

**Submission for 4<sup>th</sup> UPR Review related to China**

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**I. Achievements in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the Macao SAR**

**(1) Disability Rights**

1. The government of the Macao SAR has continuously and actively safeguarded the rights of persons with disabilities. From a legal perspective, laws at various levels, including the Macao Basic Law, the Civil Code, and the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence, contain provisions that protect the rights of disabled individuals and address disability discrimination. In terms of specific measures, the Macao SAR conducts a classification registration of persons with disabilities. Additionally, disabled individuals can apply for disability subsidies annually, which significantly alleviate their financial burdens. Furthermore, the authorities periodically organize seminars to promote awareness of the existing measures for safeguarding the rights of disabled individuals.

2. The Social Welfare Bureau in Macao holds annual events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, providing opportunities for the public to interact with and understand the lives of disabled individuals. The Macao government also collaborates with non-governmental organizations to enhance the employability of disabled individuals. With the establishment of four vocational training centers, vocational training, career referrals, and employment support services are provided to disabled individuals. Moreover, the government regularly organizes job matching events, offering direct interview opportunities for Macao businesses and disabled individuals seeking employment. Tax incentives are provided to enterprises that hire disabled individuals. These comprehensive efforts promote the protection of disability rights, enabling them to live and work on an equal footing in Macao society.

## **(2) Women's and Children's Rights**

3. In 2016, the Macao SAR government established the "Committee for Women and Children's Affairs" to comprehensively address issues related to the health, education, welfare, protection, and civic participation of children. The government also advocates for equal opportunities, rights, and dignity for women and children.

4. Macao SAR provides comprehensive medical care plans for pregnant women and their unborn children, and infants, young children, and primary and secondary school students can access free medical services. The government not only focuses on the physical health of children and pregnant women but also prioritizes their mental well-being. Psychological support services are available for children and relevant parties, and specialized clinics are established for assessment and treatment. In the field of education, the Macao SAR government provides free and compulsory education for children and emphasizes the holistic development and diversified education of students.

5. The Macao government ensures fair protection of women's employment rights and salary treatments. Women in Macao enjoy various free medical services, receive formal education, actively participate in the workforce, and achieve gender pay equality. Legally, the Macao SAR has sound frameworks to prevent and combat domestic violence, child pornography, and child prostitution. To promote gender equality and respect individual development, the Macao SAR government is committed to enacting legislation, revising laws, formulating relevant policies and measures, and actively collaborating with public departments and non-governmental organizations to protect women's rights and promote comprehensive development.

## **(3) Personal Data Privacy Protection**

6. In terms of traditional privacy rights protection, the Macao SAR has comprehensive legal regulations. Article 30 of the Basic Law and Article 74 of the Civil Code both protect the right to privacy in private life. Laws such as the Labour Relations Law in 2008, the Legal System of Public Video Surveillance in 2012, and the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence in 2016 explicitly stipulate the protection of privacy rights. Furthermore, with the advancement of technology, global attention to topics such as "open data" and

"data sharing" is increasing. Ensuring better protection of personal privacy in this context has become a global issue. The Macao government actively engages in exchanges with data protection supervisory agencies in different countries and regions, drawing upon international experiences in personal data protection to enhance the level of personal data protection in the Macao SAR and enact privacy protection laws and regulations that adapt to technological advancements.

7. At the criminal law level, the Macao SAR has established a detailed and comprehensive system for protecting the right to privacy, specifically setting up chapters on offenses against protected private life, ensuring that everyone can reside in tranquility and that their privacy rights are not disturbed.

#### **(4) Environmental Protection**

8. The Macao SAR government actively promotes energy-saving and emission-reduction measures. Through energy management and technological innovations, there is a strong focus on developing renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on traditional energy sources. Additionally, the Macao SAR government is committed to improving air quality. Through technological and legal means, it strengthens the monitoring and control of industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust emissions, and dust from construction sites, thereby enhancing the quality of life for residents and ensuring their physical well-being. Furthermore, measures such as establishing nature reserves, promoting environmental education, and advocating sustainable tourism demonstrate the Macao SAR government's dedication to protecting the natural ecological environment and biodiversity.

9. It is through the proactive efforts of the Macao SAR government that the people of Macao can live in a beautiful environment, which is an important aspect of human rights protection.

#### **(5) Legal Protection of Human Rights**

10. At the legislative level, Macao SAR has established a comprehensive legal framework that effectively safeguards human rights. In addition to existing laws and regulations, the government of the Macao SAR has been continuously updating legislation in

recent years to enhance the effectiveness of human rights protection. The Law on the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence specifically emphasizes the protection of vulnerable groups such as women and children within the family context. The Minimum Wage Law focuses on safeguarding the rights of workers and preventing the issue of excessively low wages. The Law on Combating Human Trafficking, coupled with strict law enforcement by Macao's relevant authorities, ensures that human trafficking is virtually non-existent in Macao. Various individual laws of this nature contribute to the progress of human rights protection in the Macao SAR.

11. Meanwhile, the government of the Macao SAR respects existing laws and ensures that they are applied in the enforcement and judicial processes, thereby guaranteeing their implementation. It is the combination of legislation and judiciary that contributes to the excellent achievements in human rights protection in the Macao SAR.

## **II. Goals for the Advancement of Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the Macao SAR**

12. The Macao SAR is a maritime region where people from different races, religions, and languages coexist. To protect human rights and promote the development of human rights work in Macao, it is essential to embrace and respect cultural diversity and ensure equal protection for every individual living in Macao, regardless of their race or beliefs. In such a societal environment, comprehensive protection is needed for gender equality, the rights of the elderly and children, the rights of non-local employees, and other aspects. Currently, there are several aspects of human rights protection in the Macao Special Administrative Region that can be improved:

### **(1) Further Protection of the Rights of Ethnic Minority Groups**

13. Currently, there is a significant number of ethnic minority groups living in the Macao SAR. While the government has been promoting multiculturalism, as an island where cultures converge, issues of inequality and conflict among ethnic minority groups are often overlooked. Therefore, it is recommended that the government of the Macao SAR not only focus on raising awareness of equality among the local population but also pay attention to potential issues within the ethnic minority communities. Additionally, existing measures for

protecting the rights of ethnic minorities should be promoted and disseminated, ensuring that every individual living in the Macao SAR is aware of their rights and receives better protection.

## **(2) Strengthen awareness and understanding of ICCPR through education and public outreach**

14. The Macao SAR government has been organizing lectures periodically to promote knowledge about human rights protection among residents and to familiarize them with local human rights protection policies. However, public understanding of ICCPR is still insufficient. It is suggested that the Macao SAR government, society organizations, and non-governmental organizations collaborate closely to enhance residents' awareness and understanding of ICCPR through legislation, judicial processes, student education, and regular public outreach efforts. This will allow ICCPR to have a greater impact in Macao.

## **(3) Need for Updating Privacy Protection Laws**

15. Despite the existence of laws such as the Basic Law, Civil Code, Public Video Surveillance Legislation, and Personal Data Protection Law, which emphasize the importance of privacy protection, these laws have been in place for a considerable period of time. With the advancement of technology, there is a need to strike a balance between personal privacy and social governance in the methods employed by the government for managing the region, such as the "Sky Eye" closed-circuit television system. In practice, the "Sky Eye" system adheres to the maximum respect for privacy when collecting personal information, as prescribed by the aforementioned laws. However, it is recognized that laws should evolve with the times and be updated to better protect individual privacy in light of current circumstances.