

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Gender with Class Foundation)

1. The Gender with Class Foundation, whose mandates are linked to the defense and protection of women's human rights; to the organization and promotion of women; to the struggle for non-sexist communication; for a life free of any form of patriarchal violence; for sexual rights and full reproductive rights, we present the following complementary report to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Introducción

2. In the People's Republic of China, the expansion of the human rights of women and girls has been a constant in recent decades, which has allowed progress in substantive aspects such as a regulatory framework and advanced public policies in favor of the advancement and progress of the female population, for the guarantee of their rights and quality of life; These are elements that have transformed the daily life of Chinese society, highlighting in recent years, the Program for the Development of Chinese Women (2011-2020), the recent extension of the Law for the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, among other instruments that have allowed to continue institutionalizing the main rights of the female population, making the Asian country a reference in terms of economic, social, educational, labor rights of women, where the right to development is considered a fundamental human right.
3. This report is the result of a methodological triangulation that includes documentary tracking of data and figures from governmental institutions, academic works, contributions of experiences and testimonies of feminist and human rights organizations.

I. Context

4. Since the historical process of Reform and Opening-up since 1978, China has progressively become the fundamental engine of the world economy. This Asian nation, the most populous on the planet, has developed in a short period of time the most spectacular process of industrialization and urbanization ever recorded by any country. Huge industrial parks, gigantic cities, an unusual construction of highways and high-speed railways, accompanied in recent years by an intense scientific-technological development of global stature, have turned the Asian giant into a world economic and financial power.

5. Contrary to what has happened in the last 40 years in the world, China has managed to drastically reduce its poverty indicators. The Chinese government has managed to lift more than 850 million people out of poverty since 1980, an unprecedented historical milestone. In this sense, in 2021, China eradicated extreme poverty, became a country free of misery, transforming itself into what they call a modestly affluent society. Evidently this has only been possible because China enjoys a model where the interests of society are above mercantile interests.
6. It should be noted that this milestone was achieved because in 2013, based on China's Targeted Poverty Reduction Program (RFP), a national strategy was implemented to reach the poorest pockets that did not benefit from the previous decades of rapid economic development. To address this situation, the Chinese government sought to develop specific plans to precisely target and lift each poor family out of poverty. In this order, 246 billion dollars were invested, 1.1 million kilometers of roads were built in rural areas, Internet access was brought to 98% of the country's poor villages, 25.68 million homes were renovated and 9.6 million new houses were built. All this effort allowed that, by the end of 2020, the 98.99 million people still living in extreme poverty in 832 counties and 128,000 villages registered in 2013, would definitely leave that condition.
7. It is important to note that, in China, the poverty line is set at US\$2.3 per day (adjusted to purchasing power parity - PPP), which is higher than the standard of US\$1.90 per day established by the World Bank. Thus, in addition to raising income, the Chinese government has made substantial efforts to ensure food and clothing and guarantee access to basic medical services, safe housing with electricity and drinking water, and compulsory public education. In other words, China has adopted a multidimensional approach to solving the problem of poverty.
8. In this way, China, a country with more than 1450 million inhabitants, has managed to eradicate hunger, has guaranteed the coverage of public services including decent housing to practically its entire population, taking into account that less than half a century ago this country was a society that was still poor, much poorer, for example, than most Latin American countries in the 70's of the last century.
9. The PRC is today a leader in the decarbonization of the economy, in the expansion of alternative energies, in the fight against desertification, in international cooperation and development aid to poor countries, in technological development in various areas, in the construction of infrastructures (high-speed railways, highways and roads, schools, hospitals and universities) for the benefit of its society as a whole. In China, the welfare of the people in general, and of its female population in particular, is a priority, corroborated by concrete facts.

II. Substantive progress in the area of women's Human Rights

10. In the midst of this dynamic context of economic and social development, Chinese women have registered an important series of advances in the area of human rights, as they have participated in and enjoyed the dividends of the Reform and Opening-up. In this regard, the following stand out:
11. In recent years, Chinese President Xi Jinping has raised in the international forums of UN Women on the occasion of Beijing+20 (2015) and Beijing+25 (2020), the commitment of his government to the promotion of gender equality as a state policy. This historic commitment has been endorsed in the white paper entitled "Equity, Development and Sharing: The Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years since the Founding of the New China", published by the State Council Information Office, which shows the political will to promote gender equality and women's comprehensive development at a higher level.
12. In this regard, the government policy document "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era" outlines gender equality as one of the priority areas of China's international development cooperation for the first time.
13. Accordingly, the PRC has made commitments to support funding for UN Women and developing countries to strengthen the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Thus, in the framework of development aid for women around the world and the work carried out by UN Women, China has donated more than US\$20 million since 2015. China has also contributed to the financing of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education.
14. In this order, China has supported other countries in developing more than 100 health projects for women, girls and boys. 100 Happy Campus projects have been implemented to finance the schooling of poor girls and to increase girls' school enrollment. In addition, PRCh served 30,000 women from developing countries to participate in training programs while providing 100,000 skills training opportunities in local communities in other developing countries. In addition to the above, special capacity-building programs for women from developing countries were organized from a fund co-sponsored by China and the United Nations.
15. At the domestic level, however, China has developed a set of laws, based on the Constitution, consisting of more than 100 laws and regulations to safeguard the rights and interests of women.
16. In this order it should be noted that, in 2022, the National People's Congress (NPC), China's highest legislative body, approved the revision of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women promulgated in 1992, which incorporated a new chapter and 25 articles ensuring that "the dignity of women is inviolable".
17. Among the new additions, which came into effect on January 1, 2023, it was stipulated that women's wishes will have to be respected when performing medical procedures and local authorities will be

required to "inform, rescue and care" for all those who were "abducted or trafficked."

18. In addition, the new sections of the legislation call for eliminating gender discrimination in the workplace and ensuring maternity leave. At the same time, practices that prevent the promotion of female employees due to marriage, pregnancy or breastfeeding, common situations in many job interview processes, will be penalized.
19. As of the entry into force of the Law Against Domestic Violence of the People's Republic of China on March 1, 2016, gender equality review mechanisms were established in regulations and policies in 24 provinces, regions and municipalities.
20. In 2022, following the extension of the aforementioned law by the Supreme People's Court it has been made easier to apply for restraining orders for victims who "have suffered domestic violence or are in danger of it". This allows protection orders to be granted without the need for the victim to file a civil lawsuit such as a divorce.
21. In this way, the highest judicial body in the country has recently expanded the definition of "domestic violence" and has detailed the type of evidence that can be presented to prove that a victim's family members have subjected her to "mental or physical abuse" through techniques such as "subjection to cold or starvation" or "stalking" and request a protection order. Thus, the new interpretation clarifies the types of evidence that can be presented, among which are "letters, recordings of telephone calls, text messages or emails".
22. Also in 2022, the Supreme People's Court of China toughened sentences to punish crimes against the most vulnerable and considered that in the most serious cases the death penalty should be applied, all within the framework of a campaign to fight against "kidnapping and trafficking of women and children".
23. On the other hand, the implementation of the National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020) prioritized women's access to resources and support, such as access to health care, microcredit and vocational training. A total of 10.21 million women enrolled in China's Targeted Poverty Reduction Program (RFP), had access to training courses, and more than 5 million of them work in agricultural and livestock production, handicrafts, tourism and the electronic market. Microcredit has enabled 8.7 million women to start their own business. Free breast and cervical cancer screening has been extended to all poor villages enrolled in the program in an effort to reduce poverty rates due to disease, while some US\$640 million has been invested to ensure infrastructure, health care and basic needs for 50 million poor mothers.
24. Thus, support for women in poverty has been strengthened and half of those who have been lifted out of poverty are women. The number of rural women living in poverty has decreased drastically and more rural women now enjoy the benefits of social security, such as the basic pension plan and the

new rural cooperative medical scheme.

25. Highlights that a total of RMB 345 billion (about US\$54.45 billion) in guaranteed loans have been made available to rural women entrepreneurs in recent years.
26. The Action for Women's Entrepreneurship and Innovative Capacity has enabled millions of women to start businesses in the development of the digital economy.
27. Eighty million rural women have access to free cervical and breast cancer screening.
28. Each year, women's federations at all levels provide training to rural women, establishing 30,000 agricultural demonstration bases, and more than 2.6 million rural women receive assistance to increase their incomes.
29. Gender inequality has been virtually eliminated in compulsory education, so that more than 50 percent of university students are women.
30. To summarize the great transformations that the People's Republic of China has registered in terms of women's welfare, it is enough to point out that maternal mortality has been reduced from 1,500 cases per 100,000 births in 1949 to 17.8 in 2019.

Recommendations and conclusions

31. Despite these substantial advances, we recommend the following:
32. First of all, we must point out that it is still a debt in the People's Republic of China to guarantee political parity of women and men in the main positions of popular election and high-level leadership. Both the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, among other bodies, have less than 30% representation of women. They are less represented in higher level bodies such as the Political Bureau or the Secretariat of the CCP, or in the executive cabinet.
33. In China, as in much of the world, stereotypes and discriminations persist culturally and socially that continue to place women in second place to men, requiring substantive and culturally relevant efforts to overcome discriminatory and sexist social norms.
34. Guarantee gender-sensitive budgets, with a specific percentage, in State policies to ensure the sustainability of structural and special temporary policies with a feminist and intersectional approach.

35. Create and strengthen public policies with an intersectional approach aimed at the diversity of girls and women, especially historically disadvantaged groups.
36. To ensure that the media favor the eradication of all types of violence and discrimination, and that women's dignity is strengthened, assuming communication policies with an inclusive and diverse approach.
37. It is a challenge that these two reflections made by President Xi Jinping materialize and do not remain merely declarative aspects:
38. "The pursuit of gender equality is a great cause. A review of history shows that without the liberation and progress of women, the liberation and progress of mankind are not attainable".
39. "We must eradicate all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. We should focus on gender equality and discard obsolete mentalities and customs that inhibit women's development".