.86 million women in the countryside were provided gratis with folic acid three months before they got pregnant or three months into pregnancy, two million rural women received cervical cancer screening, and more than 28 million children aged under 15 years received vaccinations against hepatitis B. In 2009 more than 210,000 cataract operations were carried out for impoverished patients, and monitoring of drinking water quality was carried out at 30,000

rural water-supply projects. By the end of 2009 HIV/AIDS treatment was available in 31 of China's provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government), and 79,946 AIDS patients and 1,793 children with AIDS had received treatment. Also in 2009, China launched the emergency response mechanism to Influenza A (H1N1) virus, and effectively prevented the spread of the disease. At present, China has 289,000 health-care institutions, 5.22 million medical professionals, 3.96 million hospital and clinic beds and 910,000 beds at township hospitals. The average life expectancy of the Chinese people was 73 years in 2009, and the mortality rate of women in childbirth was reduced to 31.9 per 100,000, with infant mortality rate dropping to 1.38 percent.

China is strengthening legislation and supervision of production safety. In 2009 China issued 12 related departmental rules including the Interim Provisions on Supervision and Administration of Occupational Health at Workplaces, enacted and amended 53 standards of production safety, including special ones for the coal industry, and further strengthened workplace safety protection for employees. In 2009 a total of 18 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) assigned special production safety law-enforcement personnel, all prefecture-level city governments and 97 percent of the county-level governments set up production safety supervisory and regulatory agencies, and 75 percent of the towns, townships and sub-districts established full-time or part-time production safety agencies. At the same time, five more coal mine safety sub-bureaus were set up within the supervision system, and nationwide 29,880 people were held accountable and punished for work-place accidents in 2009. In 2009 the number of workplace accidents and fatalities shrank by 34,930 and 7,980, respectively, down 8.4 percent and 8.8 percent over the previous year. The number of major workplace accidents and fatalities dropped by 50 percent and 56.1 percent, respectively, over the previous year. The number of deaths per 100 million yuan GDP was 0.248, down by 16.7 percent over the previous year. On March 28, 2010, an accident took place at the Wangjialing Coal Mine in Shanxi Province, and 153 miners were trapped underground. After an ordeal of eight days and eight nights, 115 of them were rescued, a remarkable feat in the history of Chinese mine rescues.

II. Citizens' Civil and Political Rights

In 2009 the Chinese government continued to regard the protection of citizens' civil and political rights as an important part of the building of political civilization, and further strengthened democracy and the rule of law. It endeavored to widen the scope of citizens' orderly political participation and to safeguard their rights of being the masters of their own country.

In China the National People's Congress (NPC) and the local people's congresses at various levels are the organs through which the people exercise state power. The NPC and its Standing Committee exercise the legislative power of the state. From January 2009 to March 2010 the NPC and its Standing Committee examined 25 laws and draft decisions concerning laws, and adopted 18 of them. They amended eight laws, including the Electoral Law and the Postal Law, and further guaranteed human rights through legislation. Among the laws newly adopted, the Food Safety Law built a legal protective screen for food safety in an all-round way, and provided legal grounds for guaranteeing food safety, and people's health and security. The Tort Liability Law explicitly prescribed the fundamental principle that whoever infringes upon other people's civil rights and interests will be held liable for the injuries caused, as well as the ways of assuming liability, thus further improving the legal guarantee of Chinese citizens' personal right and property right. The amendments to the Electoral Law adopted at the Third Session of the Eleventh NPC held in March 2009 stipulated that the election of deputies to people's congresses shall be based on the same

population ratio in both urban and rural areas, which broadened the representation of deputies to people's congresses. The amendments better embodied the equal rights of all citizens, regions and ethnic groups, and further improved the electoral system and expanded people's democratic rights. Now, China has 234 laws, more than 690 administrative regulations and more than 8,800 local regulations. A comparatively complete legal system with the Constitution at the core that guarantees human rights is now in place.

The NPC and its Standing Committee have effectively exercised their right of supervision, and their supervisory effect has further been enhanced. In 2009 the NPC Standing Committee examined and deliberated upon 14 work reports of the State Council, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on the response to climate change, on the promotion of employment and reemployment, on the improvement of enforcement in civil cases, and on the enhancement of supervision of dereliction of duty and rights infringement. It examined the implementation of three laws, including the Food Safety Law and the Trade Union Law. It also carried out special investigations on some major public investment projects of the central government concerning livelihood of the people such as projects of housing for the low-income people, of education and public health construction, and urged the departments concerned to perform their official duties in accordance with the law, ensure an impartial judicature and properly handle issues of general concern and related to the interests of the general public.

Multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) are basic to the political system of China, which is a new type of political party system with distinctive Chinese characteristics and conforming to China's actual conditions. This system plays a significant role in China's political life. The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) participates in the discussion of state affairs, puts forward opinions, suggestions and criticisms, and performs its functions of conducting political consultation, exercising democratic supervision and taking part in and managing state affairs through its regular work of making proposals, inspections, carrying out special consultations and investigations, and reporting public opinions. In 2009 the CPPCC National Committee filed 5,820 proposals, of which 5,218 were placed on file; it compiled and reported to the central leadership 267 reports on social conditions and public opinions, and conveyed 1,435 comments and suggestions involving the people's livelihood; it submitted 12 reports on its inspections and investigations on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and on the economic and social development of areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, communicated with relevant ministries about the adoption and implementation of the inspection results, and endeavored to establish a sound system at the feedback stage. The CPPCC National Committee convened the Standing Committee meetings deliberating special political issues, and consultative conferences on major issues concerning the economy and people's livelihood such as "focusing on increasing domestic demand and maintaining rapid yet steady economic development," "speeding up the transition of the economic growth mode, the adjustment of economic structures, and enhancing sustained economic development," and "guaranteeing and improving the people's livelihood and promoting social harmony." In 2009 the special committees of the CPPCC National Committee put forward opinions and suggestions for the improvement of China's legislation and law enforcement. For instance, they proposed the establishment and improvement of the legal system and policies corresponding to the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, based on an in-depth investigation of the implementation of the law, in order to better implement the law; they also proposed improvement of relevant laws and regulations, clarification of the legal concept of "abnormal appeals to higher authorities" and the "principal body for liability," so as to bring "appeals to higher authorities for help" within the jurisdiction of the law. In addition, they proposed amendments to drafts of laws and regulations on social

construction submitted by the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council and other government departments. (more)

Self-government at the grassroots level is a fundamental political system that ensures people exercise their democratic rights. In 2009 the State Council issued the Notice on the Strengthening and Improvement of Elections of Villagers' Committees, laying down standard requirements for election preparations, procedures, post-election work, organization and management. The notice was significant for guaranteeing just and orderly elections of villagers' committees, ensuring villagers' direct exercise of democratic rights in accordance with the law and promoting democracy at the rural grassroots level. In 2009 elections for new villagers' committees in 12 provinces and elections for new neighborhood committees in 16 provinces took place. Rural China's 604,000 villagers' committees have a total of 2.3 million members, selected through democratic elections in accordance with the law. China is working to promote the project of "making village affairs known to villagers," improve democracy in villages beset with long-standing difficulties in democratic management, and solve the problems arising from land requisition, house demolition and land contracting that may impair local people's legitimate rights and interests. China is also endeavoring to improve community service systems in both urban and rural areas so as to constantly improve the urban and rural communities.

The Chinese government is working actively to make government affairs public, improve the official spokesman system and information transparency, and legally equip its citizens with more rights to know about, supervise and participate in public affairs. Since the promulgation and implementation of the Outline for Promoting Law-based Administration in an All-round Way in 2004, China has made great progress in promoting law-based administration. The Chinese government is attaching more importance to legislation concerning social management and public service; it also puts more emphasis on public participation and certifying by experts. Administrative policy-making has become more scientific, democratic and institutionalized. The country is further standardizing law enforcement and promoting the responsibility system of administrative law enforcement in a vigorous manner. In 2009 the people's governments at different levels actively implemented the Provisions on the Disclosure of Government Information, and explored new platforms for government information disclosure by administrative organs. Governments at all levels also improved their press release systems. In 2009 the State Council Information Office, ministries, commissions, and provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) held a total of 1,646 press conferences, and Chinese media and netizens actively participated in discussions of public policies, and supervised and criticized government actions. In March 2010 eight organs under the central government, including the Ministry of Finance, changed the traditional way of financial operation of administrative departments by disclosing their own budgets for the fiscal year on their websites. The public hailed the new move as an important step towards political civilization.

The Chinese government supports enterprises' and public institutions' efforts to improve the democratic management system with employees' conferences as the basic form, to make known enterprise affairs to employees, and supports employees' participation in management and safeguards their legitimate rights and interests. By the end of 2009 a total of 22 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) issued 27 local regulations on making known to the employees the affairs of enterprises or public institutions and on democratic management. By the end of September 2009 there were 1.752 million enterprises and public institutions with trade union organizations and a system of disclosing enterprise and public institution affairs to their employees, involving 127.512 million employees; and the number of enterprises and public institutions practicing the employees' conference system had reached 1.839 million, involving 133.387 million employees. The total number of grassroots trade union

organizations had increased to 1.845 million, involving 3.959 million enterprises and public institutions; and the number of trade union members nationwide had risen to 226.3 million. Over the past five years the number of trade union members has been increasing by more than 15 million per year on average, and the increase in the number of trade unions and members has hit an all-time high.

With their right to freedom of speech on the Internet protected by the law, Chinese citizens can voice their opinions in a wide variety of ways on the Internet. The Internet is given full scope in China, and has become an important channel for people to obtain various types of information and voice their opinions. By the end of 2009 the number of Chinese netizens had reached 384 million, meaning 28.9 percent of the total population had access to the Internet, higher than the world's average level. In the same year there were 3.23 million websites running in China. China's websites attach great importance to providing netizens with services that enable them to express their opinions, with over 80 percent of them providing electronic bulletin service. In China there are over a million bulletin board services (BBS) and some 220 million bloggers. According to a sample survey, each day people post over three million messages via BBS, news commentary sites, blogs, etc., and over 66 percent of Chinese netizens frequently place postings to discuss various topics, and to fully express their opinions and represent their interests. At the same time, the Internet has become a new channel for the Chinese government to get to know the public opinion and amass the people's wisdom, and consequently exercise governance for the people and improve its work in this respect. The leaders of China frequently log onto the Internet to get to know the public's wishes, and sometimes have direct online communication with netizens to discuss state affairs and answer their questions. It has become a common practice for governments at all levels to consult the public via the Internet before formulating policies of particular importance. For each of the past three years, as many as several million items of advice and suggestions have been received through the Internet, providing valuable reference for the government to improve its work.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the Internet's role in supervision. Governments at all levels are required to investigate and resolve in a timely manner all problems reported to the government by the public via the Internet, and to inform the public of the action taken and the results. The great majority of government websites carry relevant email addresses and telephone numbers, so that the governments can be informed of problems in their work. Over the past few years, a great number of the problems reported through the Internet have been resolved. In order to facilitate the public's reporting of corruption, dereliction of duty, etc., among officials, the central discipline inspection and supervision authorities, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and other relevant bodies have set up special websites.

Citizens have the right to make criticism and suggestions, bring to the attention of relevant state organs complaints or charges of illegality against any state organ or functionary. Through various channels, such as Green Post, special telephone lines, online complaints and agencies, the Chinese government makes it convenient for the people to petition, report problems and offer suggestions. Leading officials of all levels of the Party and government are required to read and reply to letters from the masses, open their offices to complaints from visitors on a regular basis, take responsibility for the cases they handle and be held responsible for any dereliction of duty, so as to guarantee the people's legitimate rights and interests. In 2009 the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued three new documents: Opinions on the Regular Reception by Leading Officials of Citizens Who Come to Make Complaints, Opinions on the Regular Organization of Officials from Central Departments of the Party and Government to Visit Grassroots Localities, and Opinions on the Systematization of the Efforts to Sort Out, Check and Resolve Conflicts and Disputes. In accordance with the new guidelines, people with complaints not only have access to secretaries of county Party committees but also

leading officials of departments at all levels. In addition, visits of officials from central departments and state organs to grassroots localities have been standardized, and the efforts to sort out, check and resolve conflicts and disputes have been systematized. In this way, the legal system safeguarding the voicing of public complaints has been further improved. In 2009 the number of letters from and visits of the people for petition dropped by 2.7 percent over the previous year, a decrease for the fifth consecutive year.

III. Judicial Guarantee of Human Rights

In 2009 China took a further step in improving its judicial system to strengthen the protection of human rights in law enforcement and judicial practices.

China has cracked down on various criminal offenses in accordance with the law to protect citizens' life and property and their other human rights. In 2009 China's procuratorial organs ratified the arrest of 941,091 suspects in criminal cases and instituted legal proceedings against 1,134,380 people. The people's courts at all levels settled trials of first instance of 767,000 criminal cases, in which 997,000 criminals received prison sentence, and cleared 3,407,000 old cases. These actions protected the victims' legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the law.

Adhering to the principle of "enforcing law in the interest of the people," China's public security organs have actively adopted measures convenient for and beneficial to the people as a standard practice of law enforcement. In October 2009 the Ministry of Public Security enacted the Rules on Law Enforcement of Public Security Organs, which clearly specifies the standards for handling administrative and criminal cases by public security organs to prevent abuse of power and infringements upon citizens' rights. In light of their actual conditions, public security organs at all levels formulated law-enforcement standards and laid down specific requirements for human rights protection in law enforcement activities. In December 2009 the Ministry of Public Security issued the Decision on the Amendment to the "Regulations on the Application for and Use of Motor Vehicle Driving Licenses." The Decision loosened the restrictions on the physical conditions of people with lower limb, finger and hearing disabilities so as to meet their demand to drive motor vehicles. The Regulations on the Disciplines for People's Police Forces of Public Security Organs, which went into effect on June 1, 2010, is China's first systematic departmental ordinance regarding punishment of breach of discipline by the public security organs and people's police forces. Disciplinary measures are clearly defined for physical punishment and abuse of suspects and people in custody, and other targeting people of public security work.

The procuratorial organs perform their legal supervision functions conscientiously to protect citizens' rights. In 2009 the procuratorial organs performed their supervision duties by requesting the public security organs to investigate 19,466 additional cases, and to cancel 6,742 cases. They made decisions to arrest 21,232 additional criminals and suspects and cancel the arrests of 123,235 people. They also brought suits against an additional 18,954 people and canceled the prosecutions of 33,048 people. The procuratorial organs urged the correction of unlawful procedures during the investigation of 25,664 cases, protested what they believed to be wrong judgments in 3,963 criminal cases, and put forward rectification opinions for unlawful procedures in 4,035 criminal trials. The procuratorial organs resolutely prosecuted crimes infringing citizens' human rights committed by officials making use of their positions, and investigated 478 state functionaries suspected of illegally taking people into custody, sabotaging elections, retaliation and false accusation. (more)

Judicial transparency has increased. In 2009 the Supreme People's Court issued the Six Provisions on Judicial Openness, which applies the principle of openness to every

procedure of trial and law enforcement, improves the regulations on the release of judgment documents on the Internet and live broadcast of court hearings, requires openness of the judicial process and results, adopts a regular press-release system, and expands the scope and depth of judicial openness. In the same year, the Supreme People's Court enacted the Disciplinary Regulations for Staff Members of People's Courts. On the basis of this ordinance, 795 staff members of people's courts at all levels were investigated and punished for breaches of law or discipline. Among them, 137 were transferred to judicial organs for investigation. A total of 303,000 letters voicing grievances from ordinary people were addressed by the courts and 1,055,000 complainants were received.

The legal aid system has achieved remarkable results, effectively protecting the legitimate rights and interests of people with financial difficulties. In June 2009 the Ministry of Justice organized activities with the theme "Legal aid services for the convenience of the people," and promoted ten measures nationwide to help ordinary people with legal affairs. The coverage of legal aid has been expanded throughout the country, and issues including health care, employment, education, work remuneration and social security which are closely related to the people's well-being have been incorporated as supplements into the coverage of legal aid for the protection of citizens' rights and interests. More and more regions in China have adjusted the "financial difficulty level" to 1.5 to 2 times the minimum living standard of the region in question so that more people with financial difficulties can enjoy the benefit of legal aid. The legal aid network is being continuously consolidated. By the end of 2009 some 3,274 legal aid organizations and 58,031 legal aid service centers had been set up at the provincial, city and county levels nationwide, providing convenient access to legal aid services. In 2009, over 640,000 legal aid cases were handled, and legal consultancy services were extended to 4.84 million people, effectively protecting the legitimate rights and interests of people with financial difficulties.

The role of lawyers in protecting human rights through judicial means has been increasingly strengthened. In 2009 China formulated regulations and rules in this respect, specifying relevant stipulations in the Law of the People's Republic of China on Lawyers. These detailed regulations facilitate the implementation of stipulations in the Law on lawyers' rights to consult with clients, to read case records, and to investigate and collect evidence, advancing the development of litigation on the part of lawyers and creating a strong legal guarantee for lawyers to carry out their responsibilities and play a larger role in judicial procedures. In 2009 lawyers throughout the country undertook over 1.96 million litigation cases of all types, effectively protecting the legitimate rights and interests of their clients and promoting judicial justice.

The legal rights and interests of people in detention and prison are protected by law. In 2009 the Ministry of Justice enacted and implemented the Assessment Measures for the Work on the Rehabilitation of Criminals in Prison to popularize the performance assessment system of rehabilitation work in an all-round way. It also carried out a campaign focusing on "regulating law enforcement actions and raising the level of law enforcement" in an attempt to solve the problems in law enforcement. A rehabilitation mode of "5+1+1," namely five days of rehabilitation through labor and one day of classroom education, plus one day of rest every week has been widely adopted in prisons. Measures have been taken to ensure that prisoners' standard of living and health care levels always keep up with the country's social and economic development. In 2009 the procuratorial organs urged the correction of the excessive detention of 337 people, and put forward rectification opinions on 22,268 cases of unlawful actions. In the same year the procuratorial organs joined hands with the public security organs in launching a special inspection of supervision and law enforcement at detention houses throughout China. This campaign discovered and punished 2,207 prisoners who bullied other inmates, and 123 of them were prosecuted for their acts involving criminal offences. The procuratorial organs and the Ministry of Justice jointly carried out a campaign to "check for possible hidden dangers of accidents and improve the

safety of detention houses and prisons." As a result improvement was made in safety measures and supervision work in order to protect the legitimate rights and interests of criminals.

Meanwhile, the people's mediation system has been strengthened. By the end of 2009 a total of 823,000 people's mediation committees with 4,938,000 mediators from among ordinary people had been established throughout China. In 2009 these committees mediated 7,676,000 disputes, prevented 48,000 civil disputes from escalating into criminal cases, and stopped 18,000 people from committing suicide in civil dispute cases.

IV. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In 2009 the Chinese government undertook the protection of the people's economic, social and cultural rights as a major task throughout the process of advancing the steady and rapid socioeconomic development of the country. To cope with the international financial crisis, it adopted effective measures, with emphasis on solving problems in such fields as employment, health care, social security, and education which affect the immediate interests of the people, and achieved remarkable results.

The right to employment is protected. In 2009 China appropriated 42 billion yuan for the increase of job opportunities, a rise of 66.7 percent over the previous year. In 2009, 11.02 million new job opportunities were created and 5.14 million laid-off workers were reemployed in urban areas of China; the registered unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in urban areas; the employment rate of that year's college graduates reached 87.4 percent; and the number of rural migrant workers totaled 145 million, an increase of 4.92 million over the previous year. The government helped 186,000 people in earthquake-stricken Wenchuan to find jobs, ensuring that at least one person in each household had a job.

China has developed vocational training to enhance people's employment qualifications. In 2009 the state issued the Notice on Implementing the Special Plan for Vocational Training. In accordance with the Notice, China decided to implement a special plan for vocational training from 2009 to 2010. The plan focused on addressing the employment needs of workers affected by the financial crisis and providing vocational training for four groups of workers, namely employees of crisis-stricken enterprises, rural migrant workers who had lost their jobs and returned to their hometowns, urban unemployed people, and new entrants to the job market. In 2009 the state gave vocational training to over 21.6 million person/times, including vocational training to 2.6 million person/times of enterprises with difficulties in their operation, new-job training to 11 million person/times of rural workers, reemployment training to 4.5 million person/times of urban unemployed people, preparatory training to 2.4 million person/times, and entrepreneurship training to 1.1 million person/times.

The legitimate rights and interests of workers are protected in accordance with the law. In 2009 the state formulated the Guiding Opinions on Responding to the Current Economic Situation and Stabilizing Labor Relations, giving full play to the tripartite labor relations mechanism to keep enterprises afloat, to ensure employment and to maintain social stability. In 2009 labor security supervision organs nationwide conducted inspections of 1.75 million employers, involving 90.298 million workers; investigated and addressed 439,000 cases of law violation regarding labor security; urged employers to sign labor contracts with 10.737 million workers; recovered 8.92 billion yuan of defaulted wages for 5.931 million workers; and demanded that employers pay 4.64 billion yuan in overdue social insurance premiums for their workers. Labor dispute arbitration organs at all levels filed and heard 684,000 cases of labor disputes and mediated 178,000 labor disputes. The

settlement rate of such cases in that year was 10.8 percent higher than in the previous year, effectively contributing to the building of harmonious labor relations.

In addition, the social security system has been further improved. In 2009 the central treasury put 290.6 billion yuan into social security, 16.6 percent higher than in the previous year. By the end of 2009 the number of people participating in unemployment insurance had reached 127.15 million, an increase of 3.15 million over that of the end of 2008, while the number of people receiving unemployment insurance benefits was 2.35 million, a decrease of 260,000 from the end of 2008. In 2009 the number of people participating in basic medical insurance topped 1.2 billion, a national coverage rate of over 90 percent. An additional 83.25 million people participated in medical insurance for urban employees and urban residents, bringing the number of people in urban areas with medical insurance to over 400 million. The number of rural residents participating in the new rural cooperative medical service system reached 833 million, an increase of 16.3 million over 2008. The maximum payments by urban employees' medical insurance, urban residents' medical insurance and new rural cooperative medical service system equaled about six times the average wages of local employees, per capita disposable personal income of local urban residents, and per capita net income of rural residents, respectively. Moreover, the reimbursement rate of medical insurance has continued to increase. In 2008 and 2009 the state appropriated a total of 50.9 billion yuan to solve medical insurance problems for retirees of state-owned enterprises that had gone bankrupt or closed down. By the end of 2009 the number of people participating in basic pension insurance had reached 235.5 million, an increase of 16.59 million or 7.6 percent over 2008. The new rural social pension insurance system was implemented on a trial basis in 320 counties (county-level cities or districts) in 27 provinces and autonomous regions, and four municipalities directly under the central government, 11.8 percent of the administrative units of those areas. The pilot program covered 130 million rural residents, including 15.3 million people 60 years old and above. By the end of 2009 over half of the provinces in China were practicing the pooling of funds for work-related injury insurance at city level, and most of the provinces had established the reserve fund system for work-related injury insurance. The number of people participating in work-related injury insurance had reached 148.96 million, an increase of 11.09 million over the previous year. The 2009 figure included 55.87 million rural migrant workers, an increase of 6.45 million over 2008. In 2009 the number of people covered by maternity insurance was 108.76 million, an increase of 16.22 million over the previous year. In 2009 a total of 1.74 million people enjoyed the benefits of maternity insurance.

Citizens' right to education is guaranteed. By the end of 2009 some 99.7 percent of the school-age population had access to nine-year compulsory education, and 99.5 percent of counties in China had provided nine-year compulsory education. In urban areas 96.64 percent of first-year elementary school students had received pre-school education, while in the rural areas the figure was 88.55 percent. In the same year, 99.4 percent of school-age children were enrolled in elementary schools, and 99.31 percent of them completed five years' study at elementary schools. Roughly, close to 99 percent of the children in the 12-14 age group were enrolled in junior high schools, and 94 percent of these children completed their three-year courses at junior high schools. About 79.2 percent of the children in the 15-17 age group were enrolled in senior high schools. In 2009 the enrollment of college students was 6.395 million, an increase of 318,000 over the previous year, and the enrollment of postgraduate students was 511,000, an increase of 65,000 over 2008. China attaches great importance to education in rural areas. In 2009 the central treasury appropriated 58.7 billion yuan as special funds for the promotion of compulsory education in rural areas. The funds included 35.7 billion yuan for public expenses, 13.8 billion yuan for supplying free textbooks, 5.1 billion yuan for the maintenance and renovation of school buildings, and 4.1 billion yuan for living expense subsidies for boarders from poor families.

The state exempted 130 million rural students from sundry fees and textbook charges for compulsory education, and earmarked living expense subsidies for 11 million boarders from poor rural families in central and western China at the rate of 500 yuan per elementary school student per year and 750 yuan per junior high school student per year. In all elementary and middle schools in rural areas across China, the annual minimum budgets of public expenses for each elementary school student and for each junior high school student reached 300 yuan and 500 yuan, respectively, in the same year. By the end of 2009 over 6,063 buildings of junior high schools in rural areas of central and western China had been renovated, covering a total area of 12.81 million sq m. An investment of over 11 billion yuan was put into the distance-education network project for rural schools. The money was used to buy equipment for 360,000 rural elementary and middle schools in 23 provinces in central and western China and the Production and Construction Corps of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The equipment included a total of 402,000 sets of audio and visual players, 279,000 sets of TV-computer equipment receiving education programs from satellites and 45,000 computer rooms with multimedia installations.

China has improved the system of providing assistance to poor students. In 2009 the central treasury earmarked 9.28 billion yuan in national scholarships for secondary vocational schools, providing financial aid to nearly 12 million students, or 90 percent of the total number of first- and second-year students in these schools. The central treasury also appropriated 2.4 billion yuan for these schools to exempt poor rural students and students taking agriculture-related programs from tuition for the autumn semester. About 4.4 million students in these schools benefited from this fund. In 2009 the central treasury earmarked 600 million yuan in educational assistance funds pooled from lottery earnings for public welfare to give financial aid to 600,000 senior high school students from poor families. A 7.05 billion yuan national scholarship fund was assigned to colleges, benefiting 4.6943 million college students nationwide. Student loans became available in 24 provinces, and 22 had extended loans to students in 2009. The same year witnessed an additional of 600,000 students receiving the student loans. When the 2009 autumn semester began, 532,500 poor students were enrolled by colleges through the express "green channels." These students accounted for 95.5 percent of extremely poor students, 36.1 percent of students from poor families and 9.1 percent of all new students.

In the meantime, the people's cultural life is being increasingly enriched. By the end of 2009, China was publishing 43.7 billion copies of newspapers, 3.1 billion copies of periodicals/magazines, and 7 billion volumes of books. The country had 2,478 art troupes, 3,214 cultural centers, 2,833 public libraries, 1,996 museums, 251 radio stations, 272 TV stations, 2,087 radio and TV stations, and 44 radio and TV stations exclusively for education purpose. There were 173.98 million cable TV users, and 62 million users of cable digital TV services. The overall population coverage rates of radio and TV broadcasting were 96.3 percent and 97.2 percent, respectively. In 2009 China made 456 feature films and 102 other films including popular science films, documentaries, animated cartoons and so on. By the end of 2009 China had 4,035 archive institutions, giving the public access to 79.91 million files.

The building of a public cultural service system covering both urban and rural areas has been accelerated, and service capabilities and levels have been markedly enhanced. In 2009 there were 2,850 public libraries and 3,223 art and cultural centers at and above the county level, and 38,736 cultural stations across China. A total of 1,749 museums had offered free access by the year 2009. Since February 7, 2009 the National Library has reduced or eliminated charges for some of its services.

The national cultural resources sharing project transforms the country's excellent cultural resources to digital format, and then disseminates them through the Internet, satellite, television and mobile phone networks, enabling the building and sharing of the best of our

cultural heritages across the nation. By 2009 some 757,000 service outlets at all levels for cultural resources sharing had been established. The volume of shared digital cultural information had reached 90 TB, including 70,132 hours of video resources, 52,691 titles of e-books and 3,604 e-periodicals. Of these, 1,510 hours of video resources and 1,250 titles of e-books were available in five minority languages, namely, Tibetan, Mongolian, Uyghur, Kazakh and Korean. By the end of 2009 the cultural resources sharing project had provided services to 700 million people.

In 2009 the state invested 407 million yuan in sports-for-all projects. The Regulations on National Fitness, promulgated by the state, was China's first specialized administrative document comprehensively and systematically regulating the development of national fitness undertakings in such aspects as administrative mechanism and national fitness plans and activities. The Regulations on National Fitness was also the first national regulations to stipulate that citizens have the right to participation in national fitness activities in accordance with laws.

V. Equal Rights and Special Protection for Ethnic Minorities

In China, citizens of all ethnic groups enjoy equal rights as stipulated in the Constitution and other laws. Citizens of ethnic minorities also enjoy special rights in accordance with the law.

The state guarantees by law ethnic minorities' equal rights in participation in the administration of state and regional affairs. At present, all 55 ethnic-minority groups have their own deputies to the National Peoples Congress (NPC) and members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Ethnic groups with a population of more than one million have members in the NPC Standing Committee. At each past session of NPC, the proportion of ethnic-minority deputies to the total number of deputies was higher than that of the contemporary ethnic-minority population to that of the total national population. The standing committees of people's congresses in all 155 ethnic-minority autonomous areas have chairs or vice-chairs who are citizens of the ethnic groups exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned. The head of an autonomous region, autonomous prefecture or autonomous county shall be a citizen of the ethnic group exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned. By 2009 there were over 2.9 million ethnic-minority cadres in China, accounting for 7.4 percent of the nation's total number of cadres. About 9.6 percent of China's public servants were from ethnic minorities.

The state intensifies its support to the development of ethnic-minority areas, and the standard of living of ethnic minorities is steadily improving. In recent years, the state has formulated a series of favorable policies which have effectively propelled the socioeconomic development of ethnic-minority groups and regions. The documents include Opinions on Further Enhancing the Socioeconomic Development of Xinjiang, Opinions on Recent Support for Socioeconomic Development in Tibet, Opinions on Further Improving the Socioeconomic Development of Ningxia and Development Plan for the Guangxi North Bay Economic Zone. In 2009 China invested 1.24 billion yuan for the socioeconomic development of the areas inhabited by ethnic-minority people. In the same year the government invested a total of 780 million yuan, which effectively helped over 80 percent of villages inhabited by ethnic-minority people with smaller population to reach the targets mapped out in the Development Plan for Supporting Smaller Ethnic Minorities (2005-2010). With strengthened efforts for boosting border-region economies, China enlarged the national assistance scope to include 136 border counties and the area of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. In 2009 the state implemented new poverty reduction criteria, enlarged the scope of assistance and carried out comprehensive poverty-alleviation

policies for the low-income rural population in the areas inhabited by ethnic-minority people. As a result, the rural population in dire poverty in ethnic-minority areas dropped to over 7.7 million in 2008 from 12.45 million in 2004. In 2009 most of the exceptionally poor villages in ethnic-minority areas had access to roads, power supply, telephones, and radio and TV coverage. They also had schools, clinics, safe drinking water for people and livestock, safe housing, basic farmland or grassland that guarantee adequate food and clothing, and per capita food consumption and per capita net income also reached national poverty-alleviation standards.

Public health care systems in ethnic-minority areas have picked up development speed. From 2004 to 2009 the state invested 4.7 billion yuan in the public health care systems, prevention and control of major diseases, immunization program, health care for women and children, medical personnel training, rural cooperative medical service and traditional ethnic medicine in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. By the end of 2008 some 681 out of 699 counties in the ethnic autonomous areas had implemented the new system. Five autonomous regions and three provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Qinghai with large numbers of ethnic-minority inhabitants realized full coverage. The implementation speed of the system in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities overtook that of the national average.

The education level of ethnic minorities keeps increasing. Ethnic-minority areas have established complete education systems from pre-school to higher education, and the period of education for ethnic-minority population has increased significantly. Ninety-eight percent of school-age children in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities attend elementary schools. By the end of 2009 some 686 out of 699 counties in ethnic autonomous areas had realized nine-year compulsory education and met the target of basically eradicating illiteracy among the young and middle-aged population. The other 13 counties have plans to reach these goals in 2010. By 2009 China had altogether 15 institutions of higher learning for ethnic minorities. The number of full-time students at these schools reached 200,000, of whom 60 percent were from ethnic minorities. More than 300 universities and colleges had opened preparatory courses and regular classes for ethnic-minority students, with a total enrollment of 31,000.

The traditional cultures of ethnic minorities are protected and encouraged to develop. At the National Ethnic-minority Cultural Work Meeting in June 2009 the State Council issued the Opinions on Further Developing Ethnic-minority Cultural Undertakings, which outlined the major tasks, targets, and measures for the cultural development of ethnic minorities at present and for the years to come. It is a strong guarantee for further development and prosperity of ethnic-minority culture. Cultural facilities construction in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities is being enhanced. During the 11th Five-year Plan period (2006-2010), China is to provide a 3.857-billion-yuan subsidy to the central and western regions of the country, including 913 million yuan to the five autonomous regions and three provinces with large numbers of ethnic-minority inhabitants and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. Through a cultural center construction plan, this subsidy from the government will be used as part of the investment to construct 23,400 comprehensive cultural centers in villages and townships. The state has provided financial aid to renew a large amount of broadcasting and film dubbing equipment for minority languages, has set up 10 minority-language film dubbing centers in Inner Mongolia, Tibet, and Xinjiang, studied and developed state-of-the-art digital technology for film dubbing. The state is strengthening financial support for the maintenance and protection of key cultural relic protection units and the collection of valuable cultural relics in ethnic-minority areas. A special fund of 400 million yuan has been arranged for the protection of over 20 national key relic protection units and ancient sites in Xinjiang during the 11th Five-year Plan period. Currently the number of national key relic protection units in ethnic-minority areas has reached 366, and the Potala Palace, the ancient city of Lijiang and other cultural sites have been included in the UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list. The Muqam music of

the Xinjiang Uyghur people, the Mongolian Long Song, the Kam Grand Choir of the Dong people of Guizhou Province, the Epic of King Gesar, the Regong art of Qinghai Province, Tibetan opera, the Manas Epic of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the Hoomei singing of the Mongolians, the Hua'er folk songs of Gansu Province, Korean Pungmul dancing, among others, have been included in UNESCO's Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Currently two of the nation's four cultural ecological protection experimental areas feature ethnic-minority cultures. The state has issued the Guiding Opinions on the Experimental Work of Protection and Development of Ethnic-minority Villages and Stockaded Villages, and carried out experiments on the protection and development of villages and stockaded villages with minority features. In 2009 a total of 50 million yuan was invested in experimental work for the protection and development of 121 ethnic-minority villages and stockaded villages.

The ethnic minorities' rights to study, use and develop their own languages are protected. The state effectively guarantees the use of ethnic-minority languages in administrative and judicial work, news media and publications, broadcasting and film, culture and education, and other areas. Examination papers have minority-language versions in the National Matriculation Test. Moreover, China implements bilingual education in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. At present, over 10,000 schools with a total of 6 million students use 29 languages of 21 ethnic groups in classroom teaching.

VI. Rights and Interests of People with Disabilities

China is working hard to develop services for people with disabilities, to solve their difficulties, and to guarantee their legitimate rights.

The state is actively improving laws and regulations to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities. The Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, revised on April 24, 2008, strengthened the legal system for protecting the rights and interests of people with disabilities. In 2009 the state issued the Measures for Air Transport of Persons with Disabilities, stipulating detailed measures for the rights of this group in the field of air transport. At present, the Chinese legislature is working on the Regulations on the Construction of Non-barrier Facilities, Regulations on Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, and national standards for classifying disabilities. In December 2009, China revised the Regulations on the Application for and Use of Motor Vehicle Driving Licenses, loosening the restrictions on the physical conditions of drivers, and making it possible for some of the disabled to drive motor vehicles. In 2009 China set up the first batch of 56 workstations that provide legal aid to people with disabilities.

China has improved the social security and service systems for people with disabilities. In 2009 the state formulated the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Building of the Social Security and Service Systems for People with Disabilities, and 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government issued opinions on how to implement the Guiding Opinions. In 2009 a pilot project for a new rural pension insurance system was carried out in China, requiring local governments to pay part or the total amount of the minimum pension insurance premium for rural people with severe disabilities and other groups with difficulty paying this type of insurance premiums.

China is working hard to improve rehabilitation services for people with disabilities. In 2009 some 6.2 million people with disabilities were rehabilitated to different degrees, and 2,376 municipal districts and counties (county-level cities) carried out rehabilitation in communities, enabling 9.844 million people with disabilities to enjoy rehabilitation services in their communities. In addition, the government provided 1.122 million items of

assistance equipment for people with disabilities, including 598,000 pieces of the equipment given for free to those poor people with disabilities. The state invested 711 million yuan in an emergency rehabilitation project for poor children with disabilities, which benefited nearly 60,000 children. Meanwhile, the state carried out a project for training rehabilitation professionals, turning out over 2,200 managerial and technical personnel in this field and nearly 130,000 coordinators for community rehabilitation.

China constantly develops education for people with disabilities. In 2009 the Chinese government issued the Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Special Education. The Opinions states clearly that the government will accelerate the development of special education, particularly high-school education and higher education with focus on vocational education for people with disabilities. This has effectively expanded the scope of compulsory education for people with disabilities. Given the weaknesses in special education, the Opinions puts forward measures such as improving the mechanism for guaranteeing special education funds, strengthening faculty building, enhancing the classroom performance of students, and using all means to eliminate illiteracy among young and middle-aged people. Compulsory education for children and teenagers with disabilities is being steadily promoted. The state has so far provided occupational training sessions for 785,000 persons with disabilities, and institutions of higher learning have enrolled 7,782 students with disabilities.

More and better public services for people with disabilities are provided. By 2009 there were 3,474 homes for people with disabilities in China, where 110,000 disabled people were taken care of. The state helped 1.085 million impoverished rural people with disabilities to shake off poverty, and helped 102,000 poor families with one or more disabled members to renovate their houses, benefiting 140,000 people with disabilities. From 2009 to 2011 the state is to earmark 200 million yuan each year to subsidize agencies that provide services for working-age people with mental or severe physical disabilities. In 2009 the state helped 350,000 urban residents with disabilities to find employment, bringing the number of employed urban residents with disabilities to 4.434 million. At the same time, the number of employed rural residents with disabilities reached 17.57 million.

China also makes efforts to enrich the lives of disabled people in the cultural and sports areas. In 2009 China held the Seventh National Variety Performance by People with Disabilities, in which 30,000 candidates were selected and 4,000 performers and related staff members took part. In 2009 the state issued the Regulations on National Fitness, clearly specifying disabled people's rights to take part in physical exercises and sporting events. Chinese athletes with disabilities have participated in 19 international events, including the 21st Deaflympics, the 9th Special Olympics World Winter Games, the Paralympic World Cup held in Great Britain, the Tokyo 2009 Asian Youth Para Games, and the World Wheelchair and Amputee Games, and won 158 gold medals. China has held 14 national games for disabled people, involving 5,000 athletes. The Special Olympics has developed steadily in China, and the number of its Special Olympics athletes has reached 900,000.

China is constantly improving the environment for people with disabilities to take part in social life. It has established a special column titled "Services for people with disabilities" on the Central Government's official web portal (www.gov.cn). China has also set up a state-level digital library for people with visual impairment (www.cd1vi.cn). Meanwhile, it has made new progress in constructing non-barrier facilities: 100 cities are working to build themselves into non-barrier cities, making sure people with disabilities have non-barrier access to the main streets, shopping malls, hospitals, hotels, cinemas, museums, airports, bus stations, railway stations and other public buildings, as well as residential buildings, paving the way for people with disabilities to go out confidently and fully engage in social

life. The government and all sectors of society are promoting humanitarianism, and urge people to understand, respect, care for and help people with disabilities.

VII. Exchanges and Cooperation with Other Countries in the Realm of Human Rights

China has long taken the initiative to have exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the realm of human rights, endeavoring to promote the sound development of human rights on the international stage.

China is an active participant in the work of UN's human rights agencies, and it plays a constructive role in order to encourage countries around the world to handle human rights issues fairly, objectively and non-selectively.

In February 2009 China received the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from the United Nations Human Rights Council for the first time. During the review, China, with a serious and highly-responsible attitude, gave a detailed account of its human rights situation, the challenges facing the country and what was needed to be done in the future, and conducted an open and frank dialogue with other countries. China's efforts and progress made in the sphere of human rights have been recognized by many countries, and in June 2009 the UN Human Rights Council verified and approved the report reviewing China's human rights situation. In 2009, a Chinese delegation attended the meetings of the Third Committee of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly, and the 10th, 11th and 12th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, and participated in the fourth, fifth and sixth UPR sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. Chinese experts attended the second and third sessions of the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council, and the fourth and fifth sessions of the Working Group on Communications of the UN Human Rights Council. China played an active part in the Durban Review Conference held in April 2009. When working in the organizations and participating in the meetings mentioned above, China, as always, upheld the basic tenets and principles stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, performed its duties conscientiously, and proactively participated in reviews and discussions of the human rights issues.

China attaches great importance to the significant role played by international human rights instruments in the promotion and protection of human rights, and has joined 25 international conventions on human rights, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Meanwhile, China is actively working for the approval of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Chinese government has taken effective measures to guarantee the implementation of its obligations as stipulated by international human rights conventions it has joined. In 2009 China set about drawing up the second report of its implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the consolidated report of the third and fourth implementations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the first report of its implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In August 2009 China received a review of its 10th to 13th consolidated report of its implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination conducted by the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The committee affirmed China's policies, measures and achievements made in developing the economy in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, enhancing the development of the smaller ethnic minorities, raising people's living standard, promoting health care and education, and protecting the cultures of ethnic minorities.

The Chinese government has been actively involved in formulating international human rights instruments. In 2009 the Chinese government sent a delegation to attend the meeting of the working group to establish an optional protocol for a complaint mechanism to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. China actively recommended its experts to participate in the work of organizations supporting human rights treaties. In 2009 a Chinese expert was elected as deputy chairperson of the newly-organized UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and was reappointed a member of the UN Committee against Torture.

China has been taking the initiative to carry out international cooperation in the realm of human rights, attaching great importance to technical cooperation with the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on human rights cooperation between China and the OHCHR in 2000, both sides have carried out a series of cooperative programs on human rights on the principle of mutual respect. China resolutely supports the programs of the OHCHR, and made another donation of US\$20,000 to it in 2009. China highly appreciates the important functions of the UN's Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council in the realm of international human rights, and maintains close cooperation with it. The Chinese government replies to all inquiries from the Special Procedures in a highly responsible manner, and has invited the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food of the Human Rights Council to visit China. China will continue cooperation in follow-up work with the United Nations Children's Fund office in China on the review of China report conducted by the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child. An international symposium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Its Implementation in China and a symposium on the Report of the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were held in China in 2009.

China upholds the principles of equality and mutual respect when carrying out bilateral dialogues and communication in the field of human rights with related countries. In 2009 China held human rights dialogues and consultations with the European Union, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Australia and Norway, and communicated with countries such as Russia and Laos. Through dialogue and communication with other countries, mutual understanding concerning human rights has been enhanced, gaps have been narrowed and consensuses have been reached.

The full realization of human rights is an important goal for China in its efforts to build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way as well as to build a harmonious society. Working closely with other countries, China will, as always, spare no efforts and contribute its due share to ensure the continuous progress of China's human rights, as well as the healthy development of human rights in the rest of the world and the building of a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity.