

Organization name: Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)

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Introduction: Established in 1981, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) is composed by social activists, scholars and representatives from all walks of life. CAFIU is registered as a non-profit organization with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and has acquired special consultative status with UN ECOSOC from May 2003. The Council is CAFIU's highest organ of power, which is elected every five years. The Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day work. The 12th Council was elected in May of 2019, boasting 70 members that come from political parties, government organs, academic institutions, cultural and art circle, media, NGOs and business sector. The current president is H.E Ji Bingxuan, the Vice-Chairman of the 13th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. CAFIU has carried out a wide range of friendly exchanges and cooperation with various organizations and institutions in various countries around the world. Since its establishment, it has established contacts with various groups, research institutions and international organizations in dozens of countries around the world to carry out different forms of exchanges and cooperation. CAFIU has also actively participated in the relevant activities of the United Nations system and maintained contacts with a number of international organizations.

Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of China

Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)

1. We regard it as an important mission to promote the development of the global human rights cause, and carry out relevant exchange activities in line with the concepts of promoting human rights through peace, development and cooperation.

2. We pay close attention to the fourth round of China's country-specific human rights review to be conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2023. Since 2018, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Government have insisted on putting the interests of the people first, striving for the people's aspiration for a better life, and continuously raising the level of respect for and safeguarding of the fundamental rights of the Chinese people. The CPC and the Chinese government have made great achievements in promoting the cause of human rights in China and made significant contributions to the development of the cause of human rights in the world.

3. Creating a good production and living environment for the people is the prerequisite and foundation for the ecological protection, and safeguarding the environmental rights of citizens is the purpose and aim of ecological civilization development. We note that for 12 consecutive years, "environmental rights" have been included in four successive phases of the *National Human Rights Action Plan*¹. China has continuously improved the quality of the ecological environment and safeguarded the public's environmental rights by promoting the response to climate change, controlling ecological degradation and preventing environmental pollution, thereby effectively enhancing the people's sense of gain, happiness and security in the ecological environment.

4. We note that China has vigorously promoted ecological conservation over the past 10 years, attaching greater importance to environmental health and procedural environmental rights, and the environmental human rights enjoyed by its citizens have been better safeguarded. China is also actively promoting the research and demonstration of codification in the field of ecological and environmental legislation, which will provide a more solid guarantee of the rule of law for the realization of citizens' environmental rights.

5. We note that China is increasingly involved in global environmental governance. China has successfully hosted the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, and has cooperated with a number of countries and regions in energy conservation and environmental protection, clean energy, combating climate change, biodiversity conservation, desertification prevention and control, and the protection of marine and forest resources, and has been an important participant, contributor and leader in the global ecological conservation.

6. As an NGO organization, the Chinese Association for International

¹ National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2010), National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2015), National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020), National Human Rights Action Plan (2020-2025)

Understanding (CAFIU) actively organizes relevant activities with the aim of “letting the world understand China, letting China understand the world”, and promotes mutual understanding and exchanges between China and foreign countries in the ecological conservation efforts. In October 2020, CAFIU held a series of Sino-German Civil Society Exchange Webinars on the theme of “Dialogue of Civilizations and Global Governance”. In 2022, from July 21 to July 22, CAFIU organized a series of field trips themed on “First-Hand Experience of China’s Ecological and Environmental Protection Development”, in which about 30 foreign students from Beijing Normal University visited the Mangshan National Forest Park, Beijing Asuwei Integrated Garbage Treatment Center, and Beijing Nanhaizi Milu Park. They learned that China's understanding of environmental protection has been upgraded to the construction of a community of life, which integrates the human being with the nature, and that China is endeavoring to promote the concept of maintaining the balance of the ecosystem to thousands of households.

We suggest that the Chinese government further intensify its efforts in environmental protection, strengthen its scientific and technological support, focus on strengthening scientific and technological research and application in the field of environmental monitoring, improve the precision and fineness of environmental monitoring, enhance its ability to monitor global environmental changes, and promote international cooperation in environmental protection.