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

Written statement* submitted by Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, 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.

[19 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Women Join Hands for Mutual Development

In May 2022, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited China for the first time in 17 years. The Working Group paid a special visit to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (UAR), China and exchanged views with non-governmental representatives in the fields of women rights, health, justice and labor. The visit promoted understanding and recognition of China's path for human rights development, showcasing the image of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China's reality with a safe and sound society, solid progress and people living in peace and contentment. China has long since incorporated the protection of the rights of specific groups such as ethnic minorities and women into the Human Rights Action Plan of China. As a women's organization based in China's capital, Beijing Women's Federation strengthens the exchange and integration among women in Beijing and Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China by leveraging its advantages of resources, and summons the power of women towards building a beautiful Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China.

Over the past years, we have been holding hands with women in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China for mutual development. In times of the COVID-19 pandemic, communication and innovation are increasingly valued. In 2022, we have expanded support to women in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China on two fronts.

First, we have increased input in education. This year, we have carried on the feature projects such as "mother's kitchen" and family "study corner", improving a sound learning environment for female students. By integrating the power of other women's social organizations such as the Beijing Women & Children Development Foundation and Beijing Association of Women Entrepreneurs, we mobilized people engaged in public welfare undertakings, and enhanced assistance to women and children in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, especially female college students and impoverished women. We have raised RMB 400,000 for "Spring Bud Project" grants in support of female college students in Hotan, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China to access higher education. Initiated by the China Children and Teenagers' Fund, "Spring Bud Project" funds for girls' education, safety and health programs, and has benefited more than 3.7 million girls nationwide.

Second, we have launched diversified knowledge and skills training. This year, we have sent experts of female handicrafts, women's health, e-commerce and law to local communities and villages in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. Thousands of grassroots women have been benefited from the trainings on handicraft skills, women's health and e-commerce; the lectures on marriage, family laws, and women's rights protection; and interactive activities such as case analysis and moot court. Apart from face-to-face trainings, the experts set up special subject WeChat groups, facilitating remote counseling and communication in the long run. These efforts have helped women master skills, and gained wide acclaim.

The mutual progress with ethnic minority women in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China has shaped an effective assistance and cooperation mechanism. We call on women from all over the world to deepen exchanges, and rise up to crises and challenges brought by the pandemic hand in hand. With the notion of shared development and mutual assistance in mind, we shall strike a balance of development.

Beijing Women's International Center, Beijing Women's Federation, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.