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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.

[20 August 2021]

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



Practice in Beijing: Promoting Women's Employment & Optimizing the Development Environment for Women

The 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council adopted the resolution submitted by China "The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights", which has won broad support from the members of the Council. China has always been committed to promoting international cooperation, common development and the universal enjoyment of human rights. This is why we have been initiating this resolution at the Human Rights Council. With this concept in mind, Beijing women's organizations have carried out a series of practices to protect women's rights and interests through promoting women's employment and optimizing the development environment for women. Our main practices include the following four aspects.

First, building a service platform and helping women to overcome the challenges of Covid-19. After attacked by COVID-19, Beijing women's organizations adopted many methods, such as setting up expert teams and service hotline, so as to provide consulting services for women entrepreneurs and help them make the best use of preferential government policies resuming work and production. Nearly 1,000 women entrepreneurs have been benefited from them and get their resilience built. Meanwhile, we provided funds of 16.5 million RMB for women innovation and entrepreneurship projects.

Second, building a growth platform and further improving women's employability. We promote the employment of female college students and held activities to help them enhance professional awareness. In 2020, around 100 online job fairs had been held for female college students, providing 42,000 job opportunities. We focus on training in digital economy and help women entrepreneurs shape new business models and patterns, such as live-streaming marketing, to bridge the digital gender gap. We build a lifelong learning platform for women providing guidance on career development, family education, physical & mental health, and protection of rights and interests for women. We also build a commodities fair platform as Qiaoniang Fair for Beijing's craftswomen groups and their minority counterparts from Beijing's cooperative partner assistance areas in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, Qinghai etc.

Third, facilitating technological empowerment and unleashing women's innovation potential. Under the background of building Beijing into an international science and technology innovation center, we integrate women's social organizations to further strengthen policies supporting women's innovation and improve service system. we are now preparing to establish the Women's Association for Science and Technology to closely unite women's organizations in Beijing as Women Professors' Association, Women Financiers' Association and Association of Women Entrepreneurs, and has proposed the appropriate relaxation of age restrictions for women in Beijing Youth Science and Technology Awards and other awards.

Meanwhile, we are empowering women in technology through supporting women's innovation competitions in a global context, so as to form an ecosystem to promote the exchange and development of women entrepreneurs in science and technology fields from all over the world. She Loves Tech Global Start-up Competition we support is now the world largest female tech start-up competition, helping the start-up teams raise more than 250 million\$, and has received massive media coverage over 1 billion.

Last but not least, optimizing the development environment and promoting the equal participation of women. Efforts have been made to improve the social support system for women's development. More than 6,000 baby-care rooms have been set up in enterprises and public places, childcare and housekeeping services have been improved, and men and women are encouraged to share family responsibilities. Also, we encourage relevant departments to introduce policies to regulate the recruitment practices of human resource service agencies and ensure women's equal employment. We advocate the spirit of "self-esteem, self-confidence, self-reliance and self-improvement" among women, and every year 100 women models will be selected for in-depth publicity to enhance women's confidence in participating in innovation and entrepreneurship.

According to the 2021 UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report, efforts to achieve the SDGs will be affected to varying degrees by COVID-19, with years of progress in some areas almost wiped out. The crisis has exacerbated gender inequality, disproportionately affecting women in the workforce, especially women entrepreneurs, and in many areas women's rights and priorities have not been clearly implemented. These facts are worrisome, but the community resilience and international solidarity demonstrated in the face of the epidemic crisis give us reason for hope. Opportunities and challenges will coexist in the future. We are willing to provide our Beijing's practice of protecting women's rights and interests through promoting women's development, and to strengthen the communication with women's organizations throughout the world to jointly promote women's equal participation in economic and social development, so as to make the world a more equal, inclusive and sustainable development while enabling women to enjoy a wonderful life and realize their social value.

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