

中國關愛協會

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Population aging calls for attention and actions for the aged

- 1. China Care and Compassion Society (CCCS)** is dedicated to advocating and carrying forward the scientific and humanistic spirit in the Chinese society. CCCS cares about people's physical and mental health as well as the living conditions of vulnerable groups of the society. CCCS pays closed attention to coordination with different social sectors for construction of a harmonious society and realization of sustainable development. As a Chinese social organization, CCCS focuses on the issues relating to people's well-being, especially the social security and other needs of the elderly and children, their rights to participating in social activities and sharing the benefits of economic and social development of the country.
- 2.** As we have seen, since 1978 when China started reform and opening-up, significant achievements have been made in the sphere of human rights.

The Chinese government has been consistently promoting and safeguarding human rights of the Chinese people, and the level of the rights enjoyed by the Chinese people has been remarkably enhanced. The Chinese government attaches great importance to safeguarding social fairness and justice, and takes a series of measures to keep social stability and promoting development. The Chinese government pays more attention to the issues relating to people's well-being and addresses the difficulties faced by the people in education, medical services and employment. The Chinese government makes efforts to improve the living conditions of the elderly, the left-behind children, the migrant workers(farmers who leave their families behind in their home villages and go to work in cities) and others in need, to ensure that all the people have equal rights to participation, enjoyment and development.

- 3.** We are concerned about the fact that China has stepped into an aging society. Population aging as generated far-reaching impacts on China's economic and social development. China's working-age population reached peak in 2013 and retirement has boomed since then. Consequently the country's social security system faces severe challenges. Population aging both in urban and in rural areas draws attention and calls for care from the whole society and solutions must be found with no delay. Taking migrant workers for example. According to the National Survey of Migrant Workers conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics of China in 2015, the migrant workers aged 50 and

above accounted for 17.1% of the total such workers, an increase of 4.2 percentage points from 2010. ¹In recent years, the average age of migrant workers has risen rapidly, and the proportion of young migrant workers has drastically declined. The aging pace of China's migrant workers is accelerating. Besides, migrant workers are only part of rural population. Their empty-nest or semi- empty- nest families left behind in rural areas are more than half the total number of families. It is very important to guarantee the rights and upgrade the quality of life of the elderly population in both urban and rural areas in China. Therefore the efforts made by the Chinese government in this regard are necessary in safeguarding basic human rights, maintaining family harmony and promoting social development.

4. It is appreciated that the Chinese government pays serious attention to and actively addresses the problem of population aging. In August 1996, the Chinese government promulgated the "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly". And in April 2015 the second amendment to the law was passed.²In February 2017, the State Council of China issued the "Notice on the Planning and Development of the Old-age Program and Pension System in the Thirteenth Five-year Plan". Under the guidance of the

governmental policies, active actions are taken to response to population aging. A comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of the old-age program and an improved welfare system for the elderly are promoted. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China points out: "Carrying out the Healthy China initiative: as we respond proactively to population aging, we will adopt policies and foster a social environment in which senior citizens are respected, cared for, and live happily in their later years. We will provide integrated elderly care and medical services, and accelerate the development of old-age programs and industries. "It indicates one of goals of the Chinese government to work for in coming few years.

5. Since 2008, CCCS has organized annual communication program on health, with women as the main target group. Prevention of cardiovascular diseases for elderly women is a focused topic. Tens of thousands of women have participated in these activities and obtained useful knowledge. Since 2016, we have expanded the communication topics to all possible issues concerning the health of the elderly. We enter into communities to hold health talks for residents and invite doctors to provide free health counseling for them. We also invite physical exercise trainers to teach the elderly do exercises like tai chi and aerobics. To provide better services to the elderly, we have established

partnership with China Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (CAGG) in the efforts for safeguarding the rights and interests of senior citizens and their quality life.

6. We suggest: **First**, the state should carry out education on the national conditions of population aging to enhance whole society's awareness of active response to the situation, to advocate and promote the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation in respect of and provide for the elderly. The morality and conduct of respecting, caring for and helping the elderly should be carried forward in the whole society. **Second**, the state should establish a cooperation mechanism between social organizations and relevant agencies, improving the model of the aged care as an integration of government's support, social organizations' implementation, and both community-based care and home-based care are available for the elderly to choose. Volunteer teams will be strengthened. In this way a mechanism of joint actions for the elderly among the government, the society and families will be established, and the social atmosphere of caring for and helping old people will be developed. **Third**, we should promote the development of the old-care industry and of the social welfare system, develop medical security and specialized nursing services, and expand the social service teams for the old-age programs. **Fourth**, Efforts should be made to improve the

actions on physical and mental health care for the elderly. The elder universities and community education centers are encouraged to invite experts from research institutes to deliver lectures on science and technology as well as other cultural themes for the elderly, helping them keep positive and optimistic attitude towards life. Lectures on self defense against crime of fraud and mind-control cults should also be provided to old people to enhance their relevant capabilities. Through the educational activities the elderly may also learn the employment oriented skills if they are willing to, and enhance their capabilities for starting a new career for the society, from which they gain a sense of accomplishment in their contribution to society, and enhance their quality of life.

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1In 2015, according to the National Survey of Migrant Workers Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics of People`s Republic of China, migrant workers over the age of 50 accounted for 17.1% of the migrant workers, an increase of 4.2 percentage points from 2010.

<http://www.cncaprc.gov.cn/contents/37/78526.html>

2Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly," and carried out the second amendment in April 2015

<http://www.cncaprc.gov.cn/contents/12/174717.html>