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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.

[31 January 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Vigorous Development of Sports and Human Rights of Ethnic Minorities in China

China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE) and Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) have always been attaching importance to the development of education, science and technology, culture, health and sports of ethnic minorities in China.

In recent years, the sports and cultural undertakings of ethnic minorities in China have made great progress. In the coming February, we are about to embrace the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Tiger, as well as the 24th Olympic Winter Games, which has attracted worldwide attention and expectation. Taking this opportunity, CEMAFEE and CAFIU conducted a research concerning the development of sports of China's ethnic minorities. We wish to share the following research result with friends from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

As for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, there are 176 athletes in the Chinese delegation. Among them, 20 are from nine ethnic minority groups, including the Tibetan, Uigur, Manchu, Hui, Kazak, Hani, Jing, Korean and Buyei ethnic groups, accounting for 11.36% of the whole athletes. This proportion is higher than that (8.89% according to the Seventh National Population Census) of the population of the ethnic minorities in China's total population.

We have summarized four features of the sport development of ethnic minorities in China according to the research.

First, supporting the ethnic minority areas to build sports facilities and venues, so as to satisfy people's aspiration for a better life.

In order to carry out extensive fitness-for-all programs and speed up efforts to build a country strong in sport, China has continuously increased its support for the construction of sports facilities and venues across the country, especially in ethnic minority areas. The state has invested a large amount of central funds to support the construction of community fitness centers, sports park facilities, hiking trails, community multi-purpose sports fields and other fitness-for-all facilities in ethnic minority areas.

What's more, ethnic minority areas themselves have also released relevant documents to speed up the construction of sports stadiums and venues. For example, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China has issued the Implementation Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Fitness Venues and Facilities in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China to Develop Sports for the General Public based on its local conditions. This document aims to promote high-quality development of fitness activities for all the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China people through multiple measures, such as expanding the residents' fitness places, charging free or low fees for the use of sports stadiums, and realizing full coverage of the smart fitness environment in the community. According to statistics, there were already 67,700 of all kinds of sports fields in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China in 2021, with per capita sports field covering 2.03 square meters, while there were only 425 sports fields in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China in 1955.

The second is carrying out sports events and activities related with ethnic minorities' traditional sports to encourage more exchanges and interactions among different ethnic groups.

Attaching great importance to ethnic minority traditional sports events, China hosts national games like National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities, "Ethnic Sports Cup" National Traditional Singular Games of Ethnic Minorities, as well as regional games which are organized by the provinces and ethnic autonomous regions.

Among them, National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities is the ethnic traditional sports event in China with the highest level and greatest influence. According to the Several Provisions of the State Council on Implementing the Law of China on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities in China is held every four years. So far, 11 sessions have been successfully held. As for its content, there are Huapao(Chinese Rugby), Pearlball(a traditional game of Manchu ethnic group combining

the features of basketball, handball and soccer, evolving from the labor of picking pearls), dragon boat racing and other 14 permanent games, as well as the performance programs created by provinces and ethnic minority regions on the basis of digging, sorting out the local ethnic and folk traditional games.

This traditional sports game, with the aim of promoting national unity and fitness-for-all, is enriched with the colorful ethnic cultures, which distinguishes it from other competitive games. During the 11th National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities of China held in 2019, 7,009 athletes of all ethnic groups, consisting 34 delegations who come from 31 provinces(autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government), Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China construction regiment, army and Taiwan (Province of) China, participated in 17 sports and 194 performance programs. In addition, Ethnic Traditional Sports Culture Exhibition and a performance gala featuring the rich culture of all ethnic groups were also held during the games.

Hosting various forms of traditional sports events of ethnic minorities in China has played an active role in protecting and developing the traditional culture of ethnic minorities, promoting exchanges and interactions among different ethnic groups, and advancing national unity and progress.

The third is actively promoting the development of the sports industry in ethnic minority areas to promote the local economic and social development and rural revitalization.

China takes full advantage of ethnic minorities' traditional sports, strengthens the development of ethnic minority traditional sports resources and enhances the support for relevant industries, promotes the integrated development of ethnic minority traditional sports with tourism and culture, which contributes to the economic and social development and rural revitalization of ethnic minority areas.

In recent years, General Administration of Sport of China has actively advanced the development of the sports industry in ethnic minority areas by focusing on sports and leisure featured town pilot project, national sports industry base and outdoor sports industry. All these measures contribute to poverty alleviation and achieving a well-off society in an all-round way, which has made great progress so far. By the end of 2020, General Administration of Sport of China has named and identified 29 national sports industry bases in ethnic minority areas, and also released 15 boutique routes for sports tourism during the golden week (5-day or 7-day holiday like Spring Festival, Labor Day and National Holiday in China)in ethnic minority areas together with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. These routes, with wide coverage in areas, long consumption cycle and prominent effects in stimulating the local economic growth, has greatly driven the development of the local industry.

The fourth is promoting the development of sports in ethnic minority areas, to cultivate sports talents, and promote the health-for-all.

China actively supports the development of sports undertakings in ethnic minority areas. The state supports the selection and training of sports talents in ethnic minority areas through the training by national team, assigning coaches, high-tech medical supporting team, etc. In this year's Beijing Winter Olympics, female athlete Yongqing Lamu and male athlete Ciren Zhandui from the Tibet Autonomous Region, China won the qualification for the competition. These two will participate in the Snowboard Cross and Cross-country Skiing respectively. Thanks to the Tibet Sports Talent Training Program, sportsmen from Tibetan Autonomous Region, China are qualified for the Winter Olympics for the first time in history.

In the preparation for the Beijing Winter Olympics, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China and other ethnic minority areas have made their own contributions. For example, Altay in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China is one of the training bases for the national team, which is also the origin of human skiing. In addition, the state promotes to carry out national fitness competitions, actively mobilizes and guides sports departments in ethnic minority areas to make full use of occasions such as holidays and anniversaries to carry out sports and fitness events that are popular among the general public.

Through the above-mentioned research study, CEMAFEE and CAFIU believe that the vigorous development of sports for ethnic minorities in China has promoted exchanges and

interactions among different ethnic groups, enhanced the in-depth integration between fitness-for-all and health-for-all, and increased the sense of gain and happiness of all ethnic groups. We are willing to share more information with friends interested about sports development of ethnic minorities in China and enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation with relevant organizations from other countries in the ethnic field.

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