



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

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

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding, 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.

[04 September 2017]

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

GE.17-15601(E)



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## **Protecting the development rights of ethnic minorities, We are looking forward to doing better**

Dear President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great honor to introduce the efforts did by China's NGOs in promoting and safeguarding the development rights of ethnic minorities. In recent years, China's NGOs have developed rapidly. Meanwhile, The Chinese government has highly recognized the positive role of NGOs and has given sufficient support to NGOs to carry out public welfare projects involving ethnic minorities. With the government's support, our NGOs have organized and implemented a large number of public welfare projects for the ethnic minorities, and obtained remarkable achievements in many aspects.

Firstly, our NGOs cooperated with national development plans and strategies actively. The Chinese government has initiated and implemented a series of national plans included " Great Western Development Strategy", " The Belt and Road " and "poverty alleviation" in recent years. Our NGOs have organized various programs to coordinate with these strategies. For example, we have spread the micro-finance in rural areas and achieved great success of poverty alleviation in ethnic minority areas.

Secondly, our NGOs have organized and implemented a large number of public welfare projects with the support of the government. For instance, Elion Foundation, one of the famous foundations of China, has been dedicated to Kubuqi desertification control nearly three decades with the assistance of local government, and now more than 5000 sq.Km of desert has changed greening and nearly 10, 000 sq.Km of desert has been controlled. It has ever become one of the most successful model for global desertification control. Elion Foundation was granted to Land for Life Award by UNCCD in 2015. Another well-known project is "Water Cellar for Mothers", organized by the China Women's Development Foundation (CWDF) and supported by several governmental departments. The project was intended to solve the safety of drinking water for rural women and their families in western China where were most of ethnic minority areas. The project has been implemented successfully for almost 17 years. The United Nations considered the prodigious achievement of the project to help people who were lived in an arid area.

Thirdly, our NGOs have strengthened exchanges and cooperation with international non-governmental organizations. Partly estimated, the co-operation project organized by our NGOs and overseas NGOs spread more than 200 counties covering 31 provinces throughout the mainland. For example, the International Heifer Project was introduced in China in 1984, the number of directly supported farmers has increased from 104 in 1984 to 8658 in 2014, nearly 110, 000 households have completed the program succeeding in getting out of extreme poverty.

Finally, the government is providing some special policies to NGOs for the purpose of protecting the development rights of ethnic minorities. In terms of legislation, the Chinese government is launching a revision of the relevant laws and regulations on NGOs. It will gradually reduce the threshold of access to non-governmental organizations and to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of NGOs. In terms of administration, the Chinese government is improving the tax and fiscal policies for NGOs, and supporting the development of volunteer service organizations. It also committed to provide much more convenient for the development of NGOs. In fact, with the supports of these policies, most of the projects organized by NGOs to protecting ethnic minorities have been well organized and implemented. Our NGOs are playing more and more important role in promoting the development rights of ethnic minorities.

Despite the fact that the environment faced by NGOs has improved considerably in recent years, NGOs still face numerous difficulties in many way. However, there is no huge divergence between NGOs and the government. We have the same goals and tasks in protecting the development rights of ethnic minorities. We are looking forward to enhancing cooperation with the government and we firmly believe that our NGOs will be able to collaborate with the government more effective and more efficient. Together, we are able to do a great job of protecting the development rights for ethnic minority groups in the future.