

Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association Submission for the Fourth Universal Periodic Review of the People's Republic of China

Introduction

1. In November 2018, China underwent the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR), during which there were more than 120 State delegations who expressed their strong support to China's pursuit of human rights development with Chinese characteristics and high appreciation on China's contribution to the International Human Rights Regime. Speakers commended China for having lifted 800 million people out of poverty and welcomed the priority given by the Chinese government to promote socio-economic development, tackling terrorism, and strengthening international cooperation. In March 2019, Chinese government agreed to accept 284, out of 346 recommendations from 150 countries, but rejected 62 of them. Those recommendations were related to poverty relief, rule of law, gender equality, social welfare, protection of ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups, protection of freedom of religious beliefs, speech and assembly, counter-terrorism, climate change and sustainable development, South-South Cooperation, etc. China also announced 30 new initiatives on protection of human rights.

2. This submission is the fruit of cooperation among multiple NGOs in China. The review is conducted by Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association (SXPVA), in cooperation with "Beijing on Action International Cultural Centre" (BAICC). It draws from and is anchored in the recommendations provided by the UPR Working Group along with HRC recommendations. **It tries to highlight China's human rights development since the last UPR and demonstrate the link between China's best practices and the 2030 Agenda.**

3. The methods applied include literature analysis, field research and in-depth interviews. In preparation, the task forces have conducted numerous desk researches. New laws, rules or acts formulated or revised by the government since 2018, have been collected, and studied. Various field investigations into remote and poor areas launched and extensive personal interviews with informants from various communities were conducted, among them were some of the students from the vocational training schools in Xinjiang and migrant workers in Guangdong. Discussions were also held with government officials. These are all credible and first-hand information.

Constructive Cooperation with UNHR Bodies and Substantial Contribution to the development of International HR Regime.

4. Since the third UPR in 2018, China has ratified a range of human rights treaties and received visits of the High Commissioner and some other Special Procedures Experts.

A. Cooperation with UNHRC and follow-up to the UPR

5. In 2020 China has been elected for the fifth time as the member of UNHRC and the votes it received have far exceeded the threshold of a two-third of majority of the members of the UNGA. This reflects the great support that China has won from the vast majority of the UN.

6. China has continued engagement with the UNHR bodies with increasing intensity and breadth; the results are becoming increasingly fruitful. The High Commissioner, 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 were invited to visit China. Ms. Kornfeld-Matter and Ms. Bachelet have visited China in November 2019 and May 2022 respectively.

7. China has undergone through three universal periodic reviews (2009, 2013 and 2018) and the Chinese government has demonstrated a strong commitment to the implementation of international human rights treaties and a full and genius compliance with relevant reporting mechanisms.

B. Acceding to the Core UN Human Rights Instruments

8. On 20 April 2022, China has ratified two Conventions by the International Labor Organization (ILO) on forced labor: the Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (No. 105). These ratifications have been deposited with the ILO on 12 August, 2022. Thus, the total number of ILO Conventions ratified by China has risen to 28, including six of the eight Fundamental Conventions. This move is welcomed by the ILO and the High Commissioner as an important starting point for protecting fundamental principles and rights at work.ⁱ

9. At the same time, China is preparing for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a number of important laws and judicial explanations promulgated.

10. From July 2018 to February 2023, China has submitted implementation assessments to various UN treaty bodies for six times, among them were: the Third Review on China's Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (February, 2023), The seventh report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2019), The 14th–17th Consolidated Report on China's Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (January, 2017), The "Ninth Assessment Report on China's Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (March, 2020) etc.

C. Contribution to the international human rights regime

11. The UNHRC is an important platform for China to advocate for its human rights stance and that for the other like-minded developing country group. The ideal of human rights advocated by China has been adopted into many resolutions by the UNHRC and has become an integral part of the international human rights regime.

1. Developing the concept of "building a community with a shared future for mankind"

12. The 34th session of the UNHRC on March 23, 2017 adopted two resolutions proposed by China on behalf of 140 other states: the Resolution on the Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in All Countries and the Resolution on the Right to Food. They explicitly enshrined the narrative of "building up a community with a shared future for mankind". This is the very first time that the terminology of *building up a community with a shared future for mankind* has been adopted in a resolution of the UNHRC and become an integral part of the international human rights regime.

2. Establishing the concept of "Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights"

13. The UNHRC adopted the resolution: "The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights" proposed by China and twice respectively in 2017 and

2019. It calls on all parties to support multilateralism, cooperation, and translate their commitment to support development centered on people.

3. Advocating the concept of "promoting win-win cooperation in the field of human rights"

14. On March 23, 2018, in the 37th Session of the UNHRC, the resolution on "Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights", proposed by China was adopted. The initiative was passed again on June 22, 2020 during the 43rd session by a majority. Particularly illustrative was that it turns human rights a matter of engagement and cooperation between sovereign states for fulfillment of their obligations instead of NGO's campaigning and shaming for confrontation. This inspiring initiative exemplifies the case of the developing countries which are challenging the western discourse of human rights. It is legitimized by the majorities in the Council.

D. Engagement with the UN Office of High Commissioner

1. Donation to the High Commissioner Office (HCR)

15. China has maintained a constructive dialogue with the HCR, and signed a number of cooperation agreements with the Office. Since 2018, China donates US\$800,000 to the HCR every year, also donated \$100,000 to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development in 2017. This is especially helpful given that 2019 saw the first public escalation of financial crisis of the HCR.

2. Bachelet visited China

16. At the official invitation of the Chinese Government, Bachelet visited China from 23-28 May, 2022. During her visit, Bachelet had a virtual meeting with President Xi Jinping and met in person with many senior state officials in China social governance. She visited Kashgar prison and the Kashgar Experimental School, a former Vocational Education and Training Centre, among other places. In addition, she was able to interact with NGOs, academics, and community and religious leaders.

E. Engagement with Special Procedures & Treaty Bodies

17. China also maintains a sound cooperation with other Special Procedures (SPs) in the UNHR. Chinese government responds carefully to every letter from the SPs, and has invited various SP experts to visit China. The Independent Expert on the Rights of the Elderly, Coenfeld-Mart, made her first official visit to China in November 2019. The Chairman of the Working Group on the Right to Development was also invited to visit China.

Defending the principles of indivisibility, interdependence, and interrelatedness of human rights, promoting economic, social, and cultural rights, for fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda

18. Since the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, where the principles of indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights were affirmed, the international human rights movement has begun to take economic, social and cultural rights into the mainstreaming discourse and to recognize the centrality of poverty in many human rights violations. This was followed by several declarations and resolutions acknowledging the international preoccupation with global poverty as a human right issue. In September

2015, the Sustainable Development Goal 2030 (SDG) was adopted by the UN.

19. Four decades of reform in China and opening up have brought about remarkable progress in the country's human rights framework. China has pursued a vision, practice and development path of human rights with Chinese characteristics by addressing income poverty, capability deprivation and social exclusion altogether.

20. From 2016 to 2020, the Chinese government adopts various practical measures for fully implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan and the 13th Five-Year Plan in economic, social and cultural areas. All 168 goals have been accomplished and many of the targets and tasks were completed ahead of schedule or exceeded, especially the task of eradicating extreme poverty. A moderately prosperous society has been built in all respects, and the level of human rights protection has been significantly improved.

1. The Right to Life: Chinese Model of Poverty Alleviation

21. By the end of 2020, China has completed the arduous task of eliminating extreme poverty. 98.99 million people, who lived below the poverty threshold, have all shook off poverty. The overall regional poverty has been addressed. This is a tremendous achievement.

22. Poverty alleviation is an arduous, complex battle. In order to win the battle, the CPC, relying on its highly sufficient organizational structure and operating mechanism, mobilizes and rallies all forces in the country, and promotes the endeavor as a grant strategy. The government agencies, the market and the whole society are all incorporated into the big game, with full participation of multiple players across different regions, sectors, and businesses, supplemented by the government-sponsored projects, sector-specific projects, or societal assistance. The government adopts a policy of one-to-one collaboration between the East and the Western Region, to accelerate the flow of talent, capital, and technology into the under-resourced Western region while promoting export of labor from the West to the East, to narrow the development gap. Leading enterprises in coastal provinces and cities are encouraged to establish poverty alleviation workshops or public welfare positions for resettlement of migrant workers from the western region.

23. The CCP and various government agencies, public institutions, state-owned enterprises, the military and civil society organizations, are all mobilized to establish a one-to-one partnership in the poverty stricken areas, in particular in Tibet and Xinjiang. The poverty alleviation is conducted through promotion of industrial and technology development, education popularization, cultural exchange, medical care strengthening and consumption titling. The other different political parties also contribute their professional know-how. The private enterprises are mobilized to participate in poverty alleviation. Entities with strong market development capabilities are guided into the areas with great potential for resource development. Impoverished population with work capacity are encouraged to work. The labor has increased from 12.27 million in 2015 to 32.43 million in 2020.

24. By 2020, 30 million people have been lifted out of poverty through employment in regional characteristic industries, 10 million people have been transferred for employment in other places or industries, 10 million people have been relocated from non-habitable places to more favorable places, and 20 million people, who have lost the ability to work, have got support through social security schemes. Under current standards, all rural impoverished populations have been lifted out of poverty, and all poverty-stricken counties have got rid of poverty. The first target of the UN 2030 Agenda is met 10 years ahead of the schedule. The per capita disposable income of rural residents in poverty-stricken areas increased from 6,079 Yuan in 2013 to 12,588 Yuan in 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 11.6%.

25. Poverty alleviation has achieved more remarkable accomplishment in ethnic minority

regions. From 2016 to 2020, the poverty-stricken population in multi-ethnic autonomous regions, like Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Ningxia, Guizhou, Yunnan and Qinghai has decreased by 15.6 million. 28 ethnic minority groups with smaller population have all been lifted out of poverty.

B. Promoting the social and economic right

1. Affordable housing

26. In November 2018, the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance jointly launched a "Three-Year Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation through Renovation of Dilapidated Houses in Rural Areas", aiming at full renovation of dilapidated houses of the impoverished, low-income, dispersed and the extremely poor, disabled families by 2020. More than 23 million shanty town of all kinds nationwide were renovated, and more than 50 million slum-dwellers got helped to improve the housing conditions. As of 2020, 9.13 million migrant workers who get legitimate resident permits have enjoyed public rental housing security. Over 6 million new urban residents across the country have gained public rental housing protection.

2. Drinking water safety

27. It is a major livelihood issue that has been included in poverty alleviation scheme with prioritized funding and implementation. A newly built water supply capacity of 27 billion cubic meters nationwide is added, and the water quality of urban water supply sources has fully met the standards. As of July 2020, the centralized water supply rate in rural areas has reached 88%, and the popularization rate of tap water has reached 83%, the water supply for 270 million rural residents are increased. The issue of drinking water safety for 17.1 million impoverished people, the problem of fluoride that exceeded the standard for 9.75 million rural populations, and the problem of brackish water for 1.2 million rural populations have all been addressed and resolved.

3. Medical care for the ill

28. Tinsurance plan and the social security card project have been vigorously implemented across the country; the classes and the levels of social security schemes have been steadily improved and coordinated. As of 2020, the universal number of social security card holders has reached 1.3 billion, covering 95% of the population.

4. Elderly, with security and dignity

29. China has entered an aging society, how to improve the elderly care service and its quality are key focuses of human rights protection. Between 2016 and 2020, the central government allocated a budget of 18.6 billion Yuan for an elderly care system across the country. It is characterized by a combination of medical treatment and elderly care. It is home-based, community-supported, institutions supplemented and moderate in scale, covering both urban and rural areas. By 2020, the total number of elderly care institutions and facilities has reached 319,000, covering both the urban communities and more than half of the rural communities. As of 2020, the participation rate of basic pension insurance has reached 90%.

30. At the invitation of the Chinese government, Ms. Kornfeld-Matter (KM), the first independent expert of the UNHRC for the elderly, paid a visit to China in November, 2019. She visited Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and some other places, and had discussions with people from local government agencies, academics, private companies and NGOs. KM appreciated that the Chinese government actively introduced corresponding policies to deal

with the aging challenges and revised the "Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly". She praised China's best practice of building up open Community Universities for the elderly, with government bearing most of the cost. This was worth recommending to other countries. KM also showed interests in China's promotion of the smart elderly care.

5. Education for the young

31. The Outline of the National Medium and Long term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020) is an important document of the central government to optimize the education structure for education equity and social justice. Increasing the level and scale of student grant is one of the five main tasks of the education poverty alleviation project. The state's financial aid and stipend to students from impoverished families have covered all stages of education, from preschool to post-graduate. Various schemes such as "rewards, loans, aids, subsidies, attendance, reduction, and exemption" and green channel have been fully implemented to aid students. Students in rural pilot areas can receive nutritional and dietary subsidies. The scheme has benefited approximately 26 million students annually; the central and local governments jointly establish national scholarships for ordinary high schools, which support approximately 4.82 million students annually. From 2016 to 2020, the central government allocated a total of 225.8 billion Yuan in student subsidies. Prestigious universities are encouraged to recruit students from rural and poverty-stricken areas through a special plan. The total enrollment has reached nearly 520,000 students.

C. Promoting the right to work, protecting the vulnerable and address poverty of three categories

1. Migrant workers

32. The total number of migrant workers has increased from 281.71 million in 2016 to 285.60 million in 2020 - an average annual increase of 970,000. At the same time, the government is trying to improve the systems to supervise the protection of labor's rights and interests and address the labor disputes. Employment discriminations are strictly prohibited, wage arrears and salary delay are being comprehensively addressed; the layoffs by enterprises are strictly monitored in order to protect the informally employed laborers.

33. Since 2017, for three consecutive years, the issue of wages arrears or delay payment to migrant workers has been highlighted in the Work Report of the Government and a series of corresponding new policies have been promulgated, such as: "Suggestions from the General Office of the State Council on the Comprehensive Rectification of Wage Arrears for Migrant Workers" (12/2019), "The Interim Management of the 'Blacklisting' for Wage Arrears to Migrant Workers" (9/2019), etc. A Leading Group in the State Council, with representatives from various Provincial/Municipal Government for Rectifying Wage Arrears to Migrant Workers has been set up in August 2019 for intensifying rectification on illegitimate wage arrears, and implementing territorial supervisory responsibilities, and strengthening joint punishment for wage arrears and salary delaying.

2. Women

34. A long-term employment insurance mechanism is established to ensure an equal employment for the vulnerable groups such as women, the disabled, the ethnics, the LGBTQ, and the drug addicts. The Notice on Further Regulating Recruitment Code and Promoting Women's Employment has been issued in February 2021, clarifying six types of gender discrimination in the employment, and striving to eliminate gender discrimination in employment, salary, and career development. Specific labor protection for female employees has become an important part of labor security supervision and labor safety supervision, for

annual assessments. Sexual harassment has been explicitly listed in the Civil Code, stipulating that if sexual harassment is committed against the wishes of others, the victim has the right to request the perpetrator to bear civil liability.

3. Protecting the Ethnic Minorities

a) The Poverty Alleviation Schemes in Xinjiang and Tibet

35. With strong support from the central government and counterpart provinces/cities across China, Xinjiang has adopted a series of effective poverty alleviation policies based on the local conditions, such as promoting development of industrial and education, increasing employment, expanding health care coverage and pushing for renovation of rural dilapidated houses, as well as relocating people to more habitable areas. By the end of 2020, all 2.73 million rural impoverished populations have been elevated out of poverty. The per capita disposable income of urban residents has increased from 319 Yuan in 1978 to 34,838 Yuan in 2020, and that of the rural residents' has increased from 119 Yuan to 14,056 Yuan, a nominal increase of 108.2 times and 116.9 times, respectively.

36. Between 2016 and 2020, a total of 1.2 million rural housing projects have been completed, and 1.3 million sets of urban affordable housing have been built, benefiting tens of millions of local residents. All administrative villages have gained access to hardened roads, routine buses, electricity and broadband. Expressways and high-speed railways have been developed. 22 civil airports have been completed for use, that makes Xinjiang has the most civil airports in China.

37. From 1994 to 2020, a total of 6,330 economic and social construction projects were completed in Tibet by counterpart provinces/cities, central government agencies, and central enterprises, with a total investment of 52.7 billion Yuan. 9,682 outstanding cadres were sent to assist Tibet. the GDP of Tibet In 1951 was only 129 million Yuan; while in 2020, its GDP has exceeded 190 billion Yuan.

38. In order to help Uyghur to get rid of poverty, the counterpart cities in the rich and costal province provide funding and other in-kind support to help people in Xinjiang. We conducted a series of interviews with different Uyghur migrant workers who are working in the joint ventures in Guangdong. Most of them are able to adapt to the local culture there. The factory provides generous welfare schemes to help the migrant workers to reduce their domestic workloads. Free dormitories with bathroom are provided to all migrant workers. Couple's rooms are also available and the children can enjoy free school buses and tutoring classes. Uyghur chefs are hired from Xinjiang to prepare for Islamic food. Over time of work would get extra pay upto 1.5 times of the salary, which has significantly increased their income. After three years of work, the couple we interviewed has bought a house of 90 square meters in Xinjiang and they are planning to buy a new car.

b) More public education resources is tilted towards Tibet & Xinjiang

39. From 2016 to 2020, more public education resources, more than 790 billion Yuan in total, is tilted towards the poorer ethnic areas. Schools in the Eastern region are sending teachers to their counterpart in Xinjiang and students from Xinjiang have been increasingly admitted by schools in the Eastern region. There are around 150,000 students who graduated, from universities directly under auspices of the National Ethnic Commission, among them are about 90,000 of ethnic minority.

● Boarding School in Tibet

40. In 2012, Tibet took the lead in China in implementing a 15-year-public-education and a

policy of "three free" (food, boarding and tuition) for children of farmers and herdsmen's. From 2012 to 2021, the total financial input in education in the entire Tibetan region reached 215.4 billion Yuan; by the end of 2021, Tibet has 3,339 schools of all levels and types, with 7 general colleges and universities, with around 920,000 students. The gross enrolment ratio of high school and higher education has reached 106.99% and 56.14% respectively. The student subsidy has covered 40 items, and the average annual funding standard has reached 4,200 Yuan per student; financial subsidies have covered all public and private schools, in particular, students from poor families. A total of 30.1 billion Yuan in funding that covered 16.97 million students has been implemented.

41. Tibet has a vast land but sparse population. Its economy is characterized by agriculture and animal husbandry. Herdsmen are highly mobile and scattered. This is difficult for school-age children to attend school. As a solution, the government establishes boarding schools in various areas, to facilitate the children. The boarding schools are well-equipped with all kinds of learning and living facilities, and the funds are fully borne by the state. Students are provided with free food, lodging and tuition fees.

42. In 2021, there were 12,695 schools of all levels and types in Xinjiang; the number of students reached 6.6 million. In 2022, there are 56 higher education institutions in Xinjiang, with 281,200 undergraduate students; from 2012 to 2020, the general public budget for education expenditure has accumulated as 614.56 billion Yuan, and the proportion of national financial expenditure for education in GDP has always remained above 4%.

43. Xinjiang had only one college in 1949, with 379 students only. The illiteracy rate was over 90%. Schools of scriptures were affiliated with mosques. Whereas In 2021, there have been 12,695 schools of all levels and types; ⁱⁱ the number of students in school reached 6.578 million.

44. Over the past decade, the entire region has allocated 47.487 billion Yuan in student aids for all levels and types,ⁱⁱⁱ benefiting 37.029 million students. It is worth pointing out that the enrollment of primary and middle school students in Xinjiang increased by 6.7% and 6.5% respectively during the same period, while undergraduate and vocational students increased by 9.5%. These data prove that the population growth and the great development of education in Xinjiang in the past decade are true, where did "Genocide" and "Cultural Genocide" come from?

● **Ethnic Classes in Senior High Schools in Inland**

45. In order to address the urgent issue of shortage of teachers due to the rapid development of education in Tibet and Xinjiang, many experienced teachers from the developed provinces/cities have been sent there; 17 primary or secondary schools affiliated with the prestigious universities in different provinces/cities across the country have provided support to 21 corresponding schools in Tibet, significantly improving the education and teaching quality and management level of the recipient schools.

46. From 2016 to 2020, various universities and coastal provinces/cities have input a total of 15.19 billion Yuan in Xinjiang and implemented more than 3,000 projects. 6,400 teachers have been sent to Xinjiang to support the teachings there. At the same time, many middle schools in the coastal and developed provinces/cities have set up special "Tibet Classes" or "Xinjiang Classes" to receive children from Tibet and Xinjiang. They attend these classes and are mixed with the local children in the form of boarding schools.

c) **Ensuring the right of minority to learn and use their own language and script**

47. The rights of the ethnic minorities to learn, to use, and to develop their mother tongues are protected. Bilingual studies in the ethnic areas are encouraged. The right to use ethnic

minority languages and characters in fields such as administrative justice, litigation, press and publication, culture and education has been effectively ensured.

48. An online translation network for ethnic languages has been built up, and three major systems have been developed: one for translation of ethnic languages in Mongolia, Tibet, Uygur, Kazak, Korean, Yi, and Zhuang into Han, one for Speech Recognition and Synthesis, and one for Image Identification.

Promoting administration by law and fair justice, and effectively protecting civil and political rights

49. In this section, we focus, in light with China's National Action Plan on Human Rights from 2016 to 2020, on the effort made by the government in promoting administration by law, protecting citizen's right to information, participation, expression, and right to hold government accountable; and constantly strengthening the protection of civil and political rights, the freedom of religion, further improving the judicial procedures for advancing human rights.

A. Consolidating the legal framework

50. In the past five years, China has continuously pushed forward the development of Chinese human rights discourse, promoted administration by law and fair justice. It has tried to protect civil and political rights through a comprehensively promotion of four systems: the legal norm system, the rule of law implementation system, the rule of law supervision system, and the rule of law protection system.

51. In January 2019, the General Office of the State Council issued "The Guiding Opinions on the Comprehensive Implementation of the Publicity System for Administrative Law Enforcement, the Recording System for the Whole Process of Law Enforcement, and the Legal Review System for Major Law Enforcement Decisions". It focuses on the key phases of administrative law enforcement, like the source, process, and results, aiming to create a more open, transparent, standardized, orderly, and fair legal environment, effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of people, and maintain the credibility of the government.

52. In order to strengthen the judicial protection of human rights and a more accurate application of the Criminal Procedure Law, the Supreme Procuratorate issued the "Criminal Procedure Rules of the People's Procuratorate" on December 30, 2019, aiming to improve the review process for the necessity of detention, strengthen the supervision of criminal detention duration, prevent and clear up those unresolved cases of long-term detention, and strictly implement the system of changing custody, reporting overdue detention, and accountability.

B. Ensuring citizens' right to a fair trial and protecting the detainee's legitimate rights

53. The "Opinions of the Supreme People's Court on Comprehensively Deepening the Reform of the People's Courts —The Fourth Five-Year Reform Outline of the People's Courts (2014- 2018)" has been implemented, the judicial protection mechanism for human rights has been strengthened. The working mechanism for incorporating defense lawyer opinions in different phases of litigation, such as investigation, prosecution, and trial, is being improved for safeguarding lawyers' practicing rights and better leverage the role of lawyers in safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of the clients.

54. In the past five years, the Chinese judicial system has strictly implemented a series of new regulation: "The Provisions on Effectively Ensuring Lawyers' Litigation Rights According to Law" (2016), "The Opinions on Deepening the Reform of the Lawyer System" (2016) and " The Notice on Establishing and Improving a Quick Linkage Mechanism for Safeguarding Lawyers' Practicing Rights" (2017)", to ensure the institutional protection of lawyers' rights to know, apply, review papers, appear in court, and appeal during the litigation process according to law; and implementation of relevant laws that grant the right to lawyers to meet, review papers, collect evidence, ask questions, cross examination, debate, and other aspects of practice in litigation, ensuring that lawyers can exercise their defense and agency rights in accordance with law without any disturbance, and protecting the legitimate rights of litigants from infringement.

55. In order to better promote an open justice and protect the rights of the litigants and the public to know and supervise, the Supreme Court has established and operated four major platforms: open trial processes, open judgment documents, and open execution information. As of 2020, the website China Trials Online has broadcasted online over 10 million court trials, with a viewing of approximately 34 billion people/times; China Trials Online has published over 100 million documents and users are from over 210 countries and regions.

56. On April 29, 2019 the Supreme Court has approved "Several provisions on safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of parties involved in the review and execution procedures of death sentences". This is an important milestone, it proves that the death penalty review procedures and systems in China are improving, the number of death penalty charges is steadily reduced, the number of death penalty applications is controlled; What is striking is that it has created space for lawyers to intervene and participate in the review of death sentences.

C. Freedom of religion and other believes

1. Regulating government's management of religious affairs according to law, supporting development of religion and other believes

57. The Regulations on Religious Affairs has been revised and came into effect since February, 2018. The government religious body is urged to manage the religious affairs by law and provides support and assistance to religious organizations while the religious communities are encouraged to strengthen its own development, self-restraint, self-regulation, and self-management capabilities.

2. The number of mosques in Xinjiang counts at the top of the world

58. According to the White Paper: "The Freedom of Religious Belief in Xinjiang" (2016), from early 1990s to 2017, the number of mosques doubled in Xinjiang from 12,000 to 24,400. Based on the census, there are 14.93 million of ethnic minority population in Xinjiang in 2022, of which Uyghur accounts for 11.62 million. By average, 611 people own a mosque there,^{iv} far exceeding many Islamic countries and western countries. The data fully proves that the charge on "Cultural genocide" in Xinjiang is not tenable at all.

3. Xinjiang has a huge number of Islamic Clergy

59. According to official statistics, there are more than 29,000 Islamic clerical personnel in Xinjiang who preside over religious affairs and activities in the registered mosques, accounting for one-twelfth of China's 360,000 clerical personnel.^v This does not include those from the 103 Islamic associations at all levels in Xinjiang, like prefectures, cities, and counties. What is important is that all their stipend and subsidies are covered by the

government. In recent years, the government in Xinjiang has allocated nearly 60 million Yuan for living allowances for the cleric personnel every year, and the rest is covered by local government at all levels.

ⁱ [International labour standards: ILO welcomes China's move towards the ratification of two forced labour Conventions](#);

ⁱⁱ Promoting the Historical Development of Education in Xinjiang, China Education Daily, August 10, 2022; [新疆：推动新疆教育实现历史性发展 - 中华人民共和国教育部政府门户网站 \(moe.gov.cn\)](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ 同上

^{iv} [新疆的宗教信仰自由状况_白皮书_中国政府网 \(www.gov.cn\)](#) ;June 2016.

^v 同上