



Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review of China

March 2018

1. As the largest NGO network dedicated to international exchanges in China, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) follows closely the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review of human rights conditions in China chaired by the United Nations Human Right Council.
2. We appreciate the importance the Chinese government has attached to the role of NGOs and the actions taken to support the development of NGOs. By the end of 2013, the total number of NGOs in China had been 547,000. This number has topped 763,000 by the end of 2017, with an increase of 39% in the past four years. These NGOs in China are actively engaging in poverty alleviation, health care, education, environmental protection and human rights, etc.
3. The Chinese government pays great attention to the management of NGOs and has created more favorable policy and legislation environment for their development. In February 2016, China promulgated *Regulations for Registration and Management of Social Associations (revised)*. In August 2016, China issued *The Opinion on the Reform of Social Organizations and Management System to Promote the Development of Social Organizations in a Healthy and Orderly Way*, stating that China will proactively develop community-level social organizations, improve policy measures to



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render greater support for the growth of social organizations and strengthen registration and screening of social organizations in accordance with the law. In 2017, China released again *Opinions on the Healthy Development of Social Think Tanks* and *Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Building of Cultural Industry Organizations*.

4. We have noted that the Chinese government supports and encourages Chinese NGOs to carry out wide-ranging international exchanges and has made great efforts in facilitating more qualified NGOs in obtaining consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and in participating in UN affairs in an extensive and in-depth way.
5. In its report submitted for the second cycle of universal periodic review of China, CNIE suggested the Chinese government strengthen effective management on the activities of overseas NGOs in the mainland of China. It is noted that China adopted *The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations in the Mainland of China* in 2016, which has played a positive role in clarifying specifications of activities of overseas NGOs in the mainland of China, protecting their legitimate rights and interests and promoting their exchanges and cooperation with Chinese partners.
6. By November 30, 2017, there have been 280 overseas NGO representative agencies that registered in the mainland of China which are mainly active in economic development, poverty alleviation and disaster relief, education, health care and environmental protection and have played a favorable supplementary role in promoting the



economic and social development in China.

7. We have also noted that there is certain number of overseas NGOs carrying out activities in the mainland of China but having not completed registration or obtained permit for temporary activities. There are still a very small number of overseas NGOs engaging in activities that violate laws and regulations in China, endangering China's reunification, security and ethnic solidarity. We suggest the Chinese government continue its efforts in strengthening administration of overseas NGOs in China.
8. In recent years, some mainland residents of China, taking the advantage of different registration and administration standards in different countries and regions, registered "knock-off organizations" in countries and regions with loose registration system. Most of them added words like "China", "Chinese" or "National" onto their organization names, similar to or even the same as those of nationwide NGOs that have legitimately registered in the mainland of China. Some "knock-off organizations" engaged in illegal activities in China, which greatly harmed the reputation of those legitimate NGOs whose names they imitated.
9. By October 2016, the Chinese government has released thirteen lists of "knock-off organizations", totaling 1,287 organizations. We suggest that the Chinese government take necessary measures promptly to crack down illegal activities of "knock-off organizations" and maintain a sound environment for the development of NGOs in China.