



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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

### **Written statement\* submitted by All China Women's Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

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

[30 May 2019]

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



In recent years, China has made great progress in protecting women's rights and interests and promoting gender equality. All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) would like to address this issue from the following aspects.

First, China constantly improve relevant laws, regulations and policies to safeguard women's rights and interests. China has formed a system of legislation, with the nation's constitution as the basis, the *Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women* at the core and some other 100 relevant laws and regulations concerning women's rights and interests, including the *Law on the Promotion of Employment*, *Labor Contract Law*, *Special Regulations on the Labor Protection of Female Employees* and the *Anti-Domestic Violence Law*, providing fundamental guarantees for women's development and protection of their rights. Recent examples include: In March 2016, the *Anti-Domestic Violence Law* was formally implemented, which is China's first law aimed at preventing and stopping domestic violence and has played an important role in promoting harmonious family relations. The Supreme People's Court added the causes of action on equal employment rights and sexual harassment. In February 2019, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and other departments jointly issued the "*Notice on Further Regulating Recruitment and Promoting Women's Employment*", taking multiple measures including administrative law enforcement, judicial proceedings and social services to help tackle gender discrimination in recruitment.

Second, China's gender equality assessment mechanism is constantly improving. By 2019, 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country had established mechanisms for assessing gender equality in laws regulations and policies, covering almost all provinces in China. It's of great significance for achieving gender equality during formulation and implementation of laws and policies.

Third, China pays special attention to women's poverty alleviation and reduction. Significant progress has been made in alleviating poverty among women. China has implemented the *Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)*, making women a key focus of attention and giving priority to women regarding policies, funds and measures when all other conditions are equal. Women's Poverty Alleviation Demonstration Bases are established nationwide and increased support are provided for impoverished women. In 2017, the rural poverty population in China decreased by 140 million, as compared to 2010, of which half are women. In 2017, 57.73 million people were covered by subsistence allowances for urban and rural residents and relief subsidies for people living in extreme poverty, of which over 22.72 million were women, accounting for 39.4% of the total.

Last but not least, China gives full play to the role of women's organizations in the ground work for rights protection. Women's federations actively participate in receiving and handling letters and visits of complaints from women, as well as operating the 12338 service hotline for the protection of women's rights. By the end of 2017, more than 2,900 legal aid stations were established with efforts of the women's federations nationwide to facilitate women's application for legal aid. Women's voices are given more attention in the legislation and policy making process. As the largest women's organization in China, the All-China Women's Federation closely connects women from all walks of life, listens to their voices and makes their voices and needs heard by legislatures, judicial authorities and government departments at all levels through legal procedures, making sure that laws and public policies are in line with the basic state policy of equality between men and women.

Meanwhile, we are aware that there still are problems and challenges in protecting women's rights and interests in China given insufficient level of social economic development as well as historical and cultural conventions. Gender-based discrimination happens in many fields. Implementation of the comprehensive two-child policy has brought new challenges to women's equal employment. Further efforts can be made by improving advocacy and training on the basic state policy of equality between men and women, actively promoting advanced gender culture in the society, continuously improving social security for women, especially rural women, so as to further mainstream gender equality in all fields of economic and social life.