

**Report of the People's Republic of China  
On the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for  
Action (1995) and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the  
General Assembly (2000)**

**Part One: Major Achievements of China in Promoting Gender Equality**

As the host country of the Fourth World Conference on Women and a State Party to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and other international conventions on the promotion of gender equality and women's development, China regards it as a state responsibility to protect the rights and interests of women and promote gender equality. Over the past 19 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, China has taken fairness and justice, including gender equality, as part and parcel of building a socialist country of harmony. Through economic, legal and administrative measures and public advocacy, China has worked to ensure that women enjoy equal rights and interests as men in political, economic, cultural, social and family lives, promote all-round development of women, and guarantee their equal right to exercise democratic rights in accordance with law, equal participation in economic and social development and equal gains from the fruit of reform and development. At the same time, China has earnestly implemented the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and taken a host of measures to meet the goals related to women and girls.

**I. Overview of China's Achievements**

**1. The adoption of the basic state policy of equality between men and women has provided a strong guarantee for gender equality.** The principle of equality between men and women is enshrined in the Constitution of China. At the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, Chinese President Jiang Zemin announced "equality between men and women is a basic state policy for promoting social development". The *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women* amended in 2005 says, "The state practices the basic state policy of equality between men and women", making the state policy legally binding. The *Report to the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China* in 2012 says, "We should adhere to the basic state policy of equality between men and women and protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and

children.” This is the political commitment made by the governing party to make gender equality an integral part of the mainstream values. The adoption of the basic state policy of equality between men and women demonstrates the will of state and legal authority to guarantee women’s status, rights and interests, and their role in economic activities and development of social productive forces. It helps forge a socialist advanced gender culture with Chinese characteristics and break away from the harmful “male superiority” . In implementing this basic state policy, the fundamental idea and proposition of “putting people first” is highlighted, the agency of women is respected, equal rights and interests in political, economic, cultural, and social development and equal access to development resources for women are promoted, so that women can benefit more from the fruit of reform and development. The *Decision on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening the Reform* adopted at the Third Plenum of the Eighteenth Central Party Committee in 2013 put forward the requirement of “removing all institutional barriers and employment discrimination affecting equal employment, that are related to or may arise due to occupations, birthplace(cities or countryside), social status and gender”, which shows the high importance the governing party of China places on gender equality in the course of comprehensively deepening the reform.

**2. National programs for the development of women have been formulated to guide equal development of men and women with goals and measures adopted.** The State Council has published three national programs for women's development for the periods of 1995-2000, 2001-2010 and 2011-2020, to promote in an orderly way gender equality and women’s development through clearly defined goals and responsibilities, improved laws and regulations, top-level systemic design, and implementation of relevant polices. The *National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020)* embodies the basic state policy of equality between men and women and advocates gender equality. It stands for both forging an advanced gender culture and realizing women’s rights and interests. “Women and social security” is added as a new area in the program with focus on women’s wellbeing. Among the 57 major targets set out in the program, 26 are related to basic public services the government provides for women, which are aimed at facilitating women’s sustainable development through public policies for gender equality.

**3. The legal system for the protection of women’s rights and interests is improved constantly to achieve gender equality.** Over the past 20 years, China has promulgated or revised over 20 laws and regulations

related to the protection of women's rights and interests, including the *Adoption Law*, *Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency*, *Law on Land Contracts in Rural Areas*, *Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women*, *Labor Law*, *Law on Labor Contracts*, *Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care*, *Law on Population and Family Planning*, *Law on Compulsory Education*, *Marriage Law*, *Law on Promotion of Employment*, *Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities*, *Measures for the Implementation of the Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care*, *Legal Assistance Regulations*, *Regulations on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities*, *Regulation on the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS*, *Regulations on the Work of Family Planning for the Migrant Population*, and *Special Regulations Concerning the Labor Protection of Female Staff and Workers*. These efforts have further improved relevant legislation and provisions of the above laws and regulations. By the end of 2013, 31 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) had revised their local measures for the implementation of the *Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women*, and the people's congresses of 29 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) had published local regulations on the prevention and prohibition of domestic violence. The draft Domestic Violence Law is now under study and formulation.

The principle of gender equality has been further embodied in the legislation process. Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the "Decision on Amending the *Electoral Law of the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of the People's Republic of China*" adopted in March 2010 stipulates, "deputies to the National People's Congress and local people's congresses at various levels should be widely representative. Among the deputies, there shall be an appropriate number of deputies representing the primary level, in particular workers, farmers and intellectuals; there shall be an appropriate number of women deputies, and the proportion thereof shall be raised gradually." Article 6 of the *Organic Law of the Villagers Committees* amended in 2010 includes provisions such as "ensuring that there are women members on villagers committees", and Article 23 provides that "women village representatives should account for more than one-third of the members of the villagers representatives assembly."

**4. Women's development has been incorporated into the economic and social development plan in order to achieve all-round advancement for women.** Since 2000, China has included the implementation of the *National Program for Women's Development* in

the national economic and social development plan, and such a practice has been institutionalized through legislation. The *Outline of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China (2011-2015)* includes the promotion of women's full development, stating that "we will implement the basic state policy of equality between men and women, carry out the program for women's development, fully develop women's human resources, effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of women, promote women's employment and entrepreneurship, and improve women's ability to participate in economic development and social management. We will step up our efforts in such areas as women's labor protection, social welfare, health care, poverty elimination and legal aid, improve gender statistics systems and the environment for the development of women, and adopt drastic measures to crack down on violence against women, trafficking in women, and other illegal and criminal offences." Governments at various levels are required to incorporate the program for women's development in five areas: national and local rules, regulations and policies; master plans and special programs for economic and social development; government budgets at various levels; development projects that bring real benefits to the people; and government work agenda and responsibility assessment. This is to ensure that women's development will be planned, implemented and realized in tandem with the economic and social development of the country.

**5. National institutions for raising women's status have been improved continuously to provide the institutional guarantee for gender equality.** The NPC and its Standing Committee take the protection of women's rights and interests and promotion of gender equality as an important task and have established the office for labor, youth and women's affairs, which reviews reports by various committees and relevant departments on the promotion of gender equality. Since 2009, a number of inspections and studies have been conducted on the enforcement of the *Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women* and other relevant laws. A working group on women and children has been established under the CPPCC Committee for Social and Legal Affairs to provide suggestions as appropriate on the priority and difficult issues concerning women's development and to handle proposals on promoting gender equality and women's development.

The National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council (hereinafter referred to as NWCCW) was established in 1990, and is always headed by a leader of the State Council. The current

head of the NWCCW is Vice Premier Liu Yandong of the State Council. The number of its member units has expanded from 19 to 35, and each member unit is represented by a vice-ministerial level official. Working committees on children and women have been set up in governments of 31 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) as well as of prefectures (prefecture-level cities and leagues) and counties (county-level cities, districts and banners). This mechanism gives full play to coordination, mutual complementarity, and synergy from joint actions. It enables both a clear division of responsibility and close cooperation, pools resources to address the acute problems hindering gender equality and women's development, and has produced marked results.

In recent years, China has promoted innovative development of research institutes, and assessment and evaluation mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality (see the part on institutional mechanism).

**6. Gender equality in health care and education has been advanced at a faster pace.** In 2010, the average life expectancy of Chinese women was 77.37 years, 4.04 years higher than that in 2000. The maternal mortality rate declined from 53.0/100,000 in 2000 to 23.2/100,000 in 2013. The gap in maternal mortality rate between urban and rural areas and between different regions of China has narrowed gradually. The infant mortality rate dropped from 32.2‰ in 2000 to 9.5‰ in 2013, and the under-five mortality rate was down from 39.7‰ in 2000 to 12‰ in 2013, achieving the relevant MDGs targets ahead of schedule. Substantive progress has been made in eliminating the gender gap in different stages of education. In 2011, the nine-year compulsory education was provided in all administrative areas with 100% coverage. In 2012, the net enrollment rates of primary school boys and girls were 99.84% and 99.86% respectively, eliminating gender gap. The gross enrollment rates of junior middle school boys and girls were both 100%. The senior middle school gross enrollment rate was 85.0%. In 2012, female undergraduate students accounted for 51% of all undergraduate students and female postgraduate students accounted for 48.98% of all postgraduate students. The gender gap in average years of education declined from 1.3 years in 2000 to 0.76 year in 2010.

**7. International exchanges and cooperation have been conducted to promote common development of women and children across the world.** Beijing+5, Beijing+10 and Beijing+15 commemorative conferences were held in China and forum activities in 2000, 2005 and 2010, to which representatives from around the world were invited to

exchange views on the implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly, and relevant declarations and suggestions for action were adopted. The International Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction, International Forum on Women and Sustainable Development, International Forum on Women in Urban Development, East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting, High-Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region were held in China in recent years, providing a platform for ministers in charge of women's affairs, chairpersons of women's organizations, representatives from the UN agencies and international organizations to exchange experience, identify challenges and put forward counter policies and measures.

China has reached out for cooperative projects for gender equality and women's empowerment and established partnerships with many countries and relevant UN agencies, covering multiple areas of the Platform for Action, including promoting equality in work and fighting violence against women. China has sent medical teams to 66 countries and provided assistance for the building of over 130 medical facilities (including 30 malaria prevention and treatment centers), benefiting women in significant numbers. China has also provided training for female officials from other developing countries.

**8. The MDGs have been incorporated into national economic and social development plans to ensure effective implementation of the MDGs and the Platform for Action.** By the end of 2012, among the 15 targets with clear indicators, China had achieved 7 on reducing poverty, reducing hunger, universal primary education, eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, reducing child mortality, combating HIV/AIDS, and access to safe drinking water. In recent years, China has made unremitting efforts to obtain other MDGs targets, including economic development and full employment, empowerment and decision-making, universal access to reproductive health, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development, and these efforts have produced good results.

China has taken the following steps to achieve the MDGs and implement the Platform for Action: First, the Chinese government has incorporated the MDGs into its national economic and social development plans. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plans for National Economic and Social Development included the promotion of gender equality and protection of women's rights and interests as a separate section and set out clear requirements; Second, the Chinese government has incorporated the

MDGs into the *National Program for Women's Development*. The Programs adopted in 2001 and 2011 fully embodied the main elements of the MDGs; Third, China has vigorously promoted gender equality and women's development through implementing the MDGs; Fourth, in the course of implementing the MDGs, China has emphasized global partnership, actively engaged in South-South cooperation and helped other developing countries in their development efforts, thus contributing to the sharing of experience and successes in implementing the Platform for Action in a wider scope in the world.

## **Part Two: Progress Made in Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action**

### **I. Women and Poverty**

#### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Efforts have been intensified to alleviate poverty and reduce the population of women in poverty.** The *Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)* adopted in 2011, set out the general goal that food and clothing should be provided for people under poverty relief assistance, and compulsory education, basic medical care and housing should be guaranteed for them. The Outline requires that more efforts should be made to address persistent poverty in impoverished areas that lie in contiguous stretches, that women should be regarded as a priority for development-oriented poverty reduction and more effort should be made to assist poor women. The national poverty line was adjusted from 1,196 yuan in per capita net income for farmers in 2009 to 2,300 yuan (adjusted for inflation in 2010), thus making more low-income women eligible for poverty alleviation assistance. In 2013, the central government budget for poverty relief was increased to 39.4 billion yuan. From 2010 to 2013, the poor population in China's rural areas decreased by nearly 83 million, about half of whom were women. The poverty headcount rate in China's rural areas declined from 17.2% to 8.5%.

**(2) Social security is provided for women living in poverty.** China launched the urban subsistence allowance scheme in 1997 and the rural subsistence allowance scheme in 2007. By the end of 2013, the number of women receiving the allowance in urban and rural areas was 8.57 million and 18.45 million respectively. All the eligible people in urban and rural

areas are basically covered, including poor women. The national average subsistence allowance in urban areas was 373 yuan per person per month, 43 yuan higher than the previous year, and that for rural residents was 204 yuan per person per month, 31 yuan higher than the previous year. At the end of 2012, the per capita basic monthly pension for urban and rural residents covered 480 million people, and the number of pensioners was 130 million. The new rural pension insurance program and the pension insurance program for urban non-working residents have basically realized full coverage. The pilot basic medical insurance scheme for urban non-working residents was launched in 2007 and fully rolled out in 2009. The basic medical insurance schemes for employees and for urban non-working residents and the new rural cooperative medical insurance scheme now cover over 1.3 billion people, that is, basically all the urban and rural residents. In 2013, the annual per capita subsidy provided by governments at various levels for medical insurance for urban non-working residents and new rural cooperative medical insurance was 280 yuan. The pilot of medical insurance scheme for major diseases for urban and rural residents was kicked off, easing the problem of falling into or falling back into poverty because of illnesses for people covered by the scheme, including women. The special living allowance system for people with disabilities in poverty and attendance subsidy system for people with serious disabilities are being established steadily, benefiting over 4.257 million person times, and around half of them were women.

**(3) Efforts have been made to reduce farmers' burden and increase rural women's income.** The Chinese government implements the policy of getting industry to nourish agriculture and urban areas to support rural areas and giving more, taking less. All agricultural taxes have been abolished, and multiple agriculture-related subsidies have been instituted to expand channels to increase farmers' income and ensure that agricultural inputs will only rise. From 2008 to 2013, the national per capita net income for farmers rose from 4,761 to 8,896 yuan, and the living standard for rural women was improved.

**(4) Government and non-government funds are galvanized to provide safe drinking water for women in poverty.** There are over 1 million square kilometers of arid land in the western region of China, posing a grave threat to the health of women there. Since 2009, 118 million yuan has been invested in the project of "Love of the Earth, Water Cellars for Mothers," benefiting over 500,000 people. The "Campus Safe Drinking Water Project" was initiated in 2011, and since then 34 million yuan has been put into the project, covering 199 schools and providing safe drinking water for 145,000 faculty staff and students. Since the start

of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, with the implementation of the safe drinking water project in rural areas, 106.7 billion yuan has been allocated for providing safe drinking water for 188 million rural residents and 26.1659 million faculty staff and students in rural schools.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) To achieve poverty alleviation and development remains a daunting task in China.** The poor population is still sizable in the country, the per capita net income for farmers in poverty-stricken areas is less than two thirds of the national average. In some poor rural villages, there is no electricity or cement or asphalt paved road, and some people still don't have safe drinking water and housing security. For those who have their basic needs met, a serious problem is falling back into poverty because of disasters or illnesses.

**(2) Women are in deeper poverty than men in poverty-stricken areas.** Illiteracy and semi-illiteracy rates are still high among women in poverty-stricken areas, and with low skills, these women are caught in deeper poverty. In priority counties for national poverty alleviation, the woman labor force generally received less education than men, the percentage of women who have received employment training is 10.5 percentage points lower than that of men.

## **II. Education and Training of Women**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Relevant policies have been adopted to increase input to narrow the gap in education between men and women.** In 2011, the State Council issued *National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020)*, which lists "women and education" as one of the seven priority areas, and sets out 10 targets and 14 policy measures to ensure equal right to education for women. From 2009 to 2012, the total government budget for education increased from 1.223109 to 2.2236.23 trillion yuan, with its share in GDP increased from 3.59% to 4.28%. In 2010, the average years of education of women reached 8.4 years.

**(2) Educational environment for girls is improved to eliminate gap in education between boys and girls.** In 2008, the nine-year compulsory education was implemented in both urban and rural areas. In 2011, the coverage of compulsory education was 100%, the national primary school net enrollment rate reached 99.8% and the junior middle school gross

enrollment rate reached 100%, which were 12 and 20 percentage points higher than the world average levels in the previous year respectively. In 2012, discrepancy in primary school net enrollment rate between boys and girls was basically eliminated. In 2013, the national gross enrollment rate in the three-year preschool education reached 67.5%, the average years of education among people above 15 reached over 9 years.

**(3) Policies have been improved to promote fairness in education and ensure the right to education for migrant school-age girls.** The *National Outline for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)* requires that measures be formulated for children, who live with their rural migrant worker parents and have received compulsory education in the cities where their parents work, to participate in local entrance examinations. In August 2012, the General Office of the State Council forwarded the *Opinion on Enabling Children Who Live with Their Rural Migrant Worker Parents and Have Received Compulsory Education to Participate in Local Entrance Examinations in the Cities Where Their Parents Work* formulated by the Ministry of Education. At the end of 2012, 30 provinces adopted programs to implement the Opinion. In 2013, 12 provinces started to address the issue of eligible children of rural migrant workers sitting in local college entrance examinations. In 2014, additional 16 provinces followed suit. In 2013, 80.41% of the 12.77 million eligible children in the compulsory education stage were enrolled in public schools across the country. Plus children receiving education in private schools on government finance, the percentage of children receiving education financed by government budget already reached 83.46%.

**(4) Effective measures have been taken to increase the ratio of women with secondary and higher education.** In 2012, the coverage of free secondary vocational education was expanded from agriculture-related students and students from poor families to all students from rural areas (including from townships and counties), and agriculture-related students and students from poor families in urban areas. The national student loan scheme is now implemented in regular universities and colleges across the country, and the national scholarship and subsidy scheme has been established to provide discounted-interest loans, scholarships and subsidies for poor college students, including female students. In 2012, the percentage of female students was 49.41% in senior middle schools, 45.54% in secondary vocational schools, 51.35% in undergraduate programs and 48.98% in postgraduate programs.

Besides, bilingual instruction is applied in schools in ethnic minority areas. Ethnic classes and preparatory classes for ethnic minority students are set up in middle schools and institutions of higher learning, and the rights and opportunities for ethnic minority women to use the languages of their ethnic groups and have equal access to education are guaranteed by law.

**(5) Stronger efforts have been made to eliminate illiteracy and reduce the illiteracy rate among women.** The Chinese government attaches importance to eliminate illiteracy among women. In 2010, the illiteracy rate declined to 7.3% among women and to 1.5% among young adult women. The gender gap in illiteracy rate among people of and above the age of 15 further narrowed, dropping from 5.04 percentage points in 2011 to 4.65 percentage points in 2013.

**(6) Vocational training has been strengthened to improve women's competitiveness in employment.** In 2010, the State Council issued the *Opinion on Enhancing Vocational Training to Promote Employment*, requiring that vigorous efforts be made to conduct all forms of vocational training. The percentage of women who received training on skills by training institutions directly under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security increased from 37.64% in 2009 to 41.63% in 2012. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Education on nationwide education and training of employees, the percentage of female employees who participated in diploma education and various training programs increased from 40.58% in 2006 to 52.06% in 2012, the percentage of female senior, middle-level and junior professionals in the public sector of the economy was 35.7%, 46% and 48.3% respectively, and the percentage of female professionals in the public-sector enterprises and institutions was 45.4%.

**(7) The All-China Women's Federation has played an important role in women's capacity-building.** The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) has worked to explore different forms of literacy education and training on skills suitable to women. Since 2009, the ACWF has trained 15,000 women who lead the efforts to become rich in poverty-stricken areas and over 3,000 leaders of local women's federations at the primary level, helped build 212 modern agricultural science and technology demonstration bases run by women. Women's federations at the grassroots level in the underdeveloped areas in the western region of China trained over 24 million women. Over the past 5 years, the Spring Buds Project, which aimed to help drop-out girls to return to school, raised fund for the building of nearly 400 Spring Buds schools, providing financial

assistance for more than 400,000 poor students.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) Education on gender equality needs to be further enhanced in schools.** Education on gender equality needs to be incorporated into the secondary and primary school curriculum and school evaluation system.

**(2) Gender imbalance in disciplines of higher education still exists.** Male students of higher education generally choose engineering, computer science, military science and other majors of natural science and technology, while female students tend to choose education, nursing, literature, language and the like. It is necessary to achieve greater gender balance among different disciplines and specialties.

**(3) The right to education for left-behind rural girls is yet to be better safeguarded.** Affected by family financial difficulties, lack of convenient access to educational facilities, conventional stereotypes, and heavy household chores and farm work, left-behind rural girls are at greater risk of dropping out of school. Their right and opportunities to receive education need to be better guaranteed.

## **III. Women and Health**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Laws and regulations have been promulgated to improve women's health.** The *National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020)* lists "women and health" as one of the priority areas for gender equality, and puts forward 8 major targets and 11 policy measures. The major indicators on women's health have been incorporated into special national public health programs and government projects for people's well-being at various levels. More resources have been put into maternal and child health programs, and four major campaigns have been implemented to advance maternal and infant safety, comprehensive prevention and treatment of birth defects, prevention and treatment of diseases of women and children, and maternal and child health services. In 2010, life expectancy of women was 77.37 years, 4.99 years longer than that of men. The maternal mortality rate decreased from 34.2/100,000 in 2008 to 23.2/100,000 in 2013. The incidence of medium and severe anemia among pregnant and lying-in women decreased from 1.96% in 2008 to 1.64% in 2013, and the rate of common gynaecological disease screening increased from 61.2% in 2010 to 68.67% in 2013.

**(2) Health education campaigns have been carried out.** The relevant government departments have conducted activities to spread knowledge on reproductive health and sexuality in schools and communities at different levels. Convenient health consultancy and special clinic services are provided for elderly women through various means to improve their health. The relevant departments are actively exploring the forms of community health services for migrant women. Focusing on the needs of women of childbearing age, the informed choice of contraceptive methods is promoted and men are encouraged to participate in reproductive health activities.

**(3) Projects have been carried out to solve the acute problems concerning women's health.** The campaign for maternal and infant safety has been implemented. The fiscal expenditure on the project on the reduction of maternal mortality rate and the elimination of neonatal tetanus from 2009 to 2013 was 2.52 billion yuan, covering 2,297 counties and 830 million people. The project of subsidized delivery of babies in rural hospitals has benefited 47.278 million people. The project for comprehensive intervention in the health of mother and child in western rural areas, the pilot project of health service for migrant women, the project for adolescents reproductive health, the pilot medical intervention for female victims of violence, the pilot for promoting culture-sensitive maternal health services in ethnic minority areas, and the project for reproductive health emergency services have greatly improved the reproductive health of different groups of women. The former Ministry of Health and the ACWF jointly initiated the project of providing breast cancer and cervical cancer screening free of charge in 2009. From 2009 to 2013, the central government allocated 1.09 billion yuan for the project, which was matched by local governments according to different proportions, benefiting a total of 37.15 million rural women.

**(4) The maternal and child health service system has been strengthened.** The capacity of providing health service for women has been enhanced, cementing the foundation of health care for women and children. In recent years, the central government provided financial support for pediatrics departments in 200 general hospitals at and above the prefecture level (children's hospitals), 38 prefecture-level maternal and child health care service institutions and 263 county-level maternal and child health care service centers across the country. At the end of 2012, there were 3,044 maternal and child health care institutions, 495 obstetrics and gynaecology hospitals, 89 children's hospitals, 34,000 community health service centers (stations), 37,000 township hospitals,

and 653,000 village health clinics, and there were 285,000 staff members working in maternal and child health care institutions across the country.

**(5) Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission has been expanded and the HIV infection rate among women is kept at a low level.** As of now, 1,156 counties across the country have conducted the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. In seriously affected areas, the comprehensive service for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B has achieved full coverage, and the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission decreased from 34.8% before the adoption of intervention to 6.7% at the end of 2013. By 2013, a total of around 437,000 cases of live HIV/AIDS patients had been reported. In 2013, 90,000 new cases of HIV infection were reported, 22,000 of which involved female patients. The percentage of reported women AIDS patients decreased from 33.0% in 2008 to 24% in 2013.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) Health status is unbalanced among women from urban and rural areas, different regions, and different groups.** For instance, the maternal mortality rate is higher in rural areas than that in urban areas, and higher among the migrant population than that among permanent residents.

**(2) Resources and funding for rural maternal and child health are inadequate.** A stable mechanism for funding and compensation for maternal and child health is yet to be established. Per capita funding for health in rural areas is less than one fourth of that in urban areas.

**(3) Service delivery and management skills at the primary-level medical and health institutions need to be improved.** Some prominent problems need to be addressed, including the lack of obstetrics skills and the capacity of treating transferred patients at the primary level, lack of resources, and the lack of access to maternal and child health care in poverty-stricken areas, border and remote areas and ethnic minority areas.

**(4) Health needs of women in different stages of life are not fully met.** So far, the focus of reproductive health service has been put on women of child-bearing age, while the health needs of adolescent girls and women in menopause have not been fully met. The psychological health of women is also a concern.

## **IV. Women and the Economy**

## **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Laws, regulations and polices have been improved to safeguard women's equal right of employment.** The chapter on fair employment of the *Law on Promotion of Employment* stipulates, "When an employing unit recruits persons, it shall not refuse to employ women or raise recruitment standards for females by using gender as an excuse, except where the types of work or posts are not suitable for women as prescribed by the State." the *National Program for Women's Development* lists "women and the economy" as a priority area, and sets out 8 major targets and 12 policy measures on ensuring equal employment for men and women, improving the employment structure of women, narrowing income gap between men and women, safeguarding rural women's land rights and interests, improving vocational health and safety for women, and increasing poor women's income, in order to promote gender equality in employment and equal access to resources.

**(2) Polices and actions have been adopted for female college graduates to start business and find jobs.** To address difficulties in finding jobs for college graduates, the State Council issued the circular of the State Council on the work related to employment of graduates of regular universities and colleges in 2011 and the circular of the General Office of the State Council on the work related to employment of graduates of regular universities and colleges in 2013, requiring that gender discrimination and all other forms of discrimination in employment must be corrected immediately. Since 2009, the ACWF, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security implemented the Entrepreneurship Mentor Action for Female College Students and the Entrepreneurship Support Action for Female College Students. A total of 8,100 entrepreneurial bases for female college students were established and 12,000 entrepreneurship mentors recruited, providing free training on starting business and finding employment for 300,000 female college graduates and helping 130,000 female college graduates start their own businesses or find jobs. By the end of 2012, 1.25 billion yuan in start-up loans and supporting funds had been provided for 46,000 female college graduates.

**(3) Training and guidance have been strengthened for women.** In the first half of 2012, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security carried out training on vocational skills for 8.392 million people, among whom 3.6 million were women, accounting for 43% of the total. The "Sunshine Project" launched by the Ministry of Agriculture trained 1.3

million rural women. Women's federations at various levels trained more than 4.1 million person times of rural migrant female workers, urban laid-off female workers, female domestic workers and female college graduates, and helped 5.4 million women start their own businesses or find jobs. Since the start of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, the China Disabled Persons' Federation has implemented the project to help a million people with disabilities find employment in urban areas, the number of new jobs for women with disabilities was about 100,000 for the year.

**(4) The policy of providing small loans with interest paid by government has been implemented to promote employment of women.** In 2009, the Ministry of Finance and other relevant ministries and departments issued the *Circular on Improving the Policy of Providing Small Loans with Interest Paid by Government in Order to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship and Employment*, which includes women's federations in the system for providing small secured loans for laid-off workers, and aims to raise the credit line of small secured loans and expand channels of application for secured loans. By the end of 2013, a total of 180.336 billion yuan of small secured loans had been extended to women, with 11.339 billion yuan of government interest rate subsidies provided at the central and local levels, benefiting 3.5807 million women and supporting 10 million women in starting businesses and landing jobs.

**(5) The number of employed women has increased and more women are covered by social security schemes.** In 2012, the total number of employees nationwide was 767.04 million, among whom 352.76 million were women, accounting for 46% of the total. The number of employees in urban work units was 152.364 million, among whom 54.589 million were women, accounting for 35.8%. In 2012, there were 13.512 million female professionals in enterprises and institutions in the public sector of the economy, 818,000 more than the 2010 figure, accounting for 45.4%. There were 1.238 million female senior professionals, 222,000 more than the 2010 figure, accounting for 35.7%. At the end of 2012, 138.29 billion women participated in basic old age insurance scheme for urban employees, 28.69 million more than the 2009 figure, and 23.36 million women participated in the new rural old age insurance scheme and the old age scheme for urban non-working residents; 122.07 million women participated in the basic medical insurance scheme for urban employees, 28.69 million more than the 2009 figure; 63.04 million women participated in unemployment insurance scheme, 15.17 million more than the 2009 figure; 71.45 million women participated in the work injury insurance scheme, 18.66 million more than the 2009 figure; and 67

million women participated in the maternity insurance scheme, 19.89 million more than the 2009 figure.

**(6) Laws, regulations and policies have been improved to safeguard women's land rights and interests.** The *National Program for Women's Development* sets out the target of ensuring rural women's equal access to and ownership of land contract rights and interests in the area of "women and the economy". In 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the ACWF, convened a national seminar on safeguarding the land rights and interests of rural women, requiring that provisions on gender equality, marriage and household registration, land contract, homestead allocation and other issues concerning women's rights and interests should be written into village rules. 19 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) have formulated measures to implement the *Law on Land Contracts in Rural Areas*. The pilot to establish, register and certify land contractual and management rights is rolled out steadily to ensure that rural women have equal right to contract and manage land as men. The work to improve the mechanism for the settlement of land contract disputes for rural women has been sped up, prominent cases were investigated and solved in a timely manner, and serious violations of rural women's land contractual rights and interests are resolutely prohibited and corrected.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

With the deepening of economic reform and the surfacing of underlying problems in the process of advancing the market economy, and due to the impact of economic globalization on the economic performance and labor management model, some new problems have arisen in recent years regarding the sharing of economic resources and allocation of economic benefit for women. Gender discrimination in employment persists, there are more women than men staying at the low end of the labor market, violations of women's labor rights still happen from time to time, and there is an income gap between men and women.

## **V. Women and the Environment**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Plans have been made and targets set to improve the environment for women's development.** The *National Program for Women's Development* lists "women and the environment" as one of the 7 priority areas, and puts forward 10 major targets and 16 policy measures,

including comprehensively addressing the issue of safe drinking water in rural areas and reducing the hazard of water pollution against women's health, raising the proportion of population benefiting from rural centralized water supply to around 85%, raising the percentage of rural households having access to sanitary toilets to 85%, ensuring a rational ratio of male to female public toilet stalls in urban areas, enhancing women's capabilities of responding to disasters, and meeting women's special needs in disaster reduction.

**(2) Women's voice is valued and the representation of women in environmental decision-making increased.** Women's views and suggestions on the environment are valued. For policies, plans and projects that are closely related to the environment, gender equality experts are consulted. Statistics show that the ratio of female staff in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and its affiliated institutions is 41.4%, the ratio in environmental supervision and law enforcement agencies is 24.7%. There are female members in the NPC Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee. In governments at various levels, there are female mayors for the environment and female heads of environmental protection bureaus.

**(3) Public-interest projects are carried out to improve women's capabilities to protect the environment.** In 2009, the Ministry of Environmental Protection started the project of Cool China -- National Low-Carbon Action (2009-2010). Under this project, advocacy activities and environmental protection actions were carried out in 9 pilot cities, and energy consumption, transportation and travel and waste production surveys were conducted in 3,000 households, with the percentage of women and children participating in the surveys reaching 80%. In 2013, the project of A Thousand Female Environmental Envoys Action was launched, which provided systematic expert training for a thousand female volunteers for environmental protection and guidance for women to join the effort to conserve energy, reduce emissions and build an environment-friendly society. In 2010, the ACWF and the National Development and Reform Commission jointly initiated a campaign for energy conservation and emissions reduction among households and communities themed "low-carbon family, trend of life". The campaign was aimed at spreading environmental protection knowledge and encouraging residents to participate in environmental protection through knowledge competitions, compilation and distribution of book lists on energy conservation and environmental protection, and advocacy tours in communities. According to available statistics, around 100 million urban and rural women participate in tree planting, national key forestry

projects and small watershed management activities across the country each year, contributing to the improvement of the ecological environment and development of forestry economy.

**(4) Efforts to upgrade toilets and water supply systems in rural areas have been strengthened to improve the living environment for rural women.** China started to implement the project to upgrade toilets and water supply systems in rural areas in 2004. From 2004 to 2013, the central government invested nearly 8.3 billion yuan in the infrastructure, and built or upgraded sanitary toilets for 21.03 million rural households. The percentage of rural households having sanitary toilets nationwide increased from 63.2% in 2009 to 71.7% in 2012. In 2012, the total rural population who benefited from the project reached 910 million, raising the percentage of beneficiaries to 95.3% from the 2009 figure of 94.3%, and the percentage of beneficiaries of centralized water supply in rural areas increased from 58% in 2010 to 68% in 2012.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) Gender equality is not given adequate attention in promoting ecological progress.** The gender perspective is not fully embodied in government policy papers on treatment of pollution and the environment.

**(2) There is a lack of gender evaluation mechanism for environmental policies.** A mechanism needs to be set up to evaluate possible different impact of national sustainable development strategy and relevant environmental policies on men and women.

**(3) Women's participation in environment-related decision-making and actions needs to be further strengthened.** The representation of women at the decision-making level, in particular senior decision-making level, is rather low. Women are mostly participants in the environmental protection actions.

## **VI. Violence against Women**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Relevant laws, regulations and policies have been improved to support the fight against violence.** On 26 December 2009, with the approval of the NPC Standing Committee, China acceded to the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons*,

*Especially Women and Children.* In February 2011, the NPC Standing Committee adopted Amendment VIII to the Criminal Law, in which revisions are made to provisions on the crime of forced labor and the crime of organizing prostitution, and the crime of organizing others to sell human organs is added. In 2011, the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan listed cracking down on criminal acts of violence against women and trafficking in women as a specific goal for government work. The *National Program for Women's Development* sets out two major targets in the area of "women and law", namely, to crack down on rape of and trafficking in women, on organizing, forcing, seducing, sheltering and introducing prostitution and on other criminal acts that gravely violate women's rights, and to prevent and prohibit domestic violence against women. Article 11 of the *Special Regulations Concerning the Labour Protection of Female Staff and Workers* adopted by the State Council in April 2012 stipulates that employers should prevent and prohibit sexual harassment against female staff and workers at work place. In March 2013, the State Council published the *China National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children (2013-2020)*. The inter-departmental joint meeting system has been established at the national and provincial levels with the participation of multiple ministries and departments, and the long-term integrated mechanism for the prevention and combating of trafficking, rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation has been put in place, making prevention, social services for high-risk groups and behaviour change the priorities of combating trafficking.

So far, 29 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) have adopted local special regulations or polices on the prevention and combating of domestic violence, and over 90 prefectures have formulated relevant local regulations or policy papers.

**(2) The Domestic Violence Law has been included in the national legislation plan.** In September 2013, the Standing Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> NPC included the enactment of Domestic Violence Law in its five-year legislative plan.

**(3) Judicial protection is strengthened to safeguard women's personal rights.** First, judicial interpretation documents have been published to enhance persecution of trafficking in and sexual abuse of girls. In March 2010, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice jointly issued the *Opinions on Legally Punishing the Crime of Trafficking in Women and Children*, which clearly provides for the specific scenarios of buying abducted women and children punishable by criminal penalty, and on

case filing, jurisdiction, conviction and sentencing of the crime of cross-regional trafficking in women and children. In October 2013, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Justice jointly issued the *Opinions on Prosecuting the Crime of Sexual Abuse Against Minors in Accordance with the Law*, further clarifying the application of the criminal law, improving the relevant criminal judicial procedures, and strengthening protection of minors, in particular girls, from sexual abuse. Second, the personal protection order and the warning system are adopted to explore more measures for intervention in domestic violence cases. In February 2014, the Supreme People's Court published a domestic violence case guide. The Hunan Provincial High People's Court published the *Guiding Opinions on Strengthening Judicial Protection of Women Victimized by Domestic Violence*. In 2013, the Jiangsu provincial court, procuratorate and bureau of public security jointly issued the *Measures for the Implementation of Domestic Violence Warning System*. The public security agencies of Fujian and other provinces also published their warning systems.

**(4) The campaign of fighting the crime of human trafficking has been further carried out.** Since April 2009, public security agencies have further carried out the special campaign of combating human trafficking and improved such long-term mechanisms as the accountability system for investing and handling cases of child trafficking, rapid search of missing children and sequencing and matching of children of unknown origin.

**(5) International projects have been conducted to enhance international judicial cooperation against trafficking.** Public security agencies of China initiated with the governments of five countries, including Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand the process on fighting trafficking in women and children in the Mekong Subregion (COMMIT) and established the senior officials' meeting mechanism. China signed an agreement or memorandum of understanding on cooperation against trafficking with Myanmar and Vietnam, established border liaison offices in border areas, and has worked with the police of relevant countries through the bilateral and multilateral channels and the Interpol to fight the crime of international trafficking. The ACWF has cooperated with UNESCO, ILO and other international organizations and NGOs, implemented activities, such as campaign against trafficking during summer holidays (2009 and 2011), the project of preventing trafficking for purpose of labor exploitation (2000-2013), the second National Forum Against Trafficking in Children and Youth (2011), and study on media

report of trafficking (2012).

**(6) Government agencies have cooperated with NGOs in combating violence against women.** First, the inter-departmental cooperation mechanism has been established to form a network for fighting violence against women. Judicial services and women's federations in various localities have worked together and established domestic violence injury certifying centers, the 110 police hotline centers for reporting domestic violence and complaint stations for reporting domestic violence. Shelters for domestic violence victims have been built under civil affairs assistance management stations to provide shelter for victimized women. In 2013, the ACWF launched a pilot national-level domestic violence crisis intervention center and a pilot local-level intervention center in Luquan, Hebei, under which domestic violence high-risk families were screened, and integrated services have been provided for victims of domestic violence.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

(1) In spite of rising public awareness of domestic violence, there are still suspicions against intervention of public authorities in the family domain. Gender awareness among judicial and law enforcement staff needs to be enhanced further.

(2) Efforts need to be made to explore effective work mechanisms and measures to reduce the trafficking demand, improve the capability of high-risk groups to prevent trafficking, and prevent and address sexual harassment.

## **VII. Women and Human Rights**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

(1) **Ensuring human rights for women is part and parcel of China's overall human rights efforts.** The Constitution of China stipulates unequivocally for the protection of human rights. The *Report to the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China* in 2012 says, "We should adhere to the basic state policy of equality between men and women and protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and children." The *National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2015)* published by the State Council and the *Outline of 12<sup>th</sup> National Plan for Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China* have separate sections for promoting all-round advancement of women.

**(2) The *National Program for Women's Development* identifies the protection of women's human rights as an important responsibility of government.** In the *National Program for Women's Development*, the basic state policy of equality between men and women is the theme running through the whole program to promote women's development. 57 major targets and 88 policy measures are put forward in 7 areas to enable women to exercise their democratic rights in accordance with the law, participate in economic and social development and enjoy the fruit of reform and development equally, and to realize women's rights and interests prescribed by law. In sections on "Organization and Implementation" and "Monitoring and Evaluation", the Program clearly requires that working committees on children and women at all levels are responsible for the organization, coordination, guidance and supervision of the program implementation. Relevant government departments, institutions and social organizations are required to work together to implement the Program targets. The Program also clarifies the responsibilities and requirements of monitoring and evaluation for various departments and organizations.

**(3) Publicity and education on the law are carried out to raise the awareness of the whole society of women's rights and interests.** China attaches importance to the publicity and education on the law, and takes laws and regulations on women's legitimate rights and interests as an important part of the relevant activities. Under the campaign to raise law awareness in government organs, villages, communities, schools, businesses and other organizations, vigorous activities are carried out among households, women and the whole society to promote the protection of women's rights and interests, publicize and the basic state policy of equality between men and women, and forge an environment where the whole society understand, respect and safeguard women's rights and interests. The "women's right protection week" has been observed for 14 years, bringing law advocacy and services for the protection of rights directly to the primary level, households and women. Through "women's homes (activity centers)" in villages and communities, parent schools, the Internet and mobile phone messages, women's federations have carried out education on the law for women, parents and children.

**(4) The Chinese Women's Legal Aid Action is implemented to provide legal aid for cases involving violation of women's rights.** The ACWF has implemented the Chinese Women's Legal Aid Action since 2010. From 2012 to 2013, over 4.7 million yuan in subsidies were

allocated from the state lottery fund for the project. Through legal consultation centers of women's federations, legal aid centers for women and children and other legal service providers in 13 provinces, regions and municipalities, legal aid was provided for 2,769 prosecution or mediation cases related to personal and property rights of women and children and various matrimonial and family-related rights and interest, saving nearly 150 million yuan in economic losses and effectively protecting the interests of vulnerable groups.

**(5) Institutions for the protection of rights are strengthened to provide services and guidance for women to uphold their rights and interests.** Under government support, stations and offices for the protection of women's rights and interests and legal aid centers for women have been established across the country, and collegial panels for women's rights have been established at primary level courts. Women's federations have opened the 12338 hotline for women's rights and interest in over 2,800 counties to accept and handle complaints. Over 7,000 representatives from women's federations have worked as people's jurors at court, and participated in the trials of cases relating to the rights and interests of women and children.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

(1) There should be a strong gender equality evaluation mechanism for laws and regulations.

(2) A sound social support system for women is yet to be formed.

(3) More actions need to be taken to spread laws on women's rights and empowerment of women against violations of their rights and interests, focusing on rural, remote and poverty-stricken areas in particular.

## **VIII. Women in Power and Decision-making**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Laws, regulations and policies have been adopted and improved to promote women's participation in political affairs and protect their political rights and interests.** The national program for building CPC and government leadership teams and program for building CPC and government leadership reserves and other documents make it clear that there should be at least one female leader within the leading body of

every CPC committee and government at or above the county level, and over half of central organs as well as CPC committees and government departments of provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central government) and prefectures (prefecture-level cities and leagues) should have women representation. The number of female members in CPC committees and government departments at the county level should increase. There should be a certain number of women serving in top positions of CPC committees and government departments at all local levels. The policy on the formulation of new leadership teams at local levels clearly requires that there should be at least one woman serving in the leadership of each CPC committee, people's congress, government and people's political consultative conference at the provincial and municipal levels and in the leadership of each CPC committee and government at the county level. There is also requirement for a certain number of women serving top party and government positions at the municipal and county levels. Women serving in two positions and more will be counted only once. There should be a certain number of women serving top positions in CPC committees and government departments at the municipal and county levels. Within one province, there should be at least one woman holding the top position in both the CPC committee and government at the municipal level, and in a prefecture/prefecture-level city with a large number of counties under its jurisdiction, there should be at least one woman holding the top position in both the CPC committee and government at the county level. A proposal for the formulation of a new leadership team which does not meet the requirement of the minimum number of women members generally will not be approved. If no women candidate can be found locally, competent female candidate can be located and transferred from other place. Any vacancy occurring when a women official leaves office before her term expires should be filled with women candidates promptly.

In 2009, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council published the *Circular On Strengthening and Improving the Work of Villagers Committee Elections* which has made it clear that more female villagers, especially the head of the village committee of women's representatives should be nominated as candidates for villagers committee members. In 2010, the Standing Committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> NPC adopted the revised *Organic Law of the Villagers Committees of the People's Republic of China*, which includes provisions such as "ensuring that there are women members on villagers committees, and women representation should be more than one-third of the members of the villager representatives assembly. In some localities, bold efforts have been explored to promote women's participation in

self-governance by villagers. For instance, the *Measures of Anhui Province for Villagers Committee Election* stipulates that villagers committees should have female members. If a female candidate is elected as head or deputy head of a villagers committee, the order of elected committee members should be determined according to the number of votes they get; if no woman is elected as head or deputy head, the election of committee members should be determined according to the following principles: first, if there are female candidates who get more than half of the votes, the female candidate who gets the most votes should be confirmed as being elected first, and the order of other elected candidates should be determined according to the number of votes they get; second, if no female candidate gets half of the votes, one seat of the villagers committee should be set aside for a female member and a separate election should be conducted for the seat. The order of other committee members should be determined according to the number of votes they get. The *Decision on Amending the Measures of Shanxi Province for Villagers Committee Election* adopted by Shanxi Province stipulates that each villagers committee should include at least one woman member. If no female candidate is elected, at least one female candidate should be identified for a separate election for a female committee member. If still no woman gets elected after the separate election, the reserved seat may remain vacant temporarily.

The government attaches importance to the appointments of ethnic minority women officials and to the capacity-building of ethnic minority women to participate in political affairs.

**(2) The government has formulated and implemented special programs to promote women's democratic participation in political affairs.** The *National Program for Women's Development* sets 8 major targets in 4 areas under "women's participation in decision-making and management", namely, promoting women's influence in decision-making and management, raising the percentage of women deputies to people's congresses and women members of the people's political consultative conferences at all levels, increasing women's participation in administration and the percentage of women officials holding principal posts, and promoting women's participation in enterprise decision-making and management and in democratic management at the primary level. These targets concern women's political participation in different areas, including not only requirements on the proportion of women in people's congresses, people's political consultative conferences, government at various levels, and democratic self-governance organizations at the primary level but also specific requirements on the percentage of women

deputies to workers' congresses, congresses of school faculties, and supervisors, board directors and managers. In particular, setting requirements on the percentage of women deputies to the people's congresses and women members of the people's political consultative conferences, and on women representation in enterprise board members, supervisors and management constitutes a historic breakthrough. These targets place greater attention on the democratic participation of women at the primary level and contain specific, quantitative requirements. For instance, it is required that more than 30% of villagers committee members and more than 10% of villagers committee heads should be women, and that women should account for about 50% of residents' committee members.

**(3) Local governments have adopted special programs to safeguard women's political rights at various levels.** First, quotas for women have been instituted in the election of deputies to people's congresses and members of the people's political consultative conferences. For example, The *Program of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region for Women's Development (2011-2020)* requires, under the section on women's participation in decision-making and management, that the percentage of women deputies to people's congresses at the regional, municipal, county/district and township levels should be more than 22%. And the percentage of women members of people's political consultative conferences at the regional, municipal and county/district levels should be over 25%. Second, quotas for women have been set for the CPC and government leadership teams. For example, the *Program of Tianjin Municipality for Women's Development (2011-2020)* requires, under the section on women's participation in decision-making and management, that the percentage of women officials should be over 20% at the director general and deputy director general levels, over 15% at the director general level, over 25% at the director and deputy director levels, and over 18% at the deputy director level. Third, quotas for women have been set for democratic governance at the primary level. For example, the *Program of Gansu Province for Women's Development (2011-2020)* requires, under the section on women's participation in decision-making and management, that all villagers committees should have women members, the percentage of women villagers committee directors should be over 5%, and the percentage of women villagers committee members should be kept at around 50%.

**(4) NGOs have been active in promoting women's political participation.** Women's organizations in China have taken various measures to promote women's participation in political affairs mainly in

the following ways: First, promoting the adoption and improvement of laws and policies conducive to women's political participation. Second, recommending outstanding women as candidates for leading positions in new CPC and government leadership teams. Third, conducting publicity and education programs and training on women leadership. And fourth, implementing projects for women's political participation.

**(5) Thanks to a host of measures, new progress has been made in women's participation in decision-making.** First, since 1995, the Chinese government has held four national symposiums on cultivating women officials and developing women CPC members. At the 2006 symposium, it was clearly required that at least 50% of leadership teams of central organs and CPC and government departments at the provincial and prefectural levels should have women officials. Second, a seminar should be convened before a local leadership team is formed to distribute relevant policy papers and set specific targets for the selection and appointment of women officials. It was required during the formation of current people's congresses and people's political consultative conferences that the percentage of women deputies to people's congresses should increase over the previous congresses and the percentage of women members of the people's political consultative conferences should reach certain levels. Third, during the selection and appointment of officials, priority was given to female candidates against their male counterparts when they are at par in qualifications. For both open selections and post competitions, positions and quotas reserved for female cadres will be raised as appropriate. Targets for the selection and appointment of women officials are included in annual statistical monitoring work, and the annual work report and work bulletin systems regarding the training and selection of women officials have been introduced to select more women officials in a targeted way.

In 2013, the percentage of women deputies to the 12<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress was 23.4%, 2.07 percentage points higher than that of the 11<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress (2008). The percentage of women members in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Committee of the CPPCC also increased, reaching 17.8%. Committed to women's political participation and decision-making, and women deputies to the NPC Standing Committee and women members of the National Committee of the CPPCC have put forward bills or proposals on issues such as women's political participation, retirement of men and women on equal terms, and combating domestic violence. In 2010, women officials accounted for 11.2% of all officials at and above the ministerial level, and 13.8% of all officials at the director general level, which was 0.9 percentage point

higher than the figure in 2005. In 2012, the percentage of women villagers committee members across the country was 22.1%, which was 0.4 percentage point higher than that in 2008.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) Social environment for women's political participation needs to be further improved.** In some departments and localities, awareness about the importance of women's political participation is lacking, prejudices such as "male superiority" and "women being the main caregiver at home" is, to some extent, still a barrier.

**(2) Representation of women in decision-making and management remains at a low level.** The percentage of women NPC deputies has increased somewhat but still lags far behind the UN target of 30% of women in parliaments. Women representation is low in the political field, in particular at the senior level. In social organizations, the percentage of women in senior and mid-level management is also lower than that of men.

**(3) Women have limited influence in decision-making and management.** The low percentage of women in political participation and limited number of women holding top positions determine that women have limited influence in political affairs.

## **IX. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Promoting gender equality and guaranteeing women's rights and interests is the task of people's congresses and people's political consultative conferences at all levels** (for detailed information, see Achievement V in the Part One).

**(2) The Chinese government has worked steadily to improve mechanisms to enhance women's status and promote gender equality** (for detailed information, see Achievement V in the Part One).

**(3) China promotes innovative development of research institutions and evaluation mechanisms for gender equality in order to provide theoretical support and the social environment for gender equality.** In 12 provinces (regions and municipalities directly under the central

government), 21 women/gender research and training centers have been established, and annual meetings and academic seminars on gender related topics are held on a regular basis. Starting from 2012, mainstream national media organizations select 10 significant pieces of gender equality news each year to raise gender awareness among the general public and enhance public attention on gender equality.

**(4) Gender equality evaluation mechanisms are being explored to incorporate gender awareness into legislation and legal practice.**

Since 2009, more and more provinces and cities have taken on exploration and innovative measures to address key issues relating to gender equality and women's development, and established consultation and evaluation mechanisms on gender equality in laws and regulations. In 2012, the consultation and evaluation committee for gender equality in policies and regulations of Jiangsu Province was established. This is first of its kind in China, aiming to ensure, through research study and consultations, review and assessment of whether the formulation and implementation of policies and regulations is legitimate, reasonable, sound and effective, and the main-streaming of gender equality into decision-making and public policies. So far, the committee has provided, from the perspective of gender equality, comments and suggestions on 12 local regulations and policies, including the revised draft of the *Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Labor Contract*, the *Rules of Jiangsu Province on Maternity Insurance of Employees* (subject to approval) and the draft *Special Regulations on the Protection of Women Workers and Employees*. In January 2014, Zhejiang launched its provincial mechanism of consultation and evaluation for gender equality in policies and regulations.

**(5) Local regulations and policies for gender equality have been adopted to accumulate experience in improving gender equality mechanisms.**

In June 2012, the *Regulation for Gender Equality of Shenzhen Economic Special Zone* was adopted, which provides for gender equality institutions, gender budgeting, gender impact assessment, sex-disaggregated statistics, media responsibilities and other issues. Shenzhen is now popularizing the Regulation and promoting institutional building for its implementation. The 2014 *Guideline of Gansu Province on Implementing the Basic State Policy of Equality between Men and Women* requires that an expert group should be instituted under the legislation department and mechanisms should be established for the evaluation of gender equality in polices and regulations, so as to ensure that the principle of gender equality is embodied in all local regulations, rules and separate regulations, as well as prescriptive documents and

policies across the province.

**(6) Experiments on gender budgeting at the local level have been conducted to accumulate experience.** In February 2009, Jiaozuo City of Henan Province issued the first government document on gender budget in China, the *Notice of Jiaozuo City on Interim Measures for the Management of Municipal Budget for Gender-Responsiveness*, which stipulates for experiments on budget for gender equality in six categories of public spending such as legal aid and community public health services, to promote equal access to publicly financed services for men and women. Zhangjiakou City of Hebei Province, Wenling City of Zhejiang Province and Shenzhen City of Guangdong Province, are exploring budget for gender equality.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

(1) Targeted efforts of working committees on children and women at various levels need to be further intensified.

(2) Coordination among member ministries of working committees on children and women at various levels need to be strengthened.

(3) The current national statistics system cannot meet the actual need for sex-disaggregated statistics, and sex-disaggregated indicators on education, social security and the environment need to be further developed.

## **X. Women and the Media**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) Oversight has been strengthened to promote gender fairness in the media.** Gender equality and women's development in the media, and women's channels and programs have been set up on TV, radio, and the Internet and in newspapers to publicize the basic state policy of equality between men and women and development of women, focus attention on problems confronting women. Discrimination against women and infringement of women's rights and interests are repudiated in the media. In 2013, to combat commercialized portrayals of female bodies on the web, relevant central departments ordered a special campaign to step up daily oversight. It was required that relevant laws and regulations should be improved to build a legal system that promotes the sound development

and orderly regulation of the Internet. The National Internet Information Office took the lead in carrying out the special campaign and severely penalized violations of laws and regulations such as spreading pornography and obscene information online.

**(2) The government supports NGOs in advocating gender equality and has provided subsidies for the implementation of relevant projects.** Governments at various levels have given strong support to the development of women magazines, newspapers and online media. For example, in 2010, the “*China Women's News in Villages*” project for the central government to purchase social and cultural services for public interests was launched. The Ministry of Finance earmarked special funds and purchased and distributed for free 160,000 copies of *China Women's News* to township and village women's federations in state-level poverty-stricken counties in 12 provinces (regions and municipality directly under the central government) in the western region and nine other provinces, bringing the concept of gender equality to numerous families.

**(3) Women's organizations disseminate the concept of gender equality.** The China Association of Women's Newspapers and Magazines encourages all its members, including over 40 press agencies and publishing houses and over 80 newspapers and magazines, to take on the responsibility of promoting awareness of gender equality.

**(4) Research has been strengthened to promote greater participation of women in the media.** Women's role in the media is encouraged and valued. In recent years, women working in the media have increased steadily. In 2013, the number of female editors in the press and publishing sector accounted for half of the total, and the number of female journalists accounted for 44.23% of the total.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

**(1) Relevant laws are yet to be improved.** It is necessary to establish a review system on gender discrimination in the media and to mainstream gender awareness into the media.

**(2) Some media workers lack gender awareness and their understanding of gender equality needs to be further enhanced.**

**(3) Evaluation and award mechanisms should be established to enhance awareness of gender equality of the whole society.** It is

necessary to establish diversified governmental and non-governmental media evaluation mechanisms, publish evaluation results on a regular basis, and award media organizations and workers actively involved in publicizing the basic state policy and promoting gender equality.

## **XI. Girls**

### **1. Progress and Achievements**

**(1) The *China National Program for Child Development (2011-2020)* was adopted to promote equal development of boys and girls.** In July 2011, the State Council issued the *China National Program for Child Development (2011-2020)*. The survival, protection and development of girls are featured prominently in the program. The 53 major targets and 88 strategies and measures set out in the program fully embody the principle of equal development for girls.

**(2) Laws and regulations have been improved to guarantee girls' right to survival.** The *Provisions on the Prohibition of Non-medical Foetal Sex Identification and Sex-selective Artificial Pregnancy Termination* and the *Opinions on Comprehensively Dealing with the Rising Sex Ratio at Birth* formulated by the Chinese government clearly require that efforts should be made to sort sex identifying device and crack down on the practices of foetal sex identification for non-medical needs and sex-selective abortion ( “two non-medical practices”) as well as criminal activities of abandoning and drowning baby girls, in order to protect girls' right to survival. Actions were taken to comprehensively address the issue of high sex ratio at birth, and the “Care for Girls” Campaign was carried out, with a view to ensuring the survival and development of girls through incentive policies and investigation and handling of cases of “two non-medical practices”.

**(3) Effective measures have been taken to ensure the rights to health and education of girls.** In 2009, the then Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance launched the action to subsidize delivery of babies in rural hospitals and implemented the folic acid supplements project. Since June 2009, the *Measures for Neonatal Diseases Screening* issued by the then Ministry of Health has been implemented. In 2010, the then Ministry of Health published the *Opinions on Raising the Level of Medical Insurance for Major Diseases for Rural Children*, according to which pilots were carried out on four types of congenital heart disease and two types of leukemia among children under the age of 14. Since the autumn

semester of 2011, the program of nutrition improvement for rural students of compulsory education has been carried out, under which the central government provides nutritional meals for 699 counties in impoverished areas that lie in contiguous stretches across the country, and local governments have expanded the coverage of nutritional meals by increasing the number of pilots and raising the level of benefits. In 2011, China launched the project of eliminating anemia among infants. In 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission and the ACWF launched the project of nutrition improvement for children in poverty-stricken areas in 300 counties across the country to provide supplementary food and nutrition supplements for infants between 6 and 24 months to disseminate knowledge and skills of scientific feeding of infants.

In 2010, the State Council published the *Several Opinions on Developing Pre-school Education in the Current Stage*, requiring each county to compile its three-year action plan for pre-school education. In January 2013, the Ministry of Education together with other 4 agencies issued the *Opinions on Strengthening Care and Education for Left-behind Children of Compulsory Education in Rural Areas*, which aims to enhance work related to the left-behind children in rural areas by improving the conditions and quality of education and building institutions for social care and services. In 2012, the primary school age net enrollment rate was 99.85%, and the rate among girls was 99.86%. In the pre-school, primary school, junior middle school and senior middle school stages, the percentage of girls was 46.32%, 46.26%, 47.09% and 47.63% respectively. In regular three-year and four-year college education and post-graduate education, the percentage of female students was 51.35% and 48.98% respectively.

**(4) Multiple measures have been taken to protect girls from violence.**

In 2013, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice published the *Opinions on Prosecuting the Crime of Sexual Abuse Against Minors in Accordance with the Law*, which stipulates that crimes of sexual abuse against minors should be severely dealt with in accordance with the law and protection of victimized minors should be enhanced. In the same year, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Security, *Opinions on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse against Children and Teenagers* to increase the awareness and capabilities of children and teenagers against sexual abuse, and to inform students, in particular female students how to react and protect themselves while at risk. After the *China National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking*

in *Women and Children (2008-2012)* , the Chinese government published the *China National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children (2013-2020)*.

**(5) Policies have been adopted to provide better protection for vulnerable children.** In 2010, the State Council published the *Opinions on Strengthening the Protection of Orphans*, bringing all orphans under coverage of the national security system. In 2011, the State Council implemented the *Opinions on Enhancing and Improving the Rescue and Protection of Vagrant Minors*, which bring vagrant children under the coverage of national assistance. In 2012, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Finance issued the *Notice on Providing Basic Living Allowances for HIV-positive Children*, which makes HIV-positive children eligible for same benefit as that of orphans under the national security system. The Ministry of Civil Affairs implemented the “blue sky program” to enhance facilities of child welfare institutions, and the “regeneration action” and “tomorrow plan” to perform surgery for children with disabilities for treatment. In 2009, the *Program of Implementation for the Project for the Rescue and Recuperation of Children with Disabilities of Poor Families* was formulated. In 2011, rescue and recuperation of children with disabilities aged 0-6 was included in the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan for basic public services. The “rainbow action plan” for the rescue and recuperation of children with disabilities was implemented, and priority was given to the rescue, treatment, recuperation and supporting device for children with disabilities. Also in 2011, the *National Standards for Categorization and Classification of Disabilities* was formulated. The then Ministry of Health formulated the *Opinion on Raising the Level of Medical Insurance for Major Diseases for Rural Children* in 2010 and 2011.

**(6) The pilot projects for left-behind children in rural areas was carried out to safeguard legitimate rights and interests of left-behind girls.** In 2011, the ACWF, the Office of Comprehensive Treatment of Social Management Committee, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Education launched the pilot service system for rural left-behind and migrant children across the country. In 2013, the ACWF, the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Central Commission for Guiding Cultural and Ethical Progress, the Office of Comprehensive Treatment of Social Management Committee, and the National Commission of Health and Family Planning identified 13 demonstration areas and added 16 pilots to safeguard the right to survival and development for girls, promote their healthy growth physically and psychologically, and ensure equal services for them in cities where they

live.

**(7) Pilots of moderately universal child welfare and social security for minors have been advanced gradually to provide extensive welfare and social protection for children.** In 2011, the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for the Development of Civil Undertakings set out targets and measures for establishing a category-based security system for children in difficulties. In 2013, the Ministry of Civil Affairs carried out the pilot for a moderately universal child welfare system in 4 areas, and advanced with other relevant departments the child welfare demonstration area project (2010-2015). In 2013, the Ministry of Civil Affairs conducted the pilot of social security for minors in 20 areas across the country and established monitoring, prevention, reporting, referring and handling regimes for their protection.

## **2. Obstacles and Challenges**

(1) Laws and regulations on the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of children need to be improved and further embody gender equality awareness.

(2) It is necessary to further popularize the basic state policy of equality between men and women. The conventional concept of male superiority remains a major constraint on girls' status and the protection of their rights. Violations of girls' legitimate rights and interests still happen from time to time.

(3) Health care, education, and legal protection for left-behind and migrant girls need to be further intensified.

(4) The awareness and capabilities of communities and families on the protection of girls should be enhanced.

## **XII. Major Impact of the Financial Crisis on Women's Development and Counter Strategies**

### **1. Major Impact**

In response to the financial crisis across the globe, the Chinese government took a host of proactive measures in the fiscal, taxation, credit, import and export and other fields, and injected 4 trillion yuan into industries to ensure people's wellbeing, employment and growth. Due to gender stereotyping, division of labor and other factors, women faced

greater challenges in life, employment and protection of their rights and interests under the impact of the financial crisis.

(1) Women in export-oriented companies, the services sector and informal employment suffered a greater loss of jobs and fewer incomes. Export-oriented companies in coastal areas and tourism, catering and other service sectors took the hardest hit.

(2) Discrimination against female college graduates became more prominent. For example, the percentage of female college graduates who found jobs in Heilongjiang Province in 2009 was 58.67%, 19.2 percentage points lower than the previous year and 4.7 percentage points lower than the overall employment rate.

(3) Under the pressure of economic slowdown and less family income as well as double responsibilities in work and family, some women were forced to cut down on domestic service and consumption and took on more work in order to reduce family spending and earn additional income. As a result, women undertook more unpaid housework and care giving at home.

(4) Lack of gender perspective in public policies in response to the crisis did not help the protection of women's rights and interests and their development. For example, the government invested 4 trillion yuan to stimulate the steel and iron, ship building, petrochemical, textile, light industry, non-ferrous metal, equipment manufacturing, electronic information and logistics industries, which created 30 million jobs. However, among the above 10 industries, textile and light industry are the only sectors that absorb more women than men.

## **2. Counter Strategies**

**(1) Mainstreaming gender awareness into public policies and economic and social development strategies of China.** In the course of tackling the crisis, public policies conducive to equal participation and development of men and women have been formulated to enable women to get equal access to development opportunities, contribute to steady economic and social development, and equally share the fruit of development. Attention is given to gender analysis and study of social development and women's development, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of economic and social policies on groups in different regions, at different social strata and of different genders has been strengthened. Policy proposals and initiatives with gender perspective have been put

forward. Values of social justice and gender equality are included in the process of tackling the crisis and promoting social development.

**(2) Promoting all forms of employment and business start-ups for women wherever possible.** The relevant government departments have established sex-disaggregated statistics and analysis mechanisms to assess and monitor the employment situation of women and enhance macro management of women's employment training and services. Systems to prohibit discrimination against women in employment have been formulated to strengthen protection of women in informal employment. In the course of readjusting the economic structure in response to the financial crisis, vigorous efforts have been made to develop the tertiary industry and community services to increase job opportunities for women and meet diverse demands of the people and the aging society of China. A full-fledged, high-tech employment information consultancy system is put in place to provide comprehensive, timely and accurate job information for women, in particular women out of jobs. Starting from improving the expectations of both the demand and supply sides of labor force, efforts have been made to better match job seekers with job opportunities to help college graduates, including female graduates, to find jobs. The *Law on Promotion of Employment* is implemented strictly to provide fair job opportunities for female collage graduates. Matching fiscal subsidies are earmarked for government to provide or purchase continuing education services for female college graduates in order to ease employment pressure they face in the immediate term and improve their employability in the long run. To help women engaged in business start-ups cope with financial difficulties, the government has implemented the policy of providing small loans with interest subsidized by the government to promote business start-ups and employment for them (For details, see paragraph (4) under Achievement IV "Women and the Economy" in Part Two ).

**(3) Enhancing education and training to improve women's employability.** Efforts were made to reform the content of school education to break stereotypes about the role and professions of women ,and training in the high-tech industry and digital economy was provided to women. In dealing with the financial crisis, special attention has been given to women's needs, and training on professional skills has been enhanced for women, in particular rural workers and those working in the informal sectors.

**(4) Providing effective public services for women and help them balance work and life.** To provide public service to male and female

workers who have family responsibilities is a policy goal of the government. Men and women are encouraged to share family responsibilities. Family care services were developed and expanded, and made available to working families.

**(5) Further promoting an enabling environment for gender equality.**

The mass media is active in promoting the basic state policy of equality between men and women, advocating fairness and justice, safeguarding equal participation in and sharing of the fruit of social development for men and women, and eliminating the negative impact of sluggish economy and fierce competition on women. Attention is paid to the possible growing inequality between men and women in the family domain, and women's potential and contributions are highlighted.

**Part Three: Statistics on Institutions and Mechanisms, Fiscal Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation by the Chinese Government for the Promotion of Gender Equality**

**I. Monitoring by the National Core Indicator System**

China has carried out sex-disaggregated statistical work at the national level to promote gender equality in the following areas:

**1. Collect sex-disaggregated statistics through the statistics-reporting system**

In 2004, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) adopted the Comprehensive Statistics-reporting System on the Situation of Women and Children (hereinafter referred to as the System), establishing a complete set of sex-disaggregated statistical indicators. Each year, statistics on the development of women and children are collected on a regular basis, including sex-disaggregated statistics, most of which come from ministries, commissions and relevant departments. The NBS convenes meetings to solicit views of relevant departments and revise and improve the System on a regular basis. In 2012, the NBS revised the System in line with the indicators set out in the program for the women's development and the program for child development for 2011-2020. At the end of 2013, the System had over 40 statistical tables with nearly 500 statistical indicators, forming a fairly comprehensive set of statistical indicators that reflect the situation of women and children. This set of indicators meets not only the monitoring requirement of the programs, but the monitoring requirement regarding some international

development goals, such as the MDGs, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. At the same time, various localities have established their own comprehensive statistical systems on women and children, forming a sex-disaggregated statistical work network at the national, provincial and prefectural levels.

## **2. Collect sex-disaggregated statistics through the statistical monitoring indicators set in the program for the development of women**

Since 1995, the Chinese government has published three national programs for women's development, namely, the *National Program for Women's Development (1995-2000)*, the *National Program for Women's Development (2001-2010)*, and the *National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020)* (hereinafter referred to as the Program), and conducted monitoring and evaluation of Program implementation at different levels. Since 1997, China has gradually put in place monitoring systems on women at the national and provincial levels, established monitoring agencies for the implementation of the Program, formulated a statistical monitoring indicator system in line with the Program goals, and launched the comprehensive statistics-reporting system and periodic reporting and review system in various localities and departments. Special funds have been earmarked each year to support the statistical monitoring of the Program.

(1) **The statistical monitoring indicator system.** The *National Program for the Development of Women (1995-2000)* put forward 114 monitoring indicators in the 10 areas of national conditions, participation in management, social productive activities, labor rights and interests, education and training, medical health, marriage and family, legal protection, poverty elimination and social welfare. The *National Program for Women's Development (2001-2010)* set out monitoring indicators in 7 areas, namely, economy and population, women and the economy, women in decision-making and management, education of women, women and health, women and the law, and women and the environment. In November 2012, the NWCCW issued the *Notice on the Issuance of the Monitoring Indicators for the National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020) and the National Program for Child Development (2011-2020)*, which set out monitoring indicators in 6 areas for the program for the development women, namely, women and health, women's education, women and the economy, women's participation in decision-making and management, women and social security, women

and the environment, and women and the law.

**(2) Monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Program.**

The NWCCW established three program monitoring and evaluation leading groups for the monitoring and evaluation requirements in different periods. Working committees on children and women at various levels have established their own monitoring and evaluation leading groups under which monitoring and evaluation groups have been set up. The monitoring groups are coordinated by the statistics departments at various levels, and are responsible for providing guidance and personnel training for monitoring, for studying and formulating monitoring programs, for collecting, sorting and analyzing statistics and information, and for writing and submitting annual monitoring reports. Staff of monitoring groups are from member units of the working committees on women and children.

**(3) Annual reporting system for the monitoring of the Program.**

Monitoring of program implementation has been conducted on a yearly basis. Under the coordination of the NBS, an annual statistical monitoring report on the implementation of the Program is written and submitted to the NWCCW Office. Member units of working committees on children and women at the provincial and county levels, and other relevant agencies also submit annual monitoring statistics to the statistics departments at the same levels.

**3. Collect sex-disaggregated statistics through surveys on women's status.**

The NBS and the ACWF conducted three surveys on the status of Chinese women in 1990, 2000 and 2010, which covered various issues such as women's health, education, economy, social security, political participation, marriage and family, legal rights and awareness, and gender concept and attitude. Through the collection, sorting and analysis of data, these surveys provided a comprehensive and objective picture of the status and changes of women's social status in China and a sound basis for government to introduce policies and measures for women's development and gender equality.

**4. Publish sex-disaggregated statistics and data through statistical materials and publications**

The NBS has edited and published many sex-disaggregated materials on the basis of collected statistics and relevant data from publications of

various departments and agencies. They include: *Women and Men in Chinese Society: Facts and Statistics* published in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2012, *Statistics on the Status of Women and Children* published since 2008, *Progress of Society, Millennium Development Goals in China*, *International Conference on Population and Development Goals in China*, and *Report on Major Statistics of Survey on the Social Status of Women in China*. These statistical materials and publications cover more areas than the System and the monitoring indicators of the *National Program for Women's Development*, and include statistics on economy and population, science and technology, sports, and social and living environment. They provide a reference for the relevant departments and agencies in conducting work, in particular in making policies.

## **II. Regarding the Collection of Statistics for a Set of Fundamental Sex-disaggregated Statistical Indicators Agreed in 2013 by the UN Statistics Commission**

So far, China has yet to begin collecting and compiling a set of fundamental sex-disaggregated statistical indicators as agreed in 2013 by the UN Statistics Commission

## **III. Regarding Collection of Statistics on the Nine Indicators on Violence against Women agreed in 2013 by the UN Statistics Commission**

China has not started special statistical work on violence against women. The *National Program for Women's Development (2011-2020)* put forward the goal of preventing and combating domestic violence against women. In monitoring the implementation of the Program, a few statistics from the public security agencies have been used, such as the number of solved rape cases and the number of solved cases of trafficking in women. Violence against women was included in the surveys on the status of women jointly conducted by the ACWF and the NBS.

## **IV. Regarding the Collection of Statistics on Rural Women, Elderly Women, Women with Disabilities, Women of Ethnic Minority Groups, Women with HIV/AIDS and Other Special Groups of Women**

China conducts national census every 10 years, under which detailed demographic information is gathered through age-, sex- and education-disaggregated statistics on rural, elderly and ethnic minority people.

The Ministry of Health has conducted statistical work on reported cases of women with HIV/AIDS.

The China Disabled Persons' Federation has worked on sex-disaggregated statistics on school-age children with disabilities who are not enrolled in schools since 2000.

#### **Part Four: Emerging Priorities**

Gender equality is a hallmark of progress of a country. China has laid out the strategic plan to advance economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress under socialism with Chinese characteristics, and identified the goal of completing the building of a society of initial prosperity, providing new opportunities for the promotion of gender equality and women's development in the new period. In the next three to five years, as China speeds up the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly (2000), as well as its national action plan to realize gender equality and women empowerment beyond 2015, it will better coordinate its overall development and gender equality progress, promote gender mainstreaming in an all-round way, uphold women's rights and interests and gender equality in major policy reform, and give full consideration to disparity between men and women and women's special interests in legislation, policy making, and formulation of plans, so that women can benefit more from the reform.

#### **I. Priorities for China to promote women's development in the next three to five years**

**1. Work to improve laws, regulations and policies on the promotion of gender equality and embody the basic state policy of equality between men and women in the whole process of the formulation and implementation of national laws and policies.** Legislation on gender equality should be sped up, and laws, regulations and policies which reflect gender fairness will be constantly improved. Targeted measures will be taken through institutional building and policy and program design to solve the acute problems confronting women in employment, health, education, social security and access to public services. The establishment of consultation and evaluation systems for gender equality regarding national and local laws, regulations and policies will be high on

the agenda.

**2. Promote an enabling environment for gender equality and women's development.** First, publicity on the basic state policy of equality between men and women and advanced gender culture will be conducted extensively and in depth to raise awareness of the policy in the whole society and to cultivate a social environment that respects women and promotes equal development of men and women. Second, media monitoring institutions will be established to monitor negative portrayal in media, including media violence against women and/or pornographic products. Third, training on gender awareness for media practitioners will be carried out continuously, a code of conduct for media professionals and voluntary regulations will be formulated, and more women will be encouraged to take decision-making and management positions. Fourth, publicity and education will be carried out targeting urban and rural communities to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

**3. Enhance women's political participation.** More channels and effective measures will be introduced to raise women's representation in decision-making and management, and their influence in state and social affairs, in particular the percentage of women in NPC deputies and members of CPPCC National Committee and leadership teams of governments and institutions at various levels. In developing democracy at the primary level, and promoting governance of rural and urban communities, public affairs at the primary level and public-interest undertakings, the percentage of women members of villagers committees and neighborhood communities will be further increased. In building democratic institutions in social organizations, the democratic right of female workers to participate in management and monitoring will be guaranteed. In advancing political consultation, and democratic participation and building systems, standards and procedures for political participation, channels for women's organizations to participate in democracy will be expanded.

**4. Better guarantee women's participation in economic development and sharing of the fruit of economic development.** Focusing on the major problems concerning women's survival and development, livelihood projects with a large coverage and leveraging effect will be launched in a targeted way, and resources will be pooled for concrete actions that deliver direct results to women. Women will be provided with equal opportunities to participate in economic activities and equal access to land, credit and other economic resources. Employment of women will be improved and employment of women at different levels

promoted so as to improve the employment structure of women, promote women's career development and narrow the income gap between men and women. Active measures will be taken to encourage joint participation of men and women in productive activities and sharing of family burdens. Health care for children and women will be enhanced and resources allocation will be improved to increase health care funding for children and women in rural, border and remote areas. Screening of breast cancer and cervical cancer and other projects will be further carried out, and basic medical and health services for women will be guaranteed. Policies will be improved to provide more support and assistance for poor, disabled, elderly, migrant and left-behind women for them to equally share the achievements of reform, opening-up and social and economic development with social groups.

**5. Improve mechanisms for supervision and implementation for protection of women's rights and interests.** Protection of women's rights and interests will be taken as an important task to improve China's legal system and enhance social management and public services to ensure women's economic, political, cultural and social rights and interests and gender justice and fairness in law-based governance. Job recruitment will be regulated in accordance with the law, oversight and inspection will be enhanced to eliminate gender discrimination in employment, in particular implicit discrimination, and violations of the labor rights of female workers will be dealt with severely. Violations of land rights of rural women will be effectively addressed, the registration system for rural land contractual and management rights and the system for identifying members of rural collective economic organizations will be improved, and village rules and customs contradicting laws and regulations will be corrected. Illegal and criminal actions, such as trafficking in children and women and abusing girls, will be prevented at the source and addressed in a holistic way, and perpetrators will be persecuted in a accordance with the law.

## **II. Suggestions for Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Under the **auspices** of the United Nations, the international community is working actively on the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the objective of formulating a set of goals guiding international development cooperation and development of various countries on the basis of consensus and in a spirit of equality and mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and win-win cooperation. We suggest that the following principles and issues be considered as priority regarding gender equality and women empowerment:

## **Principles:**

1. **The goals should be separate but well-coordinated.** It is necessary to, on the one hand, design separate goals and quantitative indicators for gender equality and women empowerment, and on the other highlight the gender perspective and women's rights and interests under related topics and pay attention to and address the structural factors behind problems.
2. **The goals should be both consistent and forward-looking.** It is necessary to work further to meet those of the MDGs that have not been achieved and at the same time, formulate a new agenda that can respond to new challenges.
3. **The goals should be both inclusive and diversified.** The new development goals should, on the one hand, be applicable and provide better guidance across the world and, on the other, each country's choice of its development strategies, paths and goals must be respected.

## **Priorities:**

1. Promote access of women to economic resources and equal employment of women, eliminate poverty, and enhance women's economic empowerment.
2. Enhance education and training for women and capacity building for women.
3. Improve medical and health services and infrastructure to guarantee women's health.
4. Ensure women's equal participation in economic and social decision-making and equal sharing of development achievements fruits.

## Statistics on Major Monitoring Indicators

Area	Statistical Indicator	Unit	2009	2010	2011	2012	Source	
Women and Health	1. Average life expectancy for women	years		77.37			NBS	
	2. Maternal mortality rate	1/100,000	31.9	30.0	26.1	24.5		
		Urban	1/100,000	26.6	29.7	25.2	22.2	National Commission for Health and Family Planning
		Rural	1/100,000	34.0	30.1	26.5	25.6	
	3. Screening rate of common gynaecological diseases	%		61.2	65.4	64.2		
	4. Incidence of moderate and severe anemia among pregnant and lying-in women	%	1.80	1.80	1.70	1.65		
	5. Rate of married women of childbearing age using contraceptive methods	%		89.1	88.6	87.9	Ministry of Education	
	6. Percentage of girls in kindergarten	%	45.08	45.44	46.11	46.32		
	7. Percentage of female students in primary and junior middle school enrollment	%	46.64	46.57	46.54	46.54		
	8. Percentage of female students in regular senior middle school enrollment	%	48.2	48.62	48.98	49.41		
9. Higher education gross enrollment rate	%	24.2	26.5	26.9	30.0			
10. Percentage of female students in regular higher education enrollment <sup>1</sup>	%	50.48	50.86	51.14	51.35			

	11. Percentage of female students in vocational middle school enrollment	%	45.55	45.53	45.67	45.54	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
	12. Percentage of women trainees of employment training centers and private vocational training institutions <sup>ii</sup>	%	37.64	38.04	41.81	41.63	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
	13. Illiteracy rate among young and adult women	%		1.53			
Women and the economy	14. Percentage of women in all employed people	%	46.2	46.0	46.0	46.0	NBS
	15. Number of female employees in urban work units	10,000	4678.5	4861.5	5227.7	5458.9	
	16. Percentage of female employees in non-agricultural sectors	%		40.43			Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
	17. Percentage of female senior professionals in state-owned enterprises and institutions	%		35.3	35.4	35.7	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
	18. Percentage of enterprises implementing the <i>Special Regulations Concerning the Labour Protection of Female Staff and Workers</i>	%	46	54.9	59.3	66.5	All-China Federation of Trade Unions
	19. Number of women receiving urban subsistence allowance and rural “five guarantees”	10,000		2737.5	2736.4	2813.8	Ministry of Civil Affairs
	20. Average urban and rural subsistence allowance	yuan/person /per		185.9	216.9	253.0	

		month								
Women's participation in decision-making and management	21. Percentage of women deputies to the NPC <sup>iii</sup>	%	21.3				23.4	NPC		
	22. Percentage of women deputies to the NPC Standing Committee <sup>3</sup>	%	16.2				15.5			
	23. Percentage of women members of the CPPCC National Committee <sup>iv</sup>	%	17.7				17.8		CPPCC National Committee	
	24. Percentage of women members of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee <sup>4</sup>	%	10.1				12.0			
CCCPC Organization Department	25. Percentage of leadership teams of provincial governments having female cadres	%	90.3	87.1			80.6	All-China		
	26. Percentage of leadership teams of municipal governments having female cadres	%	89.5	89.4			91.6			
	27. Percentage of leadership teams of county governments having female cadres	%	88.4	86.2			93.9			
	28. Percentage of leadership teams of provincial government departments having female cadres	%	56.8	57.6			58.5			
	29. Percentage of leadership teams of municipal government departments having female cadres	%					54.2			
	30. Female representation in enterprise boards of	%	32.6	32.7			31.6		26.4	

Women and social security	directors								Federation of Trade Unions
	31. Female representation in enterprise boards of supervisors	%	33.4	35.2	35.6	27.0			
	32. Female representation in enterprise workers' congresses	%	28.5	29.0	29.2	28.4			
	33. Percentage of female members in villagers committees	%	21.5	21.4	22.0	22.1			
	34. Percentage of female heads of villagers committees	%		10.4	11.2	11.7			
	35. Percentage of female members in urban residents committees	%	49.8	49.6	49.4	48.4			
	36. Number of urban employees participating in the maternity insurance scheme	10,000	10876	12336	13892	15429			
	Number of female participants		4711	5367	6033	6700			
	37. Number of people participating in the basic medical insurance schemes for urban employees and non-working residents	10,000			47343	53642			
Number of female participants				18929	23203			Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security	
	38. Number of people participating in the unemployment insurance scheme	万人	12716	13376	14317	15225			
	Number of female participants		4787	5149	5815	6304			
39. Number of people participating in the basic old-age insurance scheme for urban employees			25707	28391	30427			Ministry of Civil Affairs	
	Number of female participants	10,000	9904	11202	12575	13829			

	40. Number of people participating in job-related injury insurance Number of female participants	10,000		16161	17696	19010	Ministry of Water Resources
			5279	5699	6202	7145	
Women and the environment and law	41. Percentage of rural people having centralized water	%	54	58.0	63.0	68.3	Ministry of Water Resources
	42. Percentage of sanitary toilets in rural areas	%	63.2	67.4	69.2	71.7	National Commission for Health and Family Planning
	43. Number of shelters for women and child victims of violence			4534	8629	3740	ACWF
44. Assistance provided by shelters	Person time			55533	52433	28894	
	45. Number of women receiving legal aid	10,000	18.2	19.56	22.34	27.34	Ministry of Justice

- i Regular higher education refers to regular four-year and three-year college education.
- ii Training centers refer to those directly under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.
- iii The 2010 figure is that of the 11<sup>th</sup> NPC, and the 2012 figure is that of the 12<sup>th</sup> NPC.  
The 2010 figure is that of the 11<sup>th</sup> CPPCC, and the 2012 figure is that of the 12<sup>th</sup> CPPCC.