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All-China Environment Federation (ACEF)

Contribution to the Third Circle of the Universal Periodic Review of China

March 2018

1. All-China Environment Federation, as a nationwide non-governmental organization, has always been committed to promoting environmental protection and sustainable development of China and the world at large, and has paid great attention to the Universal Period Review (the third circle) conducted by the UN Human Rights Council. Here, we focus on the issue of environmental protection.
2. We noticed that, since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese government has made remarkable achievements in environmental protection centering around improving environmental quality, solving major and urgent environmental problems, as well as prevention and control of pollution.
3. We believe that the environmental right of the public is a key part of environment protection. The Chinese government has made unremitting efforts to continuously improve the legal system and ensure various environmental rights of the public, The newly amended *Environmental Protection Law* of 2015 clearly stipulates that citizens, legal persons and other organizations shall have the right to get access to environmental information, the right to participate in environmental affairs and the right to environmental supervision, and grants qualified social organizations the right to initiate environmental public interest litigation.
4. We recognize that environmental NGOs play a crucial role in protecting environmental rights of the public by way of public interest litigation, but they still face the difficulties of unstable funding sources and insufficient professional knowledge of environmental litigation. Therefore, it is highly needed that the government and social forces should provide more



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financial and policy support and talent trainings on environmental public interest litigation for the environmental NGOs mentioned above.

5. We have seen that Chinese environmental NGOs are playing more and more important role in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development at the international level. For example, ACEF has been quite active in the international exchanges and cooperation centering around the national objectives on environment and development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We expressed the position and voice from the perspective of non-government organizations and actively engaged in the decision-making process of international environmental affairs or events organized by UN agencies, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Environment, etc. Among them, at the 33rd Regular Session of United Nations Human Rights Council in 2016, ACEF, as an environmental NGO, has made two statements to call on that the global community shall protect the development right of the public, pay high attention to the crucial role of environmental NGOs in protecting the environmental rights of the public and strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in this field.

6. Meanwhile, we also recognize that a large number of grass-roots environmental NGOs in China still lack the capacity for conducting international exchanges and cooperation, and we suggest that more capacity-building support should be provided to empower environmental NGOs to be deeply involved in the international affairs.

7. We believe that, in order to further solve the environmental problems, carry out national joint green action and promote China's green development, the Chinese government needs to provide continuous support for environmental NGOs, enterprises, scientific research institutions, the public and other stakeholders in aspects of environmental legislation, technologies, funding, capacity building and international cooperation, etc.