

“Shadow Report” on China's Acceptance of  
the Fourth Cycle of Universal Periodic Review  
Submitted by the Nationalities Unity and  
Progress Association of China  
to the Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Brief of the Organization

**Chinese:** 中华民族团结进步协会

**English:** Nationalities Unity and Progress Association of China  
(MUPAC)

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**Date of establishment:** June 2002

**Main Activities:** The Nationalities Unity and Progress Association of

China (MUPAC) is a state-level social organization registered with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China. The MUPAC is committed to contacting all groups and individuals in China and abroad who love the Chinese nation, to conduct investigations on topics such as the economic development and social progress of ethnic minorities and ethnic-minority areas in China and put forward suggestions. We participate in social welfare activities covering the economy, culture, and education of ethnic minorities and in ethnic-minority areas while cooperating with ethnic minorities-related departments at all levels to conduct their work. Besides, we also introduce projects, talents, technologies and financial services with both social and economic benefits for ethnic-minority areas, as well as collecting, compiling and publishing books, videos and propaganda materials related to the history, economy and culture of ethnic minorities and the experience of outstanding figures who have contributed to the economic and social development of ethnic minorities and ethnic-minority areas.

**Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council:** No

## II. Report

1. The MUPAC is a national, comprehensive social organization

with the status of a corporation aggregate, voluntarily formed by people from all walks of life who love the cause of ethnic unity and progress and support the work of ethnic unity and progress; it is the most universal and representative non-governmental organization with strong ethnicity in sectors related to ethnic minorities. We attach great importance to China's fulfillment of its human rights obligations and commitments in ethnic minorities and ethnic-minority areas, as well as the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of human rights in China by the United Nations. The MUPAC has participated in initiatives related to the economic and social development of ethnic minorities and ethnic-minority areas in recent years, such as holding “summer camps for youth of all ethnic groups” , implementing “the tourism revitalization plan in ethnic-minority areas” , and carrying out “ethnic theory research” among others. After thorough investigations, we believe that China has made solid achievements in safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all ethnic groups, and promoting the common development of all ethnic groups. At the same time, due to some natural and historical reasons, China needs to further consolidate its achievements in poverty alleviation in ethnic-minority areas, accelerating the self-construction to better develop ethnic-minority areas.

2. *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* clarifies that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. When governing ethnic affairs by law, China upholds the “principle of equality” . By improving laws and regulations related to ethnic minorities and their affairs, China ensures citizens from all ethnic groups equal under the law, opposing any form of ethnic discrimination. As stipulated in the General Principles of *the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution)*, “All ethnic groups of the People's Republic of China are equal. The state shall protect the lawful rights and interests of all ethnic minorities and uphold and promote relations of equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony among all ethnic groups.”

3. China protects the rights of ethnic minorities to participate as equals in administering state and social affairs. According to *the Electoral Law of the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of the People's Republic of China*<sup>1</sup> , in areas where ethnic minorities inhabit in concentrated communities, each ethnic minority shall have its deputy or deputies sit in the local People’ s Congress. Based on investigations, the number of ethnic minority officials has been increasing in recent years. All 55 ethnic minorities have deputies to the National People's Congress, and those with very

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<sup>1</sup> Art. 4 of the Electoral Law of the National People’ s Congress and Local People’ s Congresses of the People’ s Republic of China 2015.

small populations have at least one deputy. In areas with ethnic minority clusters, all ethnic minorities are guaranteed to have deputies to local People's Congress.

4. China supports ethnic-minority areas to pursue faster growth, and protects the rights of ethnic minorities to economic development, to consolidate its achievements in poverty alleviation of ethnic-minority areas, and advance rural revitalization. *The 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for Tourism Development*<sup>2</sup> emphasizes supporting ethnic-minority areas to leverage their unique tourism resources and accelerate the development of tourism products. Also, with project construction, effective investment is attracted, promoting high-quality economic development. For example, the total investment in fixed assets in Xinjiang in 2021 was 31.9 percent higher than that of 2012, with an average annual growth rate of 8.3 percent, ranking among the top in China.

5. China promotes the construction of high-quality cultural resources in ethnic-minority areas, and takes measures to pass on and protect fine traditional Chinese culture, protecting the cultural rights of ethnic minorities. All 55 ethnic minorities have their own items listed in the national representative list of intangible cultural heritage, and the representative items of ethnic minorities account

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<sup>2</sup> Circular of the State Council on the 14th Five-Year Plan for Tourism Development (Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022), [https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-01/20/content\\_5669468.htm](https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-01/20/content_5669468.htm).

for nearly 40 percent of the total. Ethnic minorities account for 36 percent of all the bearers of the intangible cultural heritage items on the national representative list. In addition, public cultural services in ethnic minority areas have improved. Take Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region as an example. Through the implementation of public-benefit cultural programs, a series of region-wide mass cultural activities such as “Dancing in Guangxi” and “Opera in the Countryside” have been conducted.

6. China has invested a lot of human and material resources to protect the rights of ethnic minorities to their own spoken and written languages and education. The *Constitution*<sup>3</sup> and the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional Ethnic Autonomy*<sup>4</sup> have stipulated that ethnic minorities are free to use and develop their own languages, and details have been specified in the *Criminal Procedure Law*<sup>5</sup> and *Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*<sup>6</sup> to ensure the application of ethnic minorities’ languages in government affairs, judicial proceedings, student education, and other aspects. Moreover, the Chinese government has initiated a project to protect language resources and has set up 450 survey spots for languages of ethnic minorities (including endangered languages),

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<sup>3</sup> Art. 4 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China.

<sup>4</sup> Art. 10, 21, 37, 47, 49, 53 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional Ethnic Autonomy.

<sup>5</sup> Art. 9 of the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China.

<sup>6</sup> Art. 11 of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China.

with more than 40 in Xinjiang.

7. Investigation shows that compulsory education now covers all counties and districts in Tibet, achieving the goal of 15-year free education from preschool to senior high school. The nutritional improvement plan for students receiving compulsory education in agricultural and pastoral areas is implemented, with policy and funding coverage both reaching 100 percent. At present, nearly 30 scientific research institutes have been established in Tibet, covering a wide range of disciplines. Among them, research in Tibetology, plateau ecology and Tibetan medicine takes the leading position in China, producing a number of academic achievements with global influence.

8. We hope the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government will follow the established guidelines and goals to ensure a higher level of protection for the human rights of people of all ethnic groups. Additionally, MUPAC will continue to pay attention to the protection and development of the rights and interests of ethnic minorities and ethnic-minority areas, enhancing exchanges and cooperation with relevant groups and individuals in China and abroad.