

**For discussion
on 15 April 2019**

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**The formal adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council
of the report by its Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
on the third review of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Purpose

This paper sets out the formal adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) at its meeting on 15 March 2019 of the report by its Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the third review of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) held on 6 and 9 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Background

2. Based on the requirement under the UPR mechanism¹, China submitted a 20-page national report to the UNHRC, which included a three-page section relevant to HKSAR and directly contributed by the HKSAR Government (at **Annex A**).

3. The UNHRC published China's national report covering HKSAR and Macao SAR on its website in August 2018. Copies of the HKSAR report have since been distributed to the Executive Council, Legislative Council (LegCo), District Offices and concerned non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

¹ Under the UPR mechanism, all UN Member States are required to participate in the periodic review of the UPR Working Group once every 4.5 years by submitting a national report describing its human rights situation and taking part in an interactive dialogue at the Working Group's review meeting, as well as in discussing the review result of the Working Group at the plenary session of the UNHRC. The UPR mechanism started in 2007. Since then, two reviews were conducted on China covering HKSAR (and Macao SAR) in 2009 and 2013.

The review on China (including HKSAR) by the UPR Working Group

4. The UPR Working Group met on 6 November 2018 in Geneva. The Chinese delegation was headed by Mr Le Yucheng (樂玉成), Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, attended in the capacity as a Deputy Head of the Chinese delegation. Apart from CS, other delegates from HKSAR included representatives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, Security Bureau, Labour Department and Department of Justice.

5. Vice-Minister Le Yucheng delivered a composite opening statement covering HKSAR and Macao SAR. The part concerning HKSAR is at **Annex B**. The meeting noted the successful implementation of “one country, two systems” in HKSAR and our well-established institutional strengths, unique attributes, core values (including the rule of law, judicial independence, and freedom), and multiple advantages that made this possible. These strengths firmly underpinned HKSAR's status as a vibrant, highly open and international financial, business, logistics and tourist centre.

6. At the meeting, 150 Member States took the floor to speak². The discussions mainly focused on the situation on the Mainland. Only six Member States made recommendations on HKSAR and the recommendations are –

Group A: Concerning China (covering HKSAR (and Macao SAR))

- (a) ...encourage China, including Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SAR), to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Indonesia)
- (b) Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association including in Hong Kong...(France)

² Eight of them gave oral comments, and four submitted written questions on the report submitted by the HKSAR before the review meeting.

Group B: Concerning HKSAR

- (c) Uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the one country, two systems framework for Hong Kong (Australia)
- (d) Enhance monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Employment Contract (SEC), particularly for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong (Philippines)
- (e) Ensure the right of Hong Kong people to take part in government, without distinction of any kind (Canada)
- (f) That the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region introduce internal legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Croatia)

7. CS, on behalf of the HKSAR delegation, made a full but punchy response (at **Annex C**), during which he succinctly stated HKSAR's latest overall situation, clarified misunderstanding and cleared the air on some controversial political issues concerning HKSAR. CS' response also addressed the issues orally raised during the review by Australia (uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the "one country, two systems" framework), Canada (right of Hong Kong people to take part in government, without distinction of any kind), and France (guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association).

8. On 9 November 2018, the UPR Working Group adopted its outcome report on China (including HKSAR) (at **Annex D**), which was prepared by a group of three States (Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Hungary) selected by UNHRC through drawing of lots. The report covered a total of 346 recommendations for China made by Member States. Of the recommendations, six are related to HKSAR: two concerning China (covering HKSAR (and Macao SAR)), and another four concerning HKSAR as set out in paragraph 6 above.

9. After careful consideration, HKSAR Government clearly stated its position on each of the recommendations which was subsequently incorporated into the Addendum of the report (at **Annex E**).

10. In gist, Hong Kong cannot accede to ICRMW as it is incompatible with HKSAR's existing policy that imported workers and

foreign domestic helpers are not allowed to bring their dependants to Hong Kong for residence. We accept the recommendations of France (guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association), Australia (uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the “one country, two systems” framework) and Philippines (enhance monitoring of the implementation of SEC) which have already, in fact, been implemented in Hong Kong. We also accept the recommendations of Canada (ensure the right of Hong Kong people to take part in government, without distinction of any kind) and Croatia (introduce internal legislation to implement CRC) which are also being implemented in Hong Kong. For details on HKSAR’s stance on each of the recommendations, please refer to **Annex F**.

Formal adoption of the outcome report on China (including HKSAR) by the UNHRC

11. The UNHRC further discussed and formally adopted the outcome report of the Working Group on the UPR on China (including HKSAR) at its 40th Session on 15 March 2019 in Geneva. The Chinese delegation was headed by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Le Yucheng. A team of HKSAR Government officials, led by CS, attended the meeting as part of the Chinese delegation.

12. CS spoke at the plenary meeting of the UNHRC as a Deputy Head of the Chinese delegation (speech at **Annex G**). Representatives of 13 Member States and 10 NGOs spoke. There was no comment on HKSAR. After discussion, the UNHRC formally adopted the outcome report of the Working Group on the UPR on China.

13. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
April 2019

**Report of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region for
the United Nations Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review**

I. Promotion and protection of human rights in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

A. Methodology and consultation

In preparing this part of the report, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government conducted a public consultation exercise from 3 April to 7 May 2018. A consultation document published by the HKSAR Government was sent to a broad spectrum of the community, including the Legislative Council (LegCo), relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs), interested members of the public and the media, and distributed through the District Offices and on the internet. During the consultation period, the HKSAR Government also collected views from NGO representatives at meetings of the LegCo and the Human Rights Forum. The HKSAR Government has carefully considered all comments received.

B. Framework and measures for promoting and safeguarding human rights

2. The HKSAR is an inalienable part of China. It was established in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China under the "one country, two systems" principle. Its systems are prescribed in the Basic Law (BL) of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China (PRC). In the HKSAR, human rights are fully protected by the BL, the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383) (HKBORO), anti-discrimination legislation, data protection legislation and various safeguards in other legislation. The courts exercise judicial power independently and may grant remedies for contravening the human rights provisions of the BL and the HKBORO. Since the last report, the HKSAR Government has strengthened the mandate of some of the organisations which help promote and safeguard human rights. For example, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) established an Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities for ethnic minorities (EMs) and racial integration; the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data introduced a legal assistance scheme for individuals who intend to institute proceedings to seek compensation from data users; and more public

bodies have been included under the jurisdiction of The Ombudsman. The HKSAR Government continues to attach great importance to promoting human rights through public education and publicity.

C. Achievements and challenges

3. The HKSAR Government is fully committed to attaining universal suffrage for the election of both the Chief Executive (CE) and all the LegCo members in accordance with the BL and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC). In June 2015, after two rounds of extensive public consultations which lasted for a total of seven months, the HKSAR Government presented to the LegCo a package of proposals to implement universal suffrage in the selection of the CE. The proposals were drafted in accordance with the BL and the relevant Decisions of the NPCSC, and also making reference to the views collected during public consultations. Regrettably, the motion was not passed by a two-thirds majority of the LegCo. The 2017 CE election continued to adopt the existing election method (i.e. by a 1 200-member Election Committee (EC)).

4. The HKSAR Government appreciates the importance of, and the public aspiration for, implementing universal suffrage for the selection of the CE and the formation of the LegCo. The HKSAR Government will do its best to work towards a favourable atmosphere to take forward constitutional development.

5. The fifth-term CE Election took place on 26 March 2017. A total of three candidates were validly nominated at the close of the nomination period for the election. Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, who received more than half of the total number of valid votes cast by members of the EC, was appointed by the State Council of the PRC as the fifth-term, and first-ever female, CE of the HKSAR (2017-2022).

6. The sixth-term LegCo, which comprises 70 members, was returned by election on 4 September 2016 and the election to return the fifth-term District Councils was held on 22 November 2015.

7. On improvement of people's livelihood, the HKSAR Government has devoted more resources to poverty alleviation as well as support for the disadvantaged. Under the steer of the Commission on Poverty and through effective policy interventions, recurrent cash policies lifted 360 000 persons out of poverty in 2016, with the poverty rate reduced by 5.2 percentage points. The HKSAR Government has rolled out support measures for people in need, such as the introduction of the Working Family Allowance Scheme and the injection of \$400 million into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged. The Statutory Minimum Wage has also been increased three times from \$28 per hour in 2011 to \$34.5 in 2017 which is higher than that of inflation during the same period.

8. A Commission on Children chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) has been established on 1 June 2018 to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant bureaux/departments and child concern groups, and focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. An additional \$300 million has been injected into the Child Development Fund to support children from a disadvantaged background. The first Hong Kong Children's Hospital which serves as a centre for complex and serious pediatric cases will commence operation by end 2018.

9. To enhance collaboration within the HKSAR Government on support for the EMs, the CS will set up a cross-bureau steering committee to coordinate, review and monitor support for some 250 000 EMs in 2018. The HKSAR Government has also earmarked \$500 million for this purpose. Separately, the HKSAR Government continues to monitor the progress and refine implementation details of the support measures as appropriate to help non-Chinese speaking students to learn Chinese effectively. As Hong Kong's largest employer, active steps have been taken to ensure that the Chinese language proficiency requirements for various grades in the civil service are commensurate with their job requirements so that all applicants have equal access to job opportunities in the HKSAR Government.

10. To face the challenges of ageing population, the HKSAR Government has commenced a 10-year hospital development plan (with an additional 5 000 hospital beds), introduced the Higher Old Age Living

Allowance in addition to various social security payments, and adopted employment support measures for elderly job seekers.

11. The HKSAR Government continues to promote equal opportunities for persons with different sexual orientation and transgender persons, with a view to nurturing the culture and values of inclusiveness and mutual respect in the community. Concrete measures such as the development of training resources for personnel in specific fields to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities, dedicated hotlines, and introduction of a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by employers, etc. have been adopted. In 2014, an Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition (IWG) was set up to consider legislation and incidental administrative measures that may be required to protect the rights of transsexual persons in Hong Kong. A public consultation exercise was conducted in 2017. The IWG is analysing the responses received and will report the proposed way forward.

12. Following a comprehensive review of the four anti-discrimination ordinances by the EOC, the HKSAR Government has decided to take forward eight recommendations made by the EOC, including prohibition of discrimination on the ground of breastfeeding and protection from racial and disability harassment of service providers by service users. The legislative proposals will be introduced into the LegCo in 2018.

13. Since March 2014, the HKSAR Government has been operating a unified screening mechanism (USM) to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds. The USM procedures follow the statutory mechanism for screening torture claims in operation since December 2012. These procedures meet high standards of fairness, including the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to all claimants. Claimants aggrieved by Immigration Department's decisions under the USM may appeal to the independent Torture Claims Appeal Board.

14. On employees' rights and benefits, a bill was passed by the LegCo in May 2018 to empower the Labour Tribunal to, without having

to first secure the employer's agreement, make an order for reinstatement or re-engagement of an employee who is dismissed unreasonably and unlawfully. For the statutory paternity leave, the HKSAR Government will introduce legislation to increase its duration from the existing three days to five days. A review to enhance the statutory maternity leave has also commenced. Foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) enjoy the same employment rights and protection as local workers under the labour laws. The HKSAR Government does not tolerate any abuse or exploitation of FDHs by employers or employment agencies (EAs). Another piece of new legislation came into effect in February 2018 to enhance the protection of job seekers including FDHs by substantially raising the maximum penalty for the offences of overcharging and unlicensed operation by EAs. An Action Plan to Tackle Trafficking-in-Persons and to Enhance Protection of FDHs in Hong Kong was promulgated in March 2018 by a high-level inter-bureau/departmental steering committee chaired by the CS to spearhead efforts of the HKSAR Government.

15. The HKSAR Government is committed to providing a safe, secure, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment and to helping persons in custody rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. To enhance the independence and transparency of the complaint handling mechanism, the Correctional Services Department established the Complaints Appeal Board in 2016 as an appeal channel for aggrieved complainants.

16. The HKSAR Government continues to respect the rights of peaceful assembly and procession. Between 2012 and 2017, there were over 50 000 public meetings and processions in Hong Kong. The majority of these events were conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner and in accordance with the law.

17. Freedom of expression and press freedom continued to be enjoyed by Hong Kong people. The HKSAR Government maintains an environment conducive to the operation of a free and active press and does not interfere with the internal operations of media organisations. In 2017, a new arrangement was introduced to allow admission of eligible online-only media to government press conferences and media events.

18. Improving people's livelihood, meeting their needs and the development of a livable city are the key challenges ahead for the HKSAR. The HKSAR will get prepared to grasp the opportunities arising from two important national development initiatives – the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development. Developing innovation and technology will also help nurture new industries and provide quality employment opportunities for young people.

**United Nations Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review (Third Cycle)**

Vice-Minister Le Yucheng's Opening Statement on HKSAR

Since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland 21 years ago, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been implementing "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" under a high degree of autonomy in strict accordance with the Basic Law of the HKSAR and with the full support of the Central People's Government. The HKSAR Government all along strives to uphold and preserve Hong Kong's unique strengths. The rule of law, executive, legislative and independent judicial power and power of final adjudication, as well as human rights and freedom are all fully guaranteed by the Basic Law.

The rule of law is the paramount core value of Hong Kong, and independence of the judiciary is the key to underlining the rule of law. The Basic Law lays down the fundamental principles underpinning our independent judicial system. The courts of HKSAR exercise judicial power independently and free from interference. The power of final adjudication of the HKSAR vests in the Court of Final Appeal (CFA). Hong Kong is also a jurisdiction which permits judges of other common law jurisdictions to sit on the bench of the CFA.

Hong Kong has been acclaimed as the world's most open and freest economy by many international organisations. The Heritage Foundation of the United States has been ranking Hong Kong the world's freest economy for 24 consecutive years. The Canadian Fraser Institute has been crowning Hong Kong as the world's freest economy since 1996. These achievements are premised on HKSAR's strengths such as the fine tradition of rule of law, a free and open market, an efficient public sector and a robust institutional framework. Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world, with the overall number of crimes last year being the lowest since 1975. The good law and order situation makes Hong Kong a metropolis ideal for living, working, doing business and tourism.

Alongside with the promotion of economic development, the HKSAR Government has all along been taking active steps to improve people's livelihood. With a view to building a caring, equitable, inclusive and "people-oriented" society, the HKSAR Government has devoted significant resources to education, poverty alleviation, helping the disadvantaged, caring for children and support for the ethnic minorities.

All of the above bear strong testimony to the successful implementation of "one country, two systems", the achievements of which are widely recognised.

Response by CS at UNHRC Universal Periodic Review meeting

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, attended the meeting under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council today (November 6, Geneva time) in Geneva, Switzerland. Following is the response made by Mr Cheung at the meeting:

Mr President,

Human rights in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are fully protected by the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and other laws. The rule of law, an independent judiciary and freedom of speech are amongst Hong Kong's core values.

Recent concerns over some aspects of our human rights situation are unwarranted, unfounded and unsubstantiated. They arise from misconception and a lack of understanding of our real situation. Let me explain.

Under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy. Fundamental rights and freedoms are all guaranteed by the Basic Law.

We are firmly committed to protecting press freedom. We do not exercise any censorship. On a recent work visa extension case, we will not comment on any specific decision on our immigration control. All such decisions are made by our immigration authorities under the laws and prevailing policies, having regard to individual circumstances of each case. Any concerns that Hong Kong's freedom of speech and of the press is under threat are totally groundless. On the contrary, we maintain an environment conducive to the operation of a free and active press. Some 80 foreign media organisations operate in Hong Kong and rigorously perform their role as a watchdog.

As for the eligibility for running in the Legislative Council election, upholding the Basic Law and swearing allegiance to HKSAR is a basic legal duty of a legislator. One cannot do so if one promotes "Hong Kong independence" or "self-determination" or advocates independence as an option. These run counter to the constitutional and legal status of Hong Kong SAR. Article 1 of the Basic Law stipulates that Hong Kong SAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. It is our duty to safeguard our country's sovereignty, security and development interests.

On speculations of authorities of other jurisdictions taking law enforcement actions in Hong Kong, our Police have investigated and found no evidence in support of such claims.

On the decision to ban an organisation under the Societies Ordinance, as an appeal has been lodged, we will not comment further. But let me stress that Hong Kong people do enjoy freedom of association and expression but, like any other jurisdictions, such freedom is not absolute. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides that restrictions may be imposed by law if this is necessary to protect national security or public safety, public order, or the rights and freedoms of others. This is mirrored in the Hong Kong Bill of Rights.

On the misunderstanding that some protesters were targeted for exercising their civil rights, I must clarify that these protesters were convicted not because of their beliefs or their exercising civil rights, but because of their disorderly or violent conduct in breach of the law. They have crossed the line separating the lawful exercise of constitutional rights from unlawful activities subject to sanctions. I must say that the number of public meetings and processions in Hong Kong last year was ten times over 1997, and the overwhelming majority of these activities were orderly and peaceful. This demonstrates that freedom of peaceful assembly is fully respected.

On interpretation of the Basic Law, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (the Standing Committee) has the ultimate authority to do so under Article 158 of the Basic Law. This is part of our constitutional order. Our Court of Final Appeal agrees that the Standing

Committee's interpretation is valid and binding on our courts.

As for Article 104 relating to oath-taking when assuming specified public offices, the Standing Committee's interpretation simply explains clearly the meaning of that Article without changing its content.

Since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 1997, Hong Kong has remained the world's freest economy, a vibrant international financial and business centre, a thriving logistics and tourism hub, as well as one of the safest cities in the world. We are committed to building a caring and fair Hong Kong, with the Government investing heavily in education, medical services, welfare, infrastructure, poverty alleviation and helping the ethnic minorities. These remarkable achievements are underpinned by our core values and unique institutional strengths which make Hong Kong tick.

Mr President, Hong Kong will continue to forge ahead as Asia's world city with openness, inclusiveness and diversity under the successful, innovative, and well-tried "one country, two systems". Thank you.

Ends/Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Issued at HKT 22:26

NNNN



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 December 2018

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

China

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-first session from 5 to 16 November 2018. The review of China was held at the 3rd meeting, on 6 November 2018. The delegation of China was headed by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Le Yucheng. At its 10th meeting, held on 9 November 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on China.
2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of China: Hungary, Kenya and Saudi Arabia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of China:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/3 and Corr.1).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam was transmitted to China through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. China indicated that it attached great importance to the universal periodic review. It would seek cooperation, taking an open, inclusive, candid and cooperative approach to the interactive dialogue.
6. Four decades of reform and opening up had brought about remarkable progress in the country's human rights development.
7. China has committed to building and improving its legal, policy and administrative systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. A vision, practice and development path of human rights with Chinese characteristics had been pursued, taking the country's national conditions as the foundation, the people as the centre, development as the priority, the rule of law as the criterion and openness as the driving force.
8. Over the past five years, more than 1,500 reform measures had been rolled out, 32 new laws had been promulgated, including the General Rules on the Civil Law, and the third National Human Rights Action Plan had been issued. Those efforts had provided a strong institutional underpinning for the promotion and protection of human rights.
9. Nearly 1.4 billion people had been lifted out of poverty and were able to lead a moderately prosperous life. The largest education, social security and health-care systems in the world had been established. Ecological conservation was being vigorously promoted. All of that would better enable China to meet people's growing needs for a better life.

10. Over 700 million Chinese people – 70 per cent of the total – had worked their way out of poverty. Decisive progress had been made in targeted poverty reduction and alleviation efforts.

11. China was committed to developing socialist democracy, to strengthening institutional guarantees to ensure that the people ran the country and to consolidating and developing the system of people’s congresses. Its broad-based system of democracy safeguarded the fundamental interests of the Chinese people practically and effectively.

12. Continued efforts had been made to strengthen judicial safeguards for human rights. The Opinions on Advancing the Reform of the Trial-Centred Criminal Procedure System had been adopted, and the world’s largest website of court documents had been created, with 19.5 billion visits made.

13. Citizens’ freedoms of speech and of religious belief were protected in accordance with the law. The rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities were promoted and protected in a comprehensive way, and the rights of ethnic minorities were safeguarded in accordance with the law.

14. China had actively participated in global human rights governance, and vigorous efforts had been made to implement the international human rights instruments to which it was a party. It had hosted many visits by human rights experts. In the past five years, it had held more than 50 human rights dialogues with over 20 countries and organizations.

15. Many difficulties and challenges in protecting human rights remained, but absolute poverty would be eliminated and a moderately prosperous society in all respects would be built by 2020. Socialist modernization would essentially be realized by 2035, and the goal of building a great modern socialist country that was prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful would be achieved by 2050.

16. Thirty new measures for the protection of human rights would be adopted by the Government. They would include an amendment to the Criminal Law and the revision of the Criminal Procedure Law. Litigation procedure for criminal cases would be improved. Laws on legal assistance and the protection of personal information would be formulated. Relevant sections would be drawn up for a civil code.

17. China would actively participate in international cooperation in human rights, with continuing support for the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms. In the next five years, it would contribute US\$ 800,000 annually to the OHCHR. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chair of the Working Group on the Right to Development, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities had been invited to visit China at mutually convenient times.

18. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region had been implementing “one country, two systems” and “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” under a high degree of autonomy. The rule of law, executive, legislative and independent judicial power, the power of final adjudication, human rights and freedom were all fully guaranteed by the Basic Law. Hong Kong, China, had been acclaimed as the world’s most open and freest economy by many international institutions, such as the Heritage Foundation of the United States and the Canadian Fraser Institute. Hong Kong, China, was one of the safest cities in the world. With a view to building a caring, equitable, inclusive and people-oriented society, the Government of Hong Kong, China, had been taking active steps to improve people’s livelihood.

19. Macao Special Administrative Region had enacted laws on preventing and combating domestic violence, on fiscal benefits for hiring persons with disabilities, on the rights and interests of the elderly and on tertiary education, and had revised the Criminal Code. It had established the labour creditor’s rights protection system and had introduced the 10-year non-tertiary education development plan and the 10-year plan for rehabilitation services. It had been conducting various promotional activities to raise public awareness on human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 150 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Iraq, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Honduras, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Comoros, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Angola, Maldives, Mali and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made recommendations. Albania, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Turkey made statements. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.¹

22. In response to the questions raised during the interactive dialogue, China shared its experience in promoting human rights in the process of development and poverty alleviation, which included always giving top priority to development and promoting and protecting human rights in the process of development, prioritizing issues concerning the fundamental interests of the people and safeguarding social fairness and justice, formulating national plans and establishing coordination mechanisms to promote the integrated progress of various endeavours and fostering a peaceful and stable environment conducive to development while following a development path suited to its national conditions.

23. China highlighted that it was the world's largest information producer and home to the most dynamic and enriched discourse anywhere in the world, and that its people enjoyed substantial freedom of speech. Meanwhile, lines had been drawn for the exercise of freedom of speech, namely that freedom of speech should not go against the law or undermine others' rights. Everyone was equal before the law and lawbreakers must be brought to justice, which was consistent with human conscience and the spirit of justice and, more importantly, reflected the principle of the rule of law.

24. China took a leading role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and would accomplish its poverty alleviation goals 10 years before schedule. It remained committed to strengthening South-South cooperation and had established the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and a South-South Cooperation Fund. In addition, it had taken active measures to address climate change and had registered notable progress in that area. China had been implementing the Paris Agreement in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

¹ Available at <http://webtv.un.org/search/china-review-31st-session-of-universal-periodic-review/5858293845001/?term=&lan=english&cat=UPR%2031st&sort=date&page=3>.

25. China elaborated on the protection of human rights and freedoms, including the freedom of the press in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and on the prevention of drug abuse in Macao Special Administrative Region.

26. China stated that the Xinjiang vocational skills education and training institutions, which had been established for counter-terrorism purposes in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, were focused on the study of legal knowledge, vocational and language skills and on deradicalization, and that they were employment oriented. Through such education, those institutions helped the few people who had been exposed to and affected by extremism to shake off terrorist and extremist thoughts. Instead of cracking down upon those people after they became terrorists and a danger to others and to society, the institutions helped them reintegrate into society, rather than becoming hard-core terrorists or victims of terrorism. As part of the preventive antiterrorism measures, such institutions had been established in accordance with the law and had produced the expected results. They represented the efforts of Xinjiang to explore an effective counter-terrorism approach and another important contribution by China to the international counter-terrorism endeavour.

27. In concluding, China recognized that the vast majority of countries had made positive comments about and voiced their support for China during the interactive dialogue. China would study the recommendations received and present its response in a timely manner. At the same time, China resolutely opposed and would never accept the practice of using human rights as an excuse to interfere in its internal affairs and undermine its sovereignty and territorial integrity. China would stay firmly committed to the path of development suited to its national conditions.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

28. **The following recommendations will be examined by China, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council:**

28.1 **Strengthen its cooperation and continue the process of ratifying the appropriate international instruments (Senegal);**

28.2 **Adhere to all human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

28.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

28.4 **Continue working towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the earliest possible date (New Zealand); Accelerate the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay) (Mali);**

28.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Costa Rica) (El Salvador) (Iceland) (Kenya) (Liechtenstein) (Mexico) (Montenegro) (Poland) (Portugal) (Ukraine) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

28.6 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and implement these obligations across China (Canada); Ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensure that its protections are extended to all minorities (Hungary); Ratify and implement the**

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Luxembourg); Continue its efforts to improve human rights institutions, and in particular to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Korea); Ratify early the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Japan);

28.7 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine); Ratify early the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);

28.8 Sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);

28.9 Continue its actions and initiatives aiming at the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Benin); Take meaningful steps towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia); Further advance the preparation for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia); As previously recommended, continue national reforms with an aim to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia); Continue taking steps towards an early ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Malta); Continue taking steps in preparation for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Namibia);

28.10 Before the next universal periodic review cycle, set a clear timeline for ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czechia);

28.11 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica); Take meaningful steps towards ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);

28.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Liechtenstein);

28.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Estonia);

28.14 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Niger); Consider becoming a party to the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines); Encourage China to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, including for the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (Indonesia);

28.15 Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka); Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador) (Kyrgyzstan);

28.16 Implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Madagascar);

28.17 As previously recommended, explore options to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);

- 28.18 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Kampala amendments to the Statute (Liechtenstein); Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);
- 28.19 Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and its 2014 Protocol (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 28.20 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education and continue its efforts to ensure access to quality education for disadvantaged children in poor and remote areas (Afghanistan);
- 28.21 Implement the recommendations in the latest concluding observations on China from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,² including by responding to concerns about the detention of individuals who have not been lawfully charged, tried and convicted of a criminal offence (New Zealand);
- 28.22 Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Xinjiang and allow the United Nations unrestricted access to monitor the implementation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 28.23 Implement all of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of August 2018 regarding Xinjiang, particularly on putting an end to mass internments in camps, and invite the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedure experts (France);
- 28.24 Respond positively to the invitation addressed to it by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (Poland);
- 28.25 Strengthen cooperation with the Human Rights Council special procedures, including by receiving the visits requested so far (Ukraine);
- 28.26 Cooperate with and allow unimpeded access to international monitors, such as the relevant special procedures, to investigate alleged related rights violations (Croatia);
- 28.27 Facilitate full access to Xinjiang and Tibet for all relevant United Nations special procedures (Denmark);
- 28.28 Allow independent observers, including special procedures, unhindered access to all regions (Germany); Allow independent observers unfettered access to all parts of China's territory (Hungary);
- 28.29 As previously recommended, respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);
- 28.30 Continue to implement universal periodic review recommendations through national legislation, administrative regulations and planning in various areas of economic and social development (Bahrain);
- 28.31 Consider the results of this universal periodic review cycle as it did the recommendations emanating from the last universal periodic review cycle (Guyana);
- 28.32 Ensure full transparency on the situation for religious minorities in Xinjiang, including by allowing United Nations-mandated observers unrestricted access to places of internment in the region (Norway);

² CERD/C/CHN/CO/14-17.

- 28.33 Continue to promote discussions in the Human Rights Council on the role of development in promoting and protecting human rights (Pakistan);
- 28.34 Grant the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures access to all regions of China (Austria);
- 28.35 Close all “re-education centres” in Uighur areas and facilitate the visits by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures in Xinjiang (Switzerland);
- 28.36 Continue to forge a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, and build a community with a shared future for human beings (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 28.37 Continue to promote constructive dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of multilateral human rights mechanisms (Cuba);
- 28.38 Continue to promote respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity in the work of multilateral human rights mechanisms (Cuba);
- 28.39 Continue to combat politicization and double standards in the field of human rights (Cuba);
- 28.40 Grant access to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to all regions of the country including the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (Ireland);
- 28.41 Strengthen cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures (Luxembourg);
- 28.42 Cooperate with and provide access to relevant United Nations bodies to help ensure that its policies in Xinjiang, particularly regarding the so-called “vocational education and training centres”, are in line with international human rights standards (Netherlands);
- 28.43 Continue to share its experiences in the realization of the right to development with African countries in the context of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Nigeria);
- 28.44 Continue to expand the scale of human rights technical cooperation to other developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation (Pakistan);
- 28.45 Continue to promote the Belt and Road Initiative to help other developing countries in their development endeavours (Pakistan);
- 28.46 Continue its efforts in providing technical assistance in the field of human rights to interested States (Russian Federation);
- 28.47 Further enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building and South-South cooperation (Thailand);
- 28.48 Continue to strengthen cooperation and exchange on the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights with other developing countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 28.49 Continue to promote South-South cooperation in responding to climate change (Fiji);
- 28.50 Continue to promote knowledge-sharing with other developing countries on public health-service projects (Gabon);
- 28.51 Continue sharing its best practices concerning poverty reduction with other developing countries (Guinea);

- 28.52 Continue to communicate with other developing countries on the experience of state governance, including on promoting and protecting human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 28.53 Continue sharing best practices and experiences on the development work of China with developing countries (Lebanon);
- 28.54 Enhance education reform with particular attention to developing countries as part of South-South cooperation (Libya);
- 28.55 Enhance cooperation and the sharing of best practices with other developing countries to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities by reducing poverty, rehabilitation and access to education (Malaysia);
- 28.56 Keep improving its legal system for the protection of human rights and effectively improve judicial guarantees for human rights (Nigeria);
- 28.57 Review its national and regional security legislation to bring it into conformity with international human rights law and standards and ensure that provisions are clearly and strictly defined (Austria);
- 28.58 Continue to strengthen and improve the work on petitions, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of citizens (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 28.59 Continue to protect the rights of vulnerable groups (Hungary);
- 28.60 Continue efforts to implement its international human rights commitments, particularly with regard to women's and children's rights (Peru);
- 28.61 Continue to strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups (Togo);
- 28.62 Continue current reforms to protect human rights as a whole (Guinea);
- 28.63 Intensify efforts to promote and fully ensure the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Italy);
- 28.64 Further strengthen the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities (Mauritius);
- 28.65 Continue to improve its system of legislative protection of human rights in accordance with its international obligations (Russian Federation);
- 28.66 Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Liechtenstein); Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland) (Togo) (Uruguay); Establish, in a timely manner, a national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles and is provided with adequate resources to fulfil a wide-ranging mandate (Seychelles); Speed up the establishment of a national human rights institution (Mali);
- 28.67 Continue its efforts to improve human rights by establishing an independent national human rights institution (Republic of Korea);
- 28.68 Continue to consider setting up a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);
- 28.69 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Botswana); Consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Bulgaria);
- 28.70 Continue its path towards establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);
- 28.71 Continue its study on the issue of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);

- 28.72 Work on strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights through its National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020 (Turkmenistan);
- 28.73 Continue to implement its National Human Rights Action Plan (Cambodia);
- 28.74 Ensure the effective implementation of the third National Human Rights Action Plan (2016–2020) (Kyrgyzstan);
- 28.75 Enhance the publicity of law enforcement, justice and abiding by the law in Chinese human rights protection practice (Azerbaijan);
- 28.76 Accelerate human rights education for all to build a fair and just society where human rights are fully respected (Lesotho);
- 28.77 Continue supporting the capacity-building of its personnel in the area of human rights in order to raise awareness on human rights (Uzbekistan);
- 28.78 Continue with training on human rights awareness for government officials and expand it to all segments of society (Guyana);
- 28.79 Continue to raise human rights awareness among members of society (Nigeria);
- 28.80 Continue promoting and raising awareness on human rights (Equatorial Guinea);
- 28.81 Strengthen its efforts towards the promotion of human rights education and awareness-raising programmes (Armenia);
- 28.82 Ensure the development of a legal definition of discrimination in order to enhance equality between men and women (Portugal);
- 28.83 Ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for women, girls and individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities by implementing the anti-domestic violence law and clearly defining its coverage (Sweden);
- 28.84 Adopt an anti-discrimination law for the public and private work environment that guarantees all people equitable and non-discriminatory treatment in their places of work (Uruguay);
- 28.85 Adopt comprehensive legislation against all types of discrimination that promotes the protection of persons from marginalized and disadvantaged groups and the exercise of their civil and political rights, as well as their economic and social rights (Honduras);
- 28.86 Adopt measures, including public policies or laws, which ensure the enjoyment of the right of every person not to be discriminated against in any way, including their sexual orientation, religion or ethnic origin (Mexico);
- 28.87 Strengthen national legislation and public policies to combat discrimination, including on sexual orientation and gender identity grounds (Chile);
- 28.88 Prohibit all forms of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);
- 28.89 Take the necessary measures to offer adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, including that based on sexual orientation (Argentina);
- 28.90 Adopt legislation within one year prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in all public and private sectors and provide for positive duties on the part of government to promote equality on these grounds (Netherlands);
- 28.91 Endeavour to promote racial harmony through improvement of the equality of women of African descent (Botswana);

- 28.92 Pay more attention to the allocation of public resources in its development process (Viet Nam);
- 28.93 Make additional efforts to close the gap between rural and urban areas (Oman);
- 28.94 Continue efforts to narrow the income gap between urban and rural areas, while paying special attention to ethnic minority areas (Qatar);
- 28.95 Continue to support economic and social development programmes and to focus on bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, particularly in the field of public health services (Qatar);
- 28.96 Redouble efforts to bridge the gap in economic and social development between rural and urban areas (Republic of Korea);
- 28.97 Continue implementing policies directed towards poverty alleviation, with a particular focus on access to services such as education, health care and social security for all migrant workers from rural areas (Republic of Moldova);
- 28.98 Continue increasing per capita income for both urban and rural residents (Turkmenistan);
- 28.99 Continue to develop agricultural technology in order to further promote food security (Uganda);
- 28.100 Continue to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while remaining committed to the Paris Agreement (Bangladesh);
- 28.101 Continue to promote participation, integration and the sharing of development benefits by people in vulnerable situations (Bangladesh);
- 28.102 Take further measures to ensure the right to development in the entire territory of China, including in remote regions of the country (Uzbekistan);
- 28.103 Continue to provide assistance to low-income groups in urban and rural areas (Angola);
- 28.104 Continue to promote participation, integration and the sharing of development benefits by vulnerable groups (Belarus);
- 28.105 Eliminate absolute poverty and build a prosperous society by 2020; turn China into a strong, democratic and culturally advanced socialist society by 2050 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 28.106 Continue to uphold a people-centred development approach (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 28.107 Further strengthen its efforts in poverty reduction and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and continue to improve its legal system for safeguarding the human rights of its people (Bhutan);
- 28.108 Continue its efforts to adopt a policy to achieve greater development and well-being for the people (Yemen);
- 28.109 Continue to incorporate women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities into overall national economic and social development planning (Brunei Darussalam);
- 28.110 Make further efforts to strengthen the protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Bulgaria);
- 28.111 Continue to implement the outline programme for the national and regional development of women and children to promote the comprehensive development of women and children (Cameroon);
- 28.112 Continue to promote participation, integration and the sharing of the benefits of its development by vulnerable groups (Zambia);

- 28.113 **Pay greater attention to the needs of women in the development process and build support capacities, in particular in financial support (Central African Republic);**
- 28.114 **Continue the implementation of the China National Plan for Child Development (2011–2020) (Iraq);**
- 28.115 **Continue efforts to achieve socialist modernization by 2035 (Cuba);**
- 28.116 **Continue to implement strategies to ensure rural revitalization and equitable regional development (Zimbabwe);**
- 28.117 **Continue its efforts to implement Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (El Salvador);**
- 28.118 **Step up efforts to further reduce poverty among the rural population (Ghana);**
- 28.119 **Continue structural reforms on issues of sustainable development (Guinea);**
- 28.120 **Ensure the well-being of all its people, based on inclusive development (India);**
- 28.121 **Safeguard its political system and the development path chosen by its own people (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 28.122 **Continue its efforts to eliminate absolute poverty by 2020 and share best practice in poverty alleviation with other countries (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 28.123 **Continue to carry out the new development concept and build a modern economic system (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**
- 28.124 **Continue providing care to the poorest in the context of poverty reduction and exerting efforts to ensure greater economic equity (Lebanon);**
- 28.125 **Support capacity building on sustainable development and improve the living standards of citizens (Libya);**
- 28.126 **Implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda (Madagascar);**
- 28.127 **Continue efforts to lift the rural population living under the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020 (Myanmar);**
- 28.128 **Continue sharing experiences and best practices in implementing people’s right to development (Namibia);**
- 28.129 **Continue enhancing the right to development at the national and international levels and making available its experiences in this regard to other countries (Egypt)**
- 28.130 **Promote measures that ensure that development and infrastructure projects inside and outside its territory are fully consistent with human rights and respect the environment and the sustainability of natural resources, in line with applicable national and international law and the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Ecuador);**
- 28.131 **Consider the establishment of a legal framework to guarantee that activities carried out by industries subject to its jurisdiction do not negatively impact human rights abroad (Peru);**
- 28.132 **Strengthen efforts, in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to reduce the adverse environmental effects of industrialization including air pollution (Republic of Korea);**

- 28.133 Take further measures on business and human rights in line with its international obligations and ensure that companies operating in high-risk or conflict areas conduct human rights due diligence in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (State of Palestine);
- 28.134 Establish a regulatory framework to assess the human rights and environmental impacts of corporations headquartered in China so as to promote and respect human rights, in follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 186.185, 186.193, 186.224 and 186.251 of the report of the Working Group, accepted during the second cycle (Haiti);
- 28.135 Continue extending Chinese laws, regulations and standards such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights to Chinese companies operating beyond China's borders (Kenya);
- 28.136 Continue efforts to speed up pollution governance in coastal waters (Maldives);
- 28.137 Continue to protect citizens' right to know, participate and supervise in the environmental field (Cameroon);
- 28.138 Continue to implement the law on environmental protection, the law on controlling air pollution and the law on the protection of wildlife etc. (Equatorial Guinea);
- 28.139 Protect the environment, ensuring appropriate conditions (Libya);
- 28.140 Continue to intensify measures to implement the Paris Agreement in view of the undeniable impact of climate change on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights (Seychelles);
- 28.141 Continue defending multilateralism and in particular its role in providing the leadership on climate change that is sorely needed (South Africa);
- 28.142 Strengthen measures to combat pollution and climate change (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 28.143 Continue to take into account the vulnerabilities, needs and views of women, children and persons with disabilities in developing policies, projects or programmes on issues related to climate change, environmental protection and disaster risk management (Fiji);
- 28.144 Continue to fully implement the Paris Agreement (Fiji);
- 28.145 Sustain its efforts in the global fight against terrorism and extremism (Nigeria);
- 28.146 Continue its efforts to maintain and promote peace and stability and the welfare of its people living in the ethnic minority areas, including through action against terrorist organizations and individuals (Pakistan);
- 28.147 Encourage China to take further measures to combat extreme religious organizations and movements (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 28.148 Continue to fight against terrorism and extremism and separatist tendencies to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 28.149 Continue to maintain peace and stability in the country to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 28.150 Amend the definition of subversion to remove all exercise of an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms from its scope (United States of America);
- 28.151 Continue to implement the Counter-Terrorism Law and protect people from terrorist threats (Belarus);

- 28.152 Ensure that any legal provision to protect national security is clearly and strictly defined in its security laws, in conformity with international human rights law and standards (Belgium);
- 28.153 Continue to crack down on terrorist and separatist organizations such as East Turkistan forces (Burundi);
- 28.154 Continue to combat terrorism and extremism with regard to human rights (Iraq);
- 28.155 Continue to strengthen the legislative framework on counter-terrorism and to implement relevant laws (Egypt);
- 28.156 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Estonia);
- 28.157 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by law (Montenegro);
- 28.158 Work towards the abolition of the death penalty, and publish execution data (Australia); Increase transparency regarding the death penalty by publishing statistics on the total number of executions and establish as soon as possible a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition (Slovenia);
- 28.159 Reduce the offences punishable by the death penalty and provide official figures regarding death sentences and executions, and consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty (Italy); Consider further limitations on the use of the death penalty with a view to imposing a de facto moratorium on its use, aiming at its total abolition (Rwanda); Further reduce the number of capital crimes (Cyprus);
- 28.160 Continue to reform towards abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand); Take steps towards abolishing the death penalty (Norway);
- 28.161 Completely abolish the death penalty, and adopt an immediate de facto moratorium (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards abolition (Spain); Establish a moratorium on executions (Iceland);
- 28.162 Consider establishing a moratorium on capital punishment with a view to its total abolition (Luxembourg);
- 28.163 Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law (Belgium);
- 28.164 Take steps to establish a moratorium on the death penalty, while guaranteeing that those who may be subjected to this penalty are entitled to adequate legal representation and to a fair trial (Brazil);
- 28.165 Continue reviewing national legislation to reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty, and encourage a public debate on its abolition (Chile);
- 28.166 Abolish the death penalty and as soon as possible, publish statistics concerning the numbers of executions and guarantee the right to a defence (France);
- 28.167 Consider establishing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and examine the possibility of abolishing the death penalty from its legal system (Argentina);
- 28.168 Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition and commute all existing death sentences (Liechtenstein);
- 28.169 Continue identifying more crimes for which the death penalty should be abolished (Namibia);
- 28.170 Strengthen measures preventing torture and ill-treatment (Australia);

- 28.171 **Respect the rights of all detainees under the relevant human rights instruments and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, including due process (Sweden);**
- 28.172 **Continue to effectively implement its Action Plan against Human Trafficking, focusing on efforts to provide assistance to victims, especially victims of cross-border trafficking (Viet Nam);**
- 28.173 **Elaborate comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that provides for the criminalization of all forms of trafficking (Ukraine);**
- 28.174 **Adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, including on trafficking for sexual exploitation and illegal adoptions (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 28.175 **Cease the arbitrary detention of Uighurs and other Muslim groups in Xinjiang (Australia);**
- 28.176 **Put an end to the practice of “residential surveillance at a designated location”, specifically with regard to human rights defenders and lawyers (Switzerland);**
- 28.177 **Abolish all forms of arbitrary detention, including internment camps in Xinjiang, and immediately release the hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of individuals detained in these camps (United States of America);**
- 28.178 **Halt the practice of detaining ethno-religious minorities who have not been lawfully convicted for a criminal offence in re-education camps and release those currently detained under such circumstances (Belgium);**
- 28.179 **Release Uighurs and other Muslims who have been detained arbitrarily and without due process for their ethnicity or religion (Canada);**
- 28.180 **End all unlawful detention, including the unconstitutional mass detention of Uighurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang, and residential surveillance at a designated location (Germany);**
- 28.181 **End the arbitrary detention of those who defend and promote human rights (Iceland);**
- 28.182 **Fully protect freedom of religion or belief by ensuring Chinese law supports the rights of individuals to freely practise their religion (Australia);**
- 28.183 **Respect, protect and fulfil the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, in accordance with general comment 22 of the Human Rights Committee (New Zealand);**
- 28.184 **Continue accelerating the development of laws and systems that protect freedom of religion for all citizens (Peru);**
- 28.185 **Ensure full implementation of its international human rights obligations regarding freedom of religion or belief (Poland);**
- 28.186 **Take the necessary measures to allow all citizens to enjoy the free exercise of religion or belief and to ensure that ethnic minorities can freely practise their religion and exercise their culture (Austria);**
- 28.187 **Continue to conduct friendly exchanges in the religious field with other provinces to increase mutual understanding (Saudi Arabia);**
- 28.188 **Continue to promote freedom of religious belief in accordance with the law; safeguard social and religious harmony among its people (Turkmenistan);**
- 28.189 **Cease interference in the selection and education of religious leaders, such as Tibetan Buddhist lamas (United States of America);**
- 28.190 **End prosecution and persecution on the basis of religion or belief, including for Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists and Falun Gong (Canada);**

- 28.191 **Ensure freedom of religion or belief and end the detention, harassment and so-called re-education of ethnic minorities, including in Xinjiang (Czechia);**
- 28.192 **Continue to fight against cult organizations to safeguard the people's welfare (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 28.193 **Continue promoting freedom of religion or belief in accordance with the context of national laws (Egypt);**
- 28.194 **Guarantee freedom of religion or belief, including in Tibet and in Xinjiang (France);**
- 28.195 **Respect the rights to freedom of religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and culture, including for Tibetans, Uighurs and other minorities (Germany);**
- 28.196 **Grant greater religious freedom to Catholics and Protestants, in follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 186.136, 186.138, 186.40, 186.141 and 186.143 of the report of the Working Group, accepted during the second cycle, concerning freedom of religion, and in accordance with its Constitution (Haiti);**
- 28.197 **Continue to strengthen the development of laws and systems for protecting freedom of religion or belief (Indonesia);**
- 28.198 **Improve the management of religious worship, in accordance with national laws (Algeria);**
- 28.199 **Expedite the reforms necessary for freedom of expression to be fully protected in law and practice (Australia);**
- 28.200 **Respect, protect and ensure the freedom of expression of all citizens (Norway);**
- 28.201 **Remove restrictions on freedom of expression and press freedom, including on the Internet, that are not in accordance with international law (Sweden);**
- 28.202 **Punish online criminal activities according to the existing law (Cambodia);**
- 28.203 **Repeal or amend laws and practices, such as censorship, which prevent the right to freedom of expression and free access to information (Czechia);**
- 28.204 **Enable unrestricted use of the Internet by all members of society by ensuring cybersecurity and the safe flow of information without violating freedom of expression (Estonia);**
- 28.205 **Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association including in Hong Kong, and remove obstacles to freedom of information on the Internet, in particular for human rights defenders (France);**
- 28.206 **Consider further measures to ensure a safe environment for journalists and other civil society actors to carry out their work (Greece);**
- 28.207 **Guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, enhancing efforts to create an environment in which journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs can freely operate in accordance with international standards (Italy);**
- 28.208 **Protect and guarantee respect for freedom of information and expression, in particular by journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders (Luxembourg);**
- 28.209 **Continue to improve the quality of universal Internet access services, and bridge the digital divide (Mozambique);**
- 28.210 **Continue ensuring the legal protection of activity by foreign non-governmental organizations, as provided for by the relevant law (Russian Federation);**

- 28.211 Expand the list of professional supervisory units to accommodate the registration of non-governmental organizations that seek to work in China (Denmark);
- 28.212 Continue its legislative, judicial and administrative reforms to prepare for accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Tunisia);
- 28.213 Guarantee fair trials, an independent judiciary and access to legal counsel, release all human rights defenders, including lawyers, and refrain from persecuting those who exercise their rights or defend others (Czechia);
- 28.214 Continue to implement initiatives for a comprehensive and far-reaching reform of the judicial system with a view to strengthening judicial guarantees in the field of human rights (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 28.215 Continue to strengthen the role of the judiciary in the protection of human rights (Egypt);
- 28.216 Guarantee the protection of lawyers against any form of harassment, violence or attempts to impede or interfere with the defence of their clients, in accordance with national law (Finland);
- 28.217 Further strengthen its national capacity with the aim of pursuing measures taken in the judicial sphere (Gabon);
- 28.218 Guarantee fair trials; allow all defendants unhindered access to their chosen lawyers, prompt notification of their families and transparent legal procedures (Germany);
- 28.219 Continue advancing administrative and judicial reforms in preparation for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);
- 28.220 Strengthen law enforcement education and supervision for judicial personnel (Kuwait);
- 28.221 Continue to promote openness of the judicial system and fully use the four major platforms for the openness of the approval process, trial procedure, judgment documents and information on the execution of judgments (Kyrgyzstan);
- 28.222 Consider including measures aimed at ensuring the increased efficiency and accountability of public services (Azerbaijan);
- 28.223 Continue strengthening and developing legislation that promotes the protection of labour and social rights (Eritrea);
- 28.224 Continue to raise the level, quality and coverage of its public services and further improve them, particularly in rural areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 28.225 Continue to strengthen social correction management and help address problems of employment, schooling and social insurance for persons subject to social correction in the country (Jordan);
- 28.226 Continue to promote economic and social development in ethnic minority areas (Belarus);
- 28.227 Continue to protect and improve the livelihood of people in development (Saudi Arabia);
- 28.228 Continue to develop education and medical services in the less developed regions of the country (Uganda);
- 28.229 Strengthen the welfare and well-being of the elderly (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 28.230 Continue to actively respond to the ageing of the population and improve the service system for assisting persons with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);
- 28.231 Conduct the nutrition improvement programme for children in poverty-stricken areas on a larger scale (Azerbaijan);
- 28.232 Continue implementing measures to ensure food security (Equatorial Guinea);
- 28.233 Continue to give attention to urban residents who have migrated from rural areas, especially the issue of housing those in need (Serbia);
- 28.234 Advance the renovation of dilapidated houses in rural areas in accordance with national conditions (Tajikistan);
- 28.235 Gradually establish a mechanism to ensure safe housing for low-income rural residents (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 28.236 Pursue the policy of building affordable social housing and renovate dilapidated housing to improve the living conditions of the population (Algeria);
- 28.237 Further strengthen the social security system (Oman);
- 28.238 Continue to strengthen the social insurance system (Ghana);
- 28.239 Continue measures to improve the social security system for all (India);
- 28.240 Continue to improve the agriculture sector in rural communities in light of national conditions (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 28.241 Continue to implement the rural revival strategy (Myanmar);
- 28.242 Increase its efforts to counter water pollution (Congo);
- 28.243 Guarantee children's health rights, namely by ensuring that they are protected against unsafe vaccinations and blood transfusions (Portugal);
- 28.244 Introduce appropriate amendments to the minimum wage and issue guiding principles for salaries (United Arab Emirates);
- 28.245 Further promote awareness among the whole of society on protecting the rights and interests of female employees (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 28.246 Further improve laws and regulations regarding the rights and interests of workers and labour unions (Angola);
- 28.247 Continue to guarantee the right to work, and build harmonious labour relations (Mozambique);
- 28.248 Give reasonable adjustment to minimum wage standards and issue salary guidelines (United Arab Emirates);
- 28.249 Continue the Healthy China plan and strengthen other measures to promote the right to health (Viet Nam);
- 28.250 Continue to strengthen health services in rural areas, including community elder-care services (Singapore);
- 28.251 Take further steps to consolidate programmes and actions aimed at improving public health care, including further reducing maternal and infant mortality (Sri Lanka);
- 28.252 Continue to implement the Healthy China strategy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 28.253 Continue to promote the development of the physical and mental health of children in a balanced fashion (Gabon);

- 28.254 Continue to increase government investment in maternal and child health services (Indonesia);
- 28.255 Continue public health education consultations for the general public and support NGOs in providing health services in communities (Jordan);
- 28.256 Give more public health resources to the central and western regions and rural areas (Mozambique);
- 28.257 Continue the fight against illegal drugs and rehabilitate drug addicts (Philippines);
- 28.258 Continue to improve the quality of maternity services (Morocco);
- 28.259 Move forward with the development of the educational system (Oman);
- 28.260 Take appropriate measures to ensure that all children fully enjoy the right to education (Portugal);
- 28.261 Make further efforts to provide the right to education for all without discrimination (Qatar);
- 28.262 Continue to advance in the area of fair and equal education so as to guarantee the right to education (Saudi Arabia);
- 28.263 Continue to invest in improving the conditions of schools in remote areas (Singapore);
- 28.264 Ensure access to quality education for all children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovenia);
- 28.265 Further improve access to education for children, especially those living in rural areas and the children of migrant workers (Sri Lanka);
- 28.266 Expand the balanced development of compulsory education and the delivery of public services in urban and rural areas (Bahrain);
- 28.267 Continue efforts to narrow the gap in compulsory education between ethnic autonomous areas and the national average (Burundi);
- 28.268 Continue to develop bilingual education in ethnic minority areas (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 28.269 Strengthen the technical professional education system as a quality education alternative for the development of the country (Eritrea);
- 28.270 Increase the financial support for children in difficulty to guarantee their right to compulsory education (Algeria);
- 28.271 Encourage China to pursue and further reinforce actions in favour of providing education and training for the most disadvantaged groups (Comoros);
- 28.272 Continue to implement the free education policy in the Tibet Autonomous Region (Nepal);
- 28.273 Increase support for early childhood education in rural communities (Nepal);
- 28.274 Continue the increased supply of educational resources in remote, rural and ethnic minority areas (Bangladesh);
- 28.275 Strengthen the approach of respecting cultural differences within its territory (Peru);
- 28.276 Continue to enhance the public service levels of radio and television (Azerbaijan);
- 28.277 Improve radio and television coverage and service quality in remote areas (Tajikistan);

- 28.278 **Improve the system of public cultural services and provide cultural services to impoverished people (Cameroon);**
- 28.279 **Continue efforts to enhance women's rights (Tunisia);**
- 28.280 **Continue consolidating the achievements made in the promotion of women's rights and welfare (Dominican Republic);**
- 28.281 **Pursue measures to address the gender pay gap, including by adopting legislation regarding the principle of equal pay (Republic of Moldova);**
- 28.282 **Promote the introduction of labour legislation providing for equal pay between men and women for the same work (Colombia);**
- 28.283 **Make efforts to promote and protect human rights, and achieve gender equality in pay (Iraq);**
- 28.284 **Continue to promote gender equality, in particular by improving labour law and regulatory systems for women in employment (Djibouti);**
- 28.285 **Continue and expand the current efforts to tackle all forms of gender discrimination, including the current efforts to integrate women's development through its overall national economic and social planning (Guyana);**
- 28.286 **Take adequate measures to prevent all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence against women (Liechtenstein);**
- 28.287 **Continue efforts to curtail gender discrimination (Malaysia);**
- 28.288 **Continue introducing and implementing measures to reduce the gender pay gap and strengthen the representation of women in leadership and managerial positions (Morocco);**
- 28.289 **Strengthen measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence including through enhancing existing legislation to better ensure accountability for victims (Rwanda);**
- 28.290 **With regard to the new legislation on domestic violence, implement as soon as possible the obligations towards women victims, which ensue from it (Switzerland);**
- 28.291 **Continue to improve the laws and policies for Chinese women to take part in decision-making (Serbia);**
- 28.292 **Continue the implementation of its policy on ensuring employment for women and enhancing the equal participation of women at the strategic and operational levels (Ethiopia);**
- 28.293 **Adopt concrete measures to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life (Iceland);**
- 28.294 **Continue taking measures for improving women's development, including the participation of women in public affairs (India);**
- 28.295 **Take further steps to promote the role of women in decision-making and management processes (Armenia);**
- 28.296 **Give priority to protecting the rights of girl children by ensuring that all girls are registered at birth, implement wide awareness-raising campaigns on the human rights of girls and promote their education (Slovenia);**
- 28.297 **Continue efforts to enhance children's rights (Tunisia);**
- 28.298 **Intensify efforts to support children left behind by their parents in rural areas as well as children in vulnerable situations (Djibouti);**
- 28.299 **Accelerate the process of modifying the relevant law in order to continue improving the legal protection of minors (Dominican Republic);**

- 28.300 **Promote the healthy development of children in poverty-stricken areas and prevent the inter-generational transmission of poverty (Kuwait);**
- 28.301 **Take measures to ensure all children, especially those of asylum seekers and refugees, have access to education (Mexico);**
- 28.302 **Continue to implement the Children's Development Guidelines and the National Programme of Action for Child Development and improve the mechanism for the protection of children's rights and interests (Myanmar);**
- 28.303 **Continue developing public policies to protect the rights of the child, including the elimination of all forms of exploitation (Chile);**
- 28.304 **Develop a national plan to eradicate child labour, particularly in the mining, manufacturing and brick-making sectors, and guarantee school attendance (Costa Rica);**
- 28.305 **Continue to implement the revised Law on the Protection of Minors and the Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency to ensure minors' physical and psychological health (Kuwait);**
- 28.306 **Continue efforts to enhance the welfare of persons with disabilities and the elderly (Philippines);**
- 28.307 **Pay more attention to protecting the rights and interests of persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**
- 28.308 **Streamline the implementation of Initiative 5125 of the Framework Law on Disability (Spain);**
- 28.309 **Continue efforts to develop measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand);**
- 28.310 **Protect the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in order to achieve comprehensive sustainable development for this sector of society (United Arab Emirates);**
- 28.311 **Protect the rights and interests of persons with disabilities so that they may achieve integrated and sustainable development (United Arab Emirates);**
- 28.312 **Continue implementing the care subsidy system for persons with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 28.313 **Take the necessary measures, in line with the provisions of international treaties, to ensure the full exercise of the rights of people with disabilities (Angola);**
- 28.314 **Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (Brazil);**
- 28.315 **Continue to improve basic social security coverage for people with disabilities (Congo);**
- 28.316 **Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights to participate in national social affairs management and other legitimate rights and interests (Jordan);**
- 28.317 **Cease restrictions on the freedom of movement of Uighurs and Tibetans and allow the media and United Nations and foreign officials access to Xinjiang and Tibet (Australia);**
- 28.318 **Resume the two-way dialogue on Tibet (New Zealand);**
- 28.319 **Take urgent steps to respect the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, including the rights to peaceful assembly and to manifest religion and culture, in particular in Xinjiang and Tibet (Sweden);**

- 28.320 Respect all the human rights of the Tibetan people and other minorities, including the importance of an environment that is safe, clean, healthy and sustainable, which is essential for the enjoyment of many of these rights (Switzerland);
- 28.321 Adhere to supply-side reform and promote sustainable and sound economic and social development in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Tajikistan);
- 28.322 Fully respect the rights of ethnic minorities, freedom of religion and expressions of cultural identity (Croatia);
- 28.323 Expand existing programmes that are aimed at ensuring the protection of the rights of minorities (Zimbabwe);
- 28.324 Further ensure the advancement of the human rights of minority groups (Afghanistan);
- 28.325 Protect and promote all human rights, especially the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, including the Xinjiang Uighurs. Discontinue all the Government's policies and activities, such as ethnic profiling, that are not in compliance with China's international human rights obligations, and allow the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit the Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Finland);
- 28.326 Further strengthen the protection of the rights of ethnic minority groups, in accordance with China's Constitution and international human rights commitments (Greece);
- 28.327 Prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence, especially against ethnic and religious minorities (Italy);
- 28.328 Continue to guarantee the rights of ethnic minorities to participate in the management of State and social affairs on an equal footing according to law (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 28.329 Increase knowledge of the law among workers, especially migrant workers (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 28.330 Continue promoting the rights to education of the children of migrant workers (Dominican Republic);
- 28.331 Continue to provide basic health-care services for migrants (Madagascar);
- 28.332 Continue to protect the rights of migrant workers through legislation (Nepal);
- 28.333 Release detained human rights defenders (Australia);
- 28.334 Create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders (Norway);
- 28.335 Apply public policies to protect human rights defenders in line with international standards (Spain);
- 28.336 Cease the harassment and extraterritorial abduction of human rights defenders and their family members, cease house arrest and travel restrictions for people based on their rights defence work, and release those imprisoned for such work, including Tashi Wangchuk, Ilham Tohti, Huang Qi and Wang Quanzhang (United States of America);
- 28.337 Take the necessary measures to guarantee that human rights defenders can exercise their freedom of expression and peaceful association (Belgium);
- 28.338 Guarantee the full exercise of the freedoms of association and expression of human rights defenders and minorities, in accordance with international human rights law (Costa Rica);

28.339 Enable all members of civil society to freely engage with international human rights mechanisms without fear of intimidation and reprisals (Estonia);

28.340 Take immediate action to allow human rights defenders and lawyers to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without threats, harassment or repercussions (Ireland);

28.341 Adopt the necessary measures to provide a safe environment for those who work on the protection and promotion of human rights, including human rights defenders and journalists, and investigate and punish all acts of violence against them (Argentina);

28.342 Ensure that human rights defenders can conduct their work without being subjected to harassment, intimidation or any kind of reprisals (Liechtenstein);

28.343 Uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the one country, two systems framework for Hong Kong (Australia);

28.344 Enhance monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Employment Contract, particularly for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong (Philippines);

28.345 Ensure the right of Hong Kong people to take part in government without distinction of any kind (Canada);

28.346 That the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region introduce internal legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Croatia).

29. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of China was headed by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Le Yucheng and composed of the following members:

- Mr. YU Jianhua, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China;
- Mr. ZHANG Jun, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. LI Junhua, Director-General, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. LIU Hua, Special Representative for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. YANG Bingjian, Director-General, Eighth Department, United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee;
- Ms. ZHANG Jie, Presiding Judge, Second Criminal Division, Supreme People's Court;
- Mr. WANG Yongle; Deputy Director-General, General Office, Central Leading Group for Judicial System Reform;
- Ms. SUN Ping, Deputy Director-General, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Public Security;
- Mr. AN Ning, Deputy Director-General, Department of Social Organizations Administration, Ministry of Civil Affairs;
- Ms. YIN Xuemei, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. TAN Chaoyun, Deputy Director-General, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security;
- Mr. ZHAO Ke, Deputy Director-General, Department of Policy and Regulation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment;
- Mr. LI Liping, Deputy Director-General, Department of Financial Planning and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development;
- Mr. KUANG Sheng, Deputy Director-General, Fourth Department, National Religious Affairs Administration;
- Ms. SHI Songyu, Deputy Director-General of Research Office, National Public Complaints and Proposals Administration;
- Ms. ZHANG Li, Deputy Director-General, General Office, National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council;
- Ms. GUO Chunling, Deputy Director-General, Research Office, State Council Working Committee on Disability;
- Mr. WANG Dai, Deputy Director-General, Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. GONG Xiangguang, Deputy Director-General, Department of Law and Legislation, National Health Commission;
- Mr. LI Xiaojun, Director, Human Rights Bureau, State Council Information Office;
- Ms. PAN Jingjing, Deputy Director, Seventh Department, United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee;

- Mr. ZHOU Qiang, Senior Staff, Department of International Cooperation, National Development and Reform Commission;
 - Mr. PANG Hanzhao, Counsellor, General Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. SHEN Dan, Second Secretary, General Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. YANG Zhilun, Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. GENG Fei, Deputy-Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. WANG Yi, Deputy-Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. LIU Shaoxuan, Deputy-Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. LIU Jia, Third Secretary, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. LIU Huiwen, Third Secretary, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. LV Xiaoxiao, Attaché, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. BI Haibo, Counsellor, Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. LI Jing, Deputy-Director, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. FAN Qin, Counsellor, Department of Translation and Interpretation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. LV Fei, Deputy-Director, Department of Translation and Interpretation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. YU Jia, Deputy-Director, Department of External Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. JIANG Duan, Minister, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. JIANG Yingfeng, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. QI Dahai, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. DAI Demao, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Ms. MU Jinling, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. CHEN Cheng, Attaché, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Ms. QU Jiehao, Attaché, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. CHEN Xin, Attaché, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. GENG Gai, Attaché, Permanent Mission of China;
 - Mr. Yasheng Sidike, Mayor, Urumuqi Municipal People's Government, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;
 - Mr. Luobudunzhu, Deputy Director-General, General Office, Leading Group for Religious Affairs, Tibet Autonomous Region.
- Delegates from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
- Mr. CHEUNG Kin Chung, Matthew, Deputy Head of Delegation, Chief Secretary for Administration, HKSAR;
 - Mr. CHAN Shui Fu, Andy, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, HKSAR;

- Ms. LI Po Yi, Mabel, Deputy Commissioner (Labour Administration), Labour Department, HKSAR;
- Ms. CHUNG Sui Kei, Judy, Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs), Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, HKSAR;
- Mr. TSANG Yue Tung, Andrew, Principal Assistant Secretary (Security), Security Bureau, HKSAR;
- Mr. WOO Tak Ying, Billy, Principal Assistant Secretary (Security), Security Bureau, HKSAR;
- Ms. LAU Li Yan, Candy, Admin Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration, HKSAR;
- Mr. KAN Ka Fai, Godfrey, Senior Assistant Solicitor General, Department of Justice, HKSAR;
- Ms. LI King Tsz, Cathy, Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs), Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, HKSAR.

Delegates from the Macao Special Administrative Region:

- Ms. CHAN Hoi Fan, Deputy Head of Delegation, Secretary for Administration and Justice, MCSAR;
- Mr. LIU Dexue, Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau, MCSAR;
- Mr. ZHU Lin, Adviser, Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice, MCSAR;
- Mr. Adriano Marques HO, Adviser, Office of the Secretary for Security, MCSAR;
- Ms. NG Wai Han, Deputy Director, Labour Affairs Bureau, MCSAR;
- Ms. HOI Va Pou, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Bureau, MCSAR;
- Ms. WONG Kio Chan, Division Head of Treaty Division, Legal Affairs Bureau, MCSAR;
- Mr. LAO Un Cheng, Division Head of Public Relation Division, Legal Affairs Bureau, MCSAR;
- Mrs. CHAN Cheng, Senior Officer, Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice, MCSAR.

Advance Version

Distr.: General
15 February 2019

Original: Chinese and English

Human Rights Council
Fortieth session
25 February–22 March 2019
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

China

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

1. China participated in the third cycle of Universal Periodical Review of the Human Rights Council in November 2018 in a responsible and constructive manner. During the review, most countries commented positively on China's achievements in human rights and put forward helpful recommendations. China attaches great importance to these recommendations. An inter-agency mechanism led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of over 40 departments across the legislative, judicial and administrative sectors has been established to carefully examine these recommendations.

2. The Chinese side has decided to accept most of the 346 recommendations, or 284 of them, covering more than 20 areas, including poverty reduction, rule of law, people's wellbeing, counterterrorism, religion, and international cooperation. This fully demonstrates China's determination and its active, open attitude toward promoting and protecting human rights. On the other hand, China has decided not to accept 62 of the recommendations, mainly because they are inconsistent with China's national conditions, contradictory with Chinese laws, politically biased or untruthful. The specific replies are as follows.

28.1. Accepted.

28.2. Not Accepted. Countries have the right to determine the application of the death penalty within the framework of international law. China's basic policy in this regard is that the death penalty should be retained with its application strictly and prudently limited.

On the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, China maintains that human rights should be promoted and protected mainly through the efforts of national governments, rather than through visits to state parties.

28.3. Not Accepted. The primary responsibility for the implementation of international human rights treaties falls on national governments. Citizens should resort to domestic complaint institutions for remedies and solutions when their rights are violated.

28.4. Accepted and being implemented.

28.5. Not Accepted. China is making preparations for ratification, but the specific date of ratification depends on whether relevant conditions in China are in place.

28.6. Not Accepted. See 28.5.

28.7. Not Accepted. Further observation is needed to ascertain the universality of this convention.

28.8. Not Accepted. See 28.7.

28.9. Accepted and being implemented.

28.10. Not Accepted. See 28.5.

28.11. Not Accepted. See 28.2.

28.12. Not Accepted. See 28.3.

28.13. Not Accepted. See 28.2.

28.14. Not Accepted. The specific date of ratification depends on whether relevant conditions in China are in place.

28.15. Not Accepted. See 28.14.

28.16. Accepted.

28.17. Not Accepted. China will continue to follow the work of the International Criminal Court, and hopes it will earn broader trust and support through its work.

28.18. Not Accepted. See 28.17.

28.19. Not Accepted. China will continue to carefully deliberate the ratification of the Convention and the Protocol.

28.20. Not Accepted. China will carefully deliberate the ratification of the Convention.

28.21. Not Accepted. China applies compulsory measures of criminal detention and arrest to criminal suspects in strict accordance with law.

28.22. Not Accepted. China welcomes and provides facilitation as stipulated by law for visits to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region by diplomats, Chinese and foreign journalists, and tourists who make the visits in accordance with the Chinese law. On the other hand, China firmly opposes interference in its sovereignty and internal affairs under any pretext.

28.23. Not Accepted. See 28.21 and 28.22.

28.24. Accepted.

28.25. Not Accepted. Decisions to invite special procedures for visits should be made by countries independently in accordance with their national conditions.

28.26. Not Accepted. The work of special procedures should be carried out based on thorough consultation with countries and respect for their sovereignty.

28.27. Not Accepted. China welcomes visits to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Tibet Autonomous Region by foreigners in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, but firmly opposes the practice of using the visits as an excuse to pressure the Chinese government and interfere in China's internal affairs.

28.28. Not Accepted. See 28.27.

28.29. Not Accepted. See 28.25.

28.30. Accepted.

28.31. Accepted.

28.32. Not Accepted. See 28.22.

28.33. Accepted.

28.34. Not Accepted. See 28.27.

28.35. Not Accepted. See 28.22.

28.36. Accepted.

28.37. Accepted.

28.38. Accepted.

28.39. Accepted.

28.40. Not Accepted. See 28.27.

28.41. Accepted.

28.42. Not Accepted. See 28.22.

28.43. Accepted.

28.44. Accepted.

28.45. Accepted.

28.46. Accepted.

28.47. Accepted.

28.48. Accepted.

28.49. Accepted.

28.50. Accepted.

28.51. Accepted.

28.52. Accepted.

28.53. Accepted.

- 28.54. Accepted.
- 28.55. Accepted.
- 28.56. Accepted.
- 28.57. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.58. Accepted.
- 28.59. Accepted.
- 28.60. Accepted.
- 28.61. Accepted.
- 28.62. Accepted.
- 28.63. Accepted.
- 28.64. Accepted.
- 28.65. Accepted.
- 28.66. Not Accepted. China has not established a national human rights institution. However, many government agencies in China assume similar responsibilities.
- 28.67. Not Accepted. See 28.66.
- 28.68. Accepted.
- 28.69. Accepted.
- 28.70. Accepted.
- 28.71. Accepted.
- 28.72. Accepted.
- 28.73. Accepted.
- 28.74. Accepted.
- 28.75. Accepted.
- 28.76. Accepted.
- 28.77. Accepted.
- 28.78. Accepted.
- 28.79. Accepted.
- 28.80. Accepted.
- 28.81. Accepted.
- 28.82. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.83. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.84. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.85. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.86. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.87. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.88. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.89. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.90. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.91. Accepted and being implemented.
- 28.92. Accepted.

-
- 28.93. Accepted.
- 28.94. Accepted and being implemented.
- 28.95. Accepted.
- 28.96. Accepted.
- 28.97. Accepted.
- 28.98. Accepted.
- 28.99. Accepted.
- 28.100. Accepted.
- 28.101. Accepted.
- 28.102. Accepted.
- 28.103. Accepted.
- 28.104. Accepted.
- 28.105. Accepted.
- 28.106. Accepted.
- 28.107. Accepted.
- 28.108. Accepted.
- 28.109. Accepted.
- 28.110. Accepted.
- 28.111. Accepted.
- 28.112. Accepted.
- 28.113. Accepted.
- 28.114. Accepted.
- 28.115. Accepted.
- 28.116. Accepted.
- 28.117. Accepted.
- 28.118. Accepted.
- 28.119. Accepted.
- 28.120. Accepted.
- 28.121. Accepted.
- 28.122. Accepted.
- 28.123. Accepted.
- 28.124. Accepted.
- 28.125. Accepted.
- 28.126. Accepted.
- 28.127. Accepted.
- 28.128. Accepted.
- 28.129. Accepted.
- 28.130. Accepted and being implemented.
- 28.131. Accepted.
- 28.132. Accepted and being implemented.

28.133. Accepted.

28.134. Accepted.

28.135. Accepted and being implemented. According to the territorial principle, Chinese companies operating overseas must observe local laws and regulations and refer to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

28.136. Accepted.

28.137. Accepted.

28.138. Accepted.

28.139. Accepted.

28.140. Accepted.

28.141. Accepted.

28.142. Accepted.

28.143. Accepted.

28.144. Accepted.

28.145. Accepted.

28.146. Accepted.

28.147. Accepted.

28.148. Accepted.

28.149. Accepted.

28.150. Not Accepted. The Special Provisions of the Criminal Law of China have made clear and specific stipulations on the subjective and objective elements and prescribed punishments of subversion of state power and other crimes.

28.151. Accepted.

28.152. Accepted and already implemented.

28.153. Accepted.

28.154. Accepted.

28.155. Accepted.

28.156. Accepted.

28.157. Accepted.

28.158. Not Accepted. In China, the statistics of the death penalty and death penalty with reprieve are combined with those of fixed-term imprisonment of more than five years and life imprisonment.

28.159. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.160. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.161. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.162. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.163. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.164. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.165. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.166. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.167. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

28.168. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.

- 28.169. Not Accepted. See 28.2 and 28.158.
- 28.170. Accepted
- 28.171. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.172. Accepted.
- 28.173. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.174. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.175. Not Accepted. In Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, where efforts are made to fight terrorist extremism in accordance with law, human rights are also seriously protected. There is no such problem as arbitrary detention.
- 28.176. Not Accepted. China is a country under the rule of law, and its judicial organs operate in accordance with laws and regulations.
- 28.177. Not Accepted. See 28.175.
- 28.178. Not Accepted. See 28.175.
- 28.179. Not Accepted. See 28.175.
- 28.180. Not Accepted. See 28.175.
- 28.181. Not Accepted. See 28.176.
- 28.182. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.183. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.184. Accepted.
- 28.185. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.186. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.187. Accepted.
- 28.188. Accepted.
- 28.189. Not Accepted. Religious affairs must be run in accordance with laws and regulations. The reincarnation of Living Buddhas should be consistent with religious rituals, historical conventions and China's laws and regulations.
- 28.190. Not Accepted. China is a country under the rule of law, and its citizens' freedom of religious belief is protected in accordance with law. However, those who break the law must be punished in accordance with law whether they are religious believers or not.
- 28.191. Not Accepted. See 28.175.
- 28.192. Accepted.
- 28.193. Accepted.
- 28.194. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.195. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.196. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.197. Accepted.
- 28.198. Accepted.
- 28.199. Accepted.
- 28.200. Accepted.
- 28.201. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.202. Accepted.

28.203. Not Accepted. China protects its citizens' freedom of speech in accordance with law, and deals with people who violate the law and illegal information in accordance with law.

28.204. Accepted and already implemented.

28.205. Accepted and already implemented. This reply does not affect the consistent position of the Chinese government on "human rights defenders". China's laws protect the lawful rights and interests of all citizens as equals. This reply also applies to other recommendations concerning "human rights defenders".

28.206. Accepted.

28.207. Accepted and already implemented.

28.208. Accepted and already implemented.

28.209. Accepted.

28.210. Accepted.

28.211. Accepted.

28.212. Accepted and already implemented.

28.213. Not Accepted. China is a country under the rule of law, and all its citizens are equal in front of law. The request to release those who are under compulsory measures or serving sentences in accordance with law is an interference in China's judicial sovereignty.

28.214. Accepted.

28.215. Accepted.

28.216. Accepted and already implemented.

28.217. Accepted.

28.218. Accepted and already implemented.

28.219. Accepted.

28.220. Accepted.

28.221. Accepted.

28.222. Accepted.

28.223. Accepted.

28.224. Accepted.

28.225. Accepted.

28.226. Accepted.

28.227. Accepted.

28.228. Accepted.

28.229. Accepted.

28.230. Accepted.

28.231. Accepted.

28.232. Accepted.

28.233. Accepted.

28.234. Accepted.

28.235. Accepted.

28.236. Accepted.

28.237. Accepted.

- 28.238. Accepted.
- 28.239. Accepted.
- 28.240. Accepted.
- 28.241. Accepted.
- 28.242. Accepted.
- 28.243. Accepted.
- 28.244. Accepted.
- 28.245. Accepted.
- 28.246. Accepted.
- 28.247. Accepted.
- 28.248. Accepted.
- 28.249. Accepted.
- 28.250. Accepted.
- 28.251. Accepted.
- 28.252. Accepted.
- 28.253. Accepted.
- 28.254. Accepted.
- 28.255. Accepted.
- 28.256. Accepted.
- 28.257. Accepted.
- 28.258. Accepted.
- 28.259. Accepted.
- 28.260. Accepted.
- 28.261. Accepted.
- 28.262. Accepted.
- 28.263. Accepted.
- 28.264. Accepted.
- 28.265. Accepted.
- 28.266. Accepted.
- 28.267. Accepted.
- 28.268. Accepted.
- 28.269. Accepted.
- 28.270. Accepted.
- 28.271. Accepted.
- 28.272. Accepted.
- 28.273. Accepted.
- 28.274. Accepted.
- 28.275. Accepted.
- 28.276. Accepted.
- 28.277. Accepted.

- 28.278. Accepted.
- 28.279. Accepted.
- 28.280. Accepted.
- 28.281. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.282. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.283. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.284. Accepted.
- 28.285. Accepted.
- 28.286. Accepted.
- 28.287. Accepted.
- 28.288. Accepted.
- 28.289. Accepted.
- 28.290. Accepted.
- 28.291. Accepted.
- 28.292. Accepted.
- 28.293. Accepted and already implemented.
- 28.294. Accepted.
- 28.295. Accepted.
- 28.296. Accepted.
- 28.297. Accepted.
- 28.298. Accepted.
- 28.299. Accepted.
- 28.300. Accepted.
- 28.301. Accepted.
- 28.302. Accepted.
- 28.303. Accepted.
- 28.304. Accepted and being implemented.
- 28.305. Accepted.
- 28.306. Accepted.
- 28.307. Accepted.
- 28.308. Not Accepted. China will carefully examine this Initiative.
- 28.309. Accepted.
- 28.310. Accepted.
- 28.311. Accepted.
- 28.312. Accepted.
- 28.313. Accepted.
- 28.314. Accepted and being implemented. China will carefully deliberate the ratification of the Treaty.
- 28.315. Accepted.
- 28.316. Accepted.

28.317. Not Accepted. See 28.27. The Chinese government guarantees, in accordance with law, the right to reside and travel of people of all ethnic groups, and their entry into and exit from the country. The Chinese government also ensures social order and sound port administration in accordance with laws and regulations to prevent violent terrorists at home and abroad from committing crimes.

28.318. Accepted and already implemented.

28.319. Not Accepted. The Chinese government always guarantees, in accordance with law, the freedom of assembly and religious belief and the cultural rights of people of ethnic minorities. There is no need for urgent steps.

28.320. Accepted and already implemented.

28.321. Accepted.

28.322. Accepted and already implemented.

28.323. Accepted.

28.324. Accepted.

28.325. Not Accepted. See 28.22.

28.326. Accepted.

28.327. Accepted and already implemented.

28.328. Accepted.

28.329. Accepted.

28.330. Accepted.

28.331. Accepted.

28.332. Accepted.

28.333. Not Accepted. See 28.213.

28.334. Accepted and already implemented.

28.335. Accepted and already implemented.

28.336. Not Accepted. See 28.213.

28.337. Accepted and already implemented.

28.338. Accepted and already implemented.

28.339. Accepted and already implemented.

28.340. Accepted and already implemented.

28.341. Accepted and already implemented.

28.342. Accepted and already implemented.

28.343. Accepted and already implemented.

28.344. Accepted and already implemented.

28.345. Accepted and being implemented.

28.346. Accepted and being implemented.

Group A: Concerning China (covering HKSAR (and Macao SAR))

(a) Encourage China, including Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SAR), to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Indonesia)

HKSAR cannot accede to ICRMW as it is incompatible with HKSAR's existing policy that imported workers and foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) are not allowed to bring their dependants to Hong Kong for residence. This policy needs to be upheld, otherwise there will be significant policy and resource implications on the provision of various public services in overcrowded Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has already met most of the requirements under the Convention pertaining to employment standards and norms as well as equality of treatment of migrant workers under our labour legislation. Exceptions include Article 39 under which migrant workers shall be free to choose their residences, Article 51 under which migrant workers shall have the right to seek alternative employment after their contract has been prematurely terminated, and Article 52 under which migrant workers shall have the right to choose their remunerated activity.

These exceptions are well grounded. Specifically, foreign workers are only allowed to come to work in Hong Kong to meet the manpower shortage of specific occupations and trades. In the case of FDHs, they have to live in the employers' residences to meet the acute shortfall of live-in domestic helpers. In addition, they do not have the right of permanent residence in Hong Kong, which already faces persistent and huge pressure on housing and other social services.

Imported workers under the Supplementary Labour Scheme and FDHs already enjoy the same employment rights and protection as local workers under the labour laws of the HKSAR. They also enjoy equal access to a wide range of Government services, including medical services and legal aid.

Moreover, the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (International Labour Convention No. 97) which applies to the HKSAR already

affords adequate protection to migrant workers in terms of employment standards and equality of treatment.

(b) Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association including in Hong Kong...(France)

The recommendation of France to guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association has already been implemented in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government is firmly committed to protecting the freedom of speech and of the press, which is enjoyed by Hong Kong residents as guaranteed by the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights. The HKSAR Government maintains an environment conducive to the operation of a free and active press. There is no press censorship. Some 80 foreign media organisations operate in Hong Kong, rigorously performing their role as a watchdog.

The freedoms of association, assembly, procession and demonstration are guaranteed by the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance. The provisions of the Public Order Ordinance (in respect of the freedoms of assembly, procession and demonstration) and the Societies Ordinance (in respect of freedom of association) are consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The public continues to enjoy a high degree of freedom of peaceful assembly and association. Between 2013 and 2017, there were about 44 000 public meetings and processions in Hong Kong (i.e. an average of 24 public meetings and processions every day). As at 31 October 2018, there were about 37 000 societies registered or exempted from registration in Hong Kong.

Group B: Concerning HKSAR

(c) Uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the one country, two systems framework for Hong Kong (Australia)

We accept the recommendation of Australia to uphold the rights, freedoms and rule of law embodied in the “one country, two systems” framework which has already, in fact, been implemented in Hong Kong. Since the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the HKSAR Government have been acting in strict accordance with the basic policies of “one

country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy. The Basic Law of the HKSAR prescribes the systems to be practised in the HKSAR and stipulates that the HKSAR is authorised to exercise a high degree of autonomy and enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law.

In the HKSAR, human rights are fully protected by the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383) (HKBORO), anti-discrimination legislation, data protection legislation and various safeguards in other legislation. The courts exercise judicial power independently and may grant remedies for any contravention of the human rights provisions of the Basic Law and the HKBORO.

The rule of law is the paramount core value of Hong Kong and the independence of the judiciary is the key firmly underpinning our rule of law. Judicial independence is guaranteed under the Basic Law and the power of final adjudication is vested in the Court of Final Appeal (CFA). The CFA may, as required, invite judges from other common law jurisdictions to sit on the CFA. Since the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, eminent judges from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have been invited to sit on our CFA. At the moment, we are privileged to have a total of 14 such overseas judges sitting on our CFA from time to time. According to Article 158 of the Basic Law, the ultimate power of interpretation of the Basic Law, which is a piece of national law, is vested in the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPCSC) of the People’s Republic of China. These reflect the uniqueness of the “one country, two systems” principle enshrined in the Basic Law. The CFA, in exercising its final adjudication power, will apply the relevant NPCSC interpretation to the facts of the case, where appropriate, in reaching decision. The constitutional order mentioned above remains unchanged since the establishment of the HKSAR, and it has been effective in upholding judicial independence in Hong Kong as well as ensuring Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability.

The availability of legal aid is instrumental to access to justice. It is an important pillar for the rule of law. In Hong Kong, legal aid is available to litigants who are not even Hong Kong residents, subject generally to the means of the litigant (except in human rights cases where the upper limit of means test will be waived if the case is meritorious) and an assessment of the merits test. There is no ceiling on legal aid expenditure in Hong Kong as legal aid services are demand-driven.

Applicants for judicial review can also apply for legal aid to challenge the legality of legislation as well as government policies or administrative decisions.

(d) Enhance monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Employment Contract (SEC), particularly for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong (Philippines)

We accept the recommendation of Philippines to enhance monitoring of the implementation of SEC which has already been implemented in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government highly values the important contribution of FDHs to Hong Kong and attaches great importance to safeguarding their rights. FDHs enjoy equal protection and entitlements as local workers under Hong Kong labour laws, including weekly rest day, paid statutory holidays, paid annual leave, sickness allowance, maternity leave, long service payment, severance payment, etc. The government-prescribed SEC offers additional protection to FDHs, including the Minimum Allowable Wage, free accommodation, free food (or food allowance in lieu), free medical treatment and free passage to/from the FDHs' place of domicile. These benefits are not usually available to local workers in the HKSAR.

The HKSAR Government has all along been closely monitoring the implementation of the SEC and will review and enhance our efforts from time to time as necessary. We will conduct prompt investigation into suspected breaches of the SEC. The records of employers and FDHs will be taken into account when the HKSAR Government assesses applications for employing FDHs.

(e) Ensure the right of Hong Kong people to take part in government, without distinction of any kind (Canada)

We accept the recommendation of Canada to ensure the right of Hong Kong people to take part in government, without distinction of any kind. This is being implemented in Hong Kong.

The Basic Law of the HKSAR provides that the ultimate aim is to select the Chief Executive (CE) and elect all Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) by universal suffrage, in light of the actual situation of Hong Kong and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress.

Both the Central Authorities and the HKSAR Government are fully committed to

achieving the ultimate aim of universal suffrage in accordance with the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the NPCSC.

As regards the public elections held in the HKSAR, permanent residents of the HKSAR aged 18 or above and ordinarily residing in Hong Kong enjoy equal rights to vote and to stand for elections to LegCo and District Councils in accordance with the law.

(f) That the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region introduce internal legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Croatia)

We also accept the recommendation of Croatia to introduce internal legislation to implement the CRC which is being implemented in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government is firmly committed to promoting the rights of children and honouring its obligations under the UNCRC through legislation, policies and practices. To this end, the existing law, policies and practices are subject to regular review for improvement on a continual basis.

Matters concerning children's rights and well-being cover a wide range of policy areas and are taken care of by the respective policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government for the best protection of children's rights.

The concept of child protection has consistently been an essential consideration in all relevant decision-making of the HKSAR Government, both in the formulation of policies and preparation of legislative proposals on matters relating to or affecting children. These present arrangements allow for flexibility and a swift response to changing circumstances and to the concerns of the public.

The HKSAR Government has been taking extensive measures in various policy areas, such as education, health and welfare, to enhance the rights and well-being of children comprehensively.

It is important to note that the HKSAR Government set up in 2018 a high-level Commission on Children, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and comprising both official and non-official members, to formulate long-term targets and strategic directions concerning the holistic development and promotion of the well-being of children at different stages of their growth.

Speech by CS at United Nations Human Rights Council plenary meeting

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the plenary meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council today (March 15, Geneva time) in Geneva, Switzerland:

Mr Chairman,

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been successfully implementing "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in strict accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the HKSAR with the full support of the Central People's Government since 1997. Human rights and freedom in Hong Kong are fully protected by the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and others.

We are determined to safeguard the rule of law and freedom. They are the core values of Hong Kong and cornerstone of our long-term prosperity and stability. Judicial independence is guaranteed by the Basic Law and firmly underpins the rule of law. The power of final adjudication of Hong Kong is vested in our Court of Final Appeal, which may invite judges from other common law jurisdictions to sit on it. Hong Kong ranks first in Asia in terms of judicial independence. We are also one of the world's safest cities.

Hong Kong is a vibrant, highly open and international city. The Heritage Foundation of the United States has ranked Hong Kong the world's freest economy for 25 consecutive years.

We will continue to build a caring, inclusive and fair Hong Kong by investing heavily in social services, improving people's livelihood, enhancing children's well-being and protecting the rights of all workers.

"One country, two systems" has proven a successful innovation. We are committed to upholding the principle of "one country" whilst leveraging our unique advantages under "two systems". We will seize the immense opportunities of the national Belt and Road Initiative and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development to propel Hong Kong forward.

Thank you.

Ends/Friday, March 15, 2019

Issued at HKT 19:05

NNNN