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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 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.

[22 August 2021]

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



## **Practice in Protecting Ethnic Minorities' Rights in Accordance with the Law, Enhancing the Inter-ethnic Unity and Social Inclusiveness**

Chinese NGOs, for example Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE), have always been attaching importance to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council related with ethnic minorities. We noted that the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues of this year took the theme of "Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities". We finds that China has some good practice and conducive experience in protecting the ethnic minorities' rights in accordance with law and enhancing the inter-ethnic unity and social inclusiveness, which we wish to share with concerned agencies and mechanisms of the United Nations, government departments of other countries engaged in ethnic affairs and interested NGOs. Therefore, We wrote this report that includes three aspects deemed most effective based on a thematic research.

First, forming a relatively complete legal system to protect the rights of the ethnic minorities and inter-ethnic unity. There are a large number of articles about protecting the rights of ethnic minorities and enhancing ethnic unity in China's Constitution, laws, administrative regulations, and local regulations. Furthermore, there are basic law, administrative and local regulations that are particularly formulated for the ethnic affairs, such as The Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy and The Regulations on Urban Ethnic Work.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China, as the fundamental law of China, is composed of many provisions and expressions about ethnic affairs in the preamble, the 4th article in Chapter I of the text and several other articles. The article 4 of Chapter I provides that, all ethnic groups of the People's Republic of China are equal; the state shall assist all ethnic minority areas in accelerating their economic and cultural development; all areas inhabited by ethnic minorities shall practice regional autonomy; all ethnic groups shall have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their own traditions and customs. In one word, the Constitution has provided basic legal guarantee for formulating other laws and regulations about ethnic affairs, safeguarding the ethnic relations of equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony and enabling citizens of all ethnic groups to realize their legitimate rights by law.

It's shown in the research that many local governments, including where the ethnic minorities live in compact communities and where they are sparsely inhabited, have released the relevant regulations based on local realities, such as The Autonomous Regulations of Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, The Regulations on Safeguarding the Rights and Interests of Scattered Ethnic Minorities in Jilin Province, and The Regulations on Administering Ethnic Affairs in Shandong Province, to safeguard the local ethnic minorities' legitimate rights and interests.

Second, taking comprehensive measures to promote ethnic unity and progress. National Commendation Conference for Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress was held in Beijing in 2019. 665 exemplary entities and 812 exemplary individuals were commended by the State Council in this conference. Qimeiduoji, a postcar driver from Tibetan ethnic group in Ganzi County of Sichuan Province, was rewarded the medal and certificate as an exemplary individual by President Xi Jinping. Such national event was convened 6 times before. In addition to this, there are a great number of local commendation activities and exemplary models, which makes an important part in promoting ethnic unity and progress.

Measures in various forms are taken to promote ethnic unity and progress in the provincial level. For example, Qinghai, a province with the highest proportion of ethnic minority population in the country, formulated The Regulations on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress in Qinghai Province, to promote the relevant cause through legislation. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China has carried out the campaign of Ethnic Unity and Progress Awareness Month for 13 years consecutively. In recent years, the campaign is combined with the traditional ethnic minority festival—the "March 3rd festival of Zhuang Ethnic Group" to enrich the form of promoting ethnic unity and progress.

The activities for promoting ethnic unity and progress are also combined with urban governance, to help solve the problems of the migrant population of ethnic minorities. For example, Beijing organized a language learning program for Uyghur people from Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China, who work in Beijing. Through this, they have not only improved their communication proficiency of national generally-used language, but also learnt about necessary laws, regulations and policies, which can facilitate their life and work in Beijing. At the same time, local government also assists to solve their difficulties such as getting medical treatment, renting houses and children's enrollment. Lianhu District of Xi'an City organized Uyghur language training program for people engaged in ethnic work in subdistrict and communities to help them learn Uyghur language for daily use, for better communication with and service to Xinjiang ethnic minority migrant workers. In Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China, Mongolian-Chinese bilingual service windows are set up in urban government service centers, employment service halls, stations, airports and other public places, to provide bilingual services for ethnic minorities.

Third, joint endeavors of all ethnic groups are made to build an all-round well-off society and realize modernization. In 2021, China eliminates the absolute poverty and build the moderately prosperous society in an all-round way after the battle against poverty. The vision "no ethnic group shall be left behind in building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way" is upheld during this fight. From 2016 to 2020, in the five autonomous regions of China (Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Tibet, Ningxia and Xinjiang) and three provinces with a large multi-ethnic population (Guizhou, Yunnan and Qinghai), the number of the poor dropped by 15.6 million. Extreme poverty was eliminated in all 28 of the minority ethnic groups with a small population (under 300,000).

The education has played a vital role in poverty alleviation and development of ethnic minority areas. At present, 9-year compulsory education from elementary school to junior high school has been fully popularized in ethnic minority areas, and 15-year free education from kindergarten to senior high school has been realized in the Tibet Autonomous Region and southern area of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China. In addition, the state ensures that ethnic minority students enjoy access to quality education through opening classes for Tibetan and Xinjiang students in other developed areas of China, and implementing minority preparatory classes and ethnic minority classes as well as High-level Backbone Program for Ethnic Minorities.

We only names some of the experience which are found representative through the research due to the limitation of this report's length. The research shows that China sticks to the idea that all the ethnic groups unite and work together to achieve common development and prosperity. Its ethnic relationship of equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony has been reinforced continuously. Social inclusiveness continues being strengthened. All those have strongly contributed to the stability and high-quality development of the nation. We expects to share with the international community China's good practice in preventing conflict and protecting the human rights of minorities, and further exchanges and cooperation in this regard are mostly welcome.

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China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.