



Lao Women's Union

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To : The Human Rights Council Secretariat

Re : The Contributions for the China's Universal Periodical Review in the third Cycle 2018

1. The Lao Women's Union (LWU) was established on 20th July 1955. It is operating under the policies, constitution and laws, especially the law of the Lao Women's Union. LWU is an organization equivalent to a ministry. It has an organizational structure that expands from the central to the grass-root level. It is mandated to implement policies, constitution, laws, regulations, National Social Economic Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and International Conventions related to the development and protection of legitimate rights of women and children, women's advancement and gender equality in the family and society.
2. LWU would like to submit information and recommendations regarding the promotion and protection of women's right in China as part of stakeholder's contribution as we did for its second cycle in 2013. Since then, LWU witnessed many new achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights in China, particularly the rights of women and children the past five years. Some evidences are shown as the followings:
3. China has formed a legal system, with the nation's constitution as the foundation, the Law on the Protection of Right and Interests of Women and some other relevant laws and regulations concerning women's rights and interest, including the Law on the Promotion of Employment, Labor Contact Law and the Special Regulations on the Labor Protection of Female Employees, providing fundamental guarantees for the development of women and their rights protection. The Criminal Law Amendment adopted in August 2015 contained important changes to improve protection of the rights and interests of women and children, including abolishing the crime of sex with underage prostitutes, thereby allowing more effective punishment for the crimes of raping young girls and trafficking in women and children. We especially congratulated the implementation of then Anti-Domestic Violence Law of the People' Republic of China starting from March 1, 2016.
4. LWU also commended that China's 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development set up a chapter "promoting women's all-round development" and emphasized "implementing the program for women's development" and requested to ensure women's rights of various kinds. The China National Program of all levels and relevant departments and agencies to ensure that women's development is synchronized with economic and social development.

5. LWU would like to highlight that the Chinese government implements the subsidized micro-credit schemes for women to help solve the problem of funding shortage faced by women in employment and entrepreneurship. By the end of December 2016, a total of 310.925 billion yuan subsidized micro-credit loans had been disbursed to 57.617 million women with 27.102 billion yuan in interest on such loans paid by the central and local governments, and tens of millions of women have benefited from the loans.
6. LWU commended the efforts by China in strengthening capacity building and promoting the common development of women. China has held capacity building and practice skill workshop, such as workshop for women from 6 ASEAN countries, workshop on Practical Skills Training for Women of Lanxang-Mekong River Region. To support women in other developing countries, China provides micro-material aids to these countries in forms of supporting the construction of women's training centers and communication centers, delivering working and living materials to improve the living and working conditions of local women.
7. LWU welcomes the adoption of several measures by China to enhance work on disable person's affairs, which help disabled people improve their conditions, participate in social activities, and enjoy the fruits of material and cultural progress. The General Provisions of the Civil Law have provisions on the protection of persons with disabilities. China's State Council Promulgated the Regulations on Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in 2017. In the Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2016-2020), promoting the rights of persons with disabilities is underlined. The plan has special setting up a sound system of basic welfare security for them, improving policies to support their employment and business operation, and implementing of key rehabilitation projects. The outline of the Program for Accelerating the March of persons with Disabilities Toward a Moderately Prosperous Society During the 13th Five-Year plan Period (2016-2017), issued by the State Council, specifies the guidelines, principles, main objectives and task for the work on disabled persons' affairs.
8. LWU also appreciated China's national mechanism for dynamic updating of the basic needs and the basic services available to persons with disabilities. China is achieving full coverage of living allowances for persons with disabilities in financial difficulty and care subsidies for those with severe disabilities, benefiting more than 20 million people. Nearly 700,000 people with disabilities have access to nursing homes, day care and home-based care services. The data of more than 4,135 million poor people with disabilities have been included in the national database. Moreover, China is an active advocator and participant in the creation of the UN CRPD, and was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention. On July 7, 2016, China hosted the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN CRPD in Beijing. The event drew global attention once again to the CRPD, and has far-reaching significance in China and the world. The Chinese government has worked for the inclusion of the disability issues in the UN 2030 Sustainable development Agenda, and succeeded in incorporating "disability and economic development" into the formal agenda of the APEC meetings. China initiated the incorporation of disability issues into the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) cooperation framework, and organized the ASEM Disability Cooperation Event and Global Conference on Assistive Devices & Technology. It has also worked for the inclusion of exchanges in the field of disability in the China-Africa cooperation and China-ASEAN Expo platforms.

9. LWU hoped that China would intensify its efforts to accomplish its goal to pull all people out of extreme poverty by the end of 2020, and further consolidate its continued efforts by giving focus to its “Rural Revitalization strategy” and in line with its priority and experience to promote the right to development, realizing a moderately prosperous society for all the people.
10. LWU congratulates that China has maintained its position as the world’s second largest economy and contributed to 31.6 percent of global growth each year on average, with multiple economic indicators among the highest in the world. More than 13 million jobs have been created every year. Women’s right to employment and equal access to economic resources is guaranteed. China’s impoverished rural population has fallen significantly with over 13 million people rising above poverty each year on average. The basic living needs have been met for the 260 million elderly people, 85 million people with disabilities and more than 60 million urban and rural residents living on subsistence allowances. China also actively helps other developing countries of address their poverty problems. Over more than six decades since the founding of the people’s Republic of China in 1949, China has provided nearly RMB400 billion to 16 countries and international organizations, sent more than 600,000 aid workers, given medical assistance to 69 countries, and aided more than 120 developing countries in realizing the millennium Goals.
11. LWU and All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF) have a friendly relationship, solidarity and longstanding cooperation in term of information exchange regarding the development and protection of women as well as high level delegations visiting, especially the official visit of Shen Yueyue, the President. ACWF also supported the women’s training centers to improve the living and working conditions of local women. In 2013, ACWF supported the sewing machines, overhead projectors, computers, laptops, printers, photocopies, cameras and iron machines to the LWU at Central and Provincial levels. In 2018, LWU also got the same kind of supports including a mother’s health express van to support mothers and children.
12. The information mentioned above contributes to the existing friendly relationship and cooperation between the people of the two countries Lao PDR and China as well as Lao and Chinese women especially the LWU and ACWF be further enhanced and flourished. LWU suggests that China take further measures to promote gender equality and eradicate stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women in society, improve maternity care services especially in rural areas and to further decrease maternal mortality rate during birth, combat the crimes of abduction of and trafficking in women, provide women, provide women victims with physical and psychological rehabilitation services with a view to their integration into the society. LWU also encourages China to continue to implement policies and programmers aimed at fulfilling the interests of the disabled.
13. The Lao Women’s Union, hereby submits its complementary document to the Human Rights Council for consideration of the China’s Universal Periodical Review in the Third Cycle 2018 and also avails itself of this opportunity, the assurance of its highest consideration.

Vientiane Capital, date 15th March 2018