

Submission to UN UPR of China

—The Right to Education and Human Rights

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1 . This report focuses on the development of China's human rights in the field of the right to education, based on China's improving civil education right and China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA)'s related programs and achievements.

2 . The right to receive education is a basic human right. It is a right enjoyed by citizens and guaranteed by the state. The right to education includes two basic elements: first, citizens have the right to education in school; second, the state provides education facilities, trains teachers, and creates the necessary opportunities and material conditions for citizens to receive education. If a person has no educational opportunity and cannot go to school, he/she loses the right to education. Without the material guarantee or legal guarantee of education, the citizen's right to education may also fail.

3. Economic development of the old revolutionary base areas and the places inhabited by minority nationalities in China is slow due to such factors as adverse natural conditions and geographical isolation. Many rural primary schools have dilapidated dormitories, which not only have hidden dangers, but also fail to meet the student's accommodation needs. Students in poor areas are in need of school supplies. Impoverished college students and high school students face difficulties of daily life

expense. The status quo poses challenges to the universal access of the right to education in China.

4. CFPA launched different programs in order to alleviate education-related problems and to support education development. Programs include Nesting Action, Love Package, New Great Wall Student Grant, as well as integrated Moving Forward Plan aiming at child development. CFPA is committed to promoting the comprehensive development of students in needed areas and improving their living conditions. By the end of 2016, CFPA has accumulatively devoted around 1 trillion Yuan, benefiting over 5 million people.

5. On October 17, 2011, CFPA officially launched Nesting Action Project, which aimed at building dormitories for primary schools in poor rural areas and providing warm homes for students in need. Under the great support of CCTV news channel, this Project has received widespread attention from all sectors of society. Many warm-hearted people and organizations have made generous donations. By the end of 2016, over 120 million Yuan has been raised for this Project with the support of philanthropic enterprises and individuals. It had built 220 school dormitories in 206 counties of 18 provinces and had approximately 93,000 beneficiaries. The success of CFPA Nesting Action Project represents China society's practice of there commendation *No.186.215: Allocate more educational resources to central and western regions, rural areas, remote and border areas, and in ethnic minority areas* from the *Report of the Working Group on the Universal-Periodic Review**(Hereinafter referred to as *The Working Group Report*)of the Human Rights Council, twenty-fifth session.

6. Love Package Project is a national public welfare activities

launched by CFPA on April 26, 2009. CFPA sends love and care to the children, improves the comprehensive development and living conditions of students in poverty-stricken areas. By the end of 2016, Love Package Project has received social donations of 532,486,800 Yuan, among which 2.69 million donations were from individuals and 198,000 donations were from institutions. The Project benefited 21,222 schools and 4.665 million students in 710 counties of 31 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions) as well as 6,549 families.

7. The New Great Wall Student Grant Project is a targeted poverty alleviation project, taking high school and college students with family financial difficulties as assistance target and providing economic subsidy and talent support service. By the end of 2016, the total investment in the project has exceeded 340 million Yuan, helping nearly 180,000 students continue their dreams of learning. The sub-project for high schools students has covered 201 counties in 27 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), accumulatively raising 81.125 million Yuan and directly had 532,000 beneficiaries (person-time), and helping over 19,000 high school students complete their studies. The sub-project for college students has raised almost 260 million Yuan, covering over 590 colleges and universities in 31 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions) and directly benefiting 125,225 people (person-time). CFPA's New Great Wall Student Grant project represents Chinese non-governmental organizations (NGO)' achievement in practicing the recommendation *No. 186.210: Improve access to education for disadvantaged people* from *The Working Group Report*. Further, the scholarships provided by the state are also increasing. *China continues to extend its State scholarship programs to ensure that students do not drop out of school because of poverty* (*The*

Working Group Report, Recommendation No. 186.218).

8. In addition to supporting higher education, CFPA also contributes its own strength to the development of child education. CFPA Children Companion Plan was launched in October, 2015, aiming to build a custody network for left-behind children through the mode of “one person, one family, one link”. The goals of the project are to guarantee rights and interests of left-behind children, to explore effective method of welfare protection for rural left-behind children, and to provide reference for the decision-making of the government. By the end of 2016, the project raised a total of 11.8798 million Yuan of donations and benefited nearly 100,000 children, gaining the welcome and recognition from the local government and community. On the other hand, in 2016, CFPA integrated Children Development Plan and Moving Forward Plan into a new version of Moving Forward Plan, aiming to assist the comprehensive development of children in poverty-stricken areas through continuous care and support. About 5.2 million Yuan was expensed for the Plan in 2016. Moving Forward - Schoolyard under Moving Forward Plan has provided Love Kitchen facilities for 17 schools, built playgrounds for 8 schools, and created reading rooms for 11 schools to improve facilities of teaching. Meanwhile, the Plan has brought fine art bags, sports-bags, warmth bags, music bags, and other learning and living articles to 8,150 children to improve their learning and living conditions. Moving Forward - Classroom under Moving Forward Plan carried out weekly “Moving Forward Course” in 51 schools and 21 “Moving Forward, Village” summer camps. This is the embodiment of Chinese society’s effort in *increasing the provision of resources for education establishments in remote and rural areas, as well as regions inhabited by ethnic minorities*

(*The Working Group Report*, recommendation No.186.209), as well as *better the conditions of urban schools, especially in the poor neighborhoods* (*The Working Group Report*, recommendation No.186.216).

9. The development of education and human rights not only needs the promotion of NGOs but also needs the establishment of a national macro-system and the encouragement of policies. On June 11, 2012, with the approval and authorization from the State Council of China, the Information Office of the State Council released the *National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2015)*, proposing to “extensively carry out various forms of human rights education and training to spread human rights awareness and knowledge across the society” . The Plan includes “Strengthening human rights education in primary and secondary schools, integrating human rights knowledge into relevant curricula and incorporating into the legal education of schools”, “Launching appropriate human rights education activities among adolescents to promote lawful and democratic management in primary and secondary schools and to create a harmonious environment of respecting human rights”, “Encouraging institutions of higher education to open human rights related elective courses and professional courses. Supporting human rights related disciplines and professional development and encouraging the study of human rights theory”, and so on.

10. During the mid-term evaluation of the *National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2015)*, the goals of the Plan are already accomplished. On April 28th, 2014, approved by the experts organized by the Ministry of Education and the Information Office of the State Council, the Human Rights Center of Renmin University of China, Fudan University, Wuhan

University, Shandong University, and Southwest University of Political Science & Law were included in the national human rights education and training base of China. This progress means China has already finished the No. 186.57 recommendation from *The Working Group Report: Look into the possibility of establishing the national human rights institution in China*. China is still working on No. 186.58 recommendation from *The Working Group Report: continue efforts in theoretical research related to national human rights organs*.

11. The right to education in Chinese society and the development of human rights education are constantly evolving. However, some suggestions are still worth mentioning. For example, continuing to improve the education system, improving people's access to quality education, further efforts to guarantee all human rights including the cultural rights of minorities, and encouraging actions aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of the most basic rights and the basic infrastructure in the most remote areas.