

Name: Female Lawyers Association of All China Lawyers Association

Date of Establishment: December 2001

Address: No. 15, Liupukang Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, China

Purpose: To promote female lawyers' full participation in China's social development and their greater role in the development of socialist market economy, socialist democracy and rule of law, to strengthen the exchanges and cooperation between Chinese female lawyers and relevant international organizations, and to improve female lawyers' quality and social status.

**Report on China's Implementation of the Convention submitted  
by the Female Lawyers Association of All China Lawyers  
Association to the UN Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women**

1.The Female Lawyers Association of All China Lawyers Association is committed to promoting female lawyers' full participation in China's development of rule of law, and facilitating female lawyers' role in the development of rule of law and protection of civil rights. We note that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of the United Nations will review China's implementation report. We believe that China has always attached great importance to the equality between men and women, the elimination of discrimination against women, the protection of women's rights and interests, and the advancement of women's comprehensive development. China's earnest efforts have been made with remarkable achievements.

2.We note that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the implementation of the gender equality principle by means of laws. Gender equality, as a fundamental national policy of the People's Republic of China, guides the continuous development of Chinese women's cause. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that women enjoy equal rights with men in all aspects of political, economic, cultural, social and family life. In September 2021, the China National Program for Women's Development (2021-2030) issued by China's State Council states that by 2030 the fundamental national policy of gender equality will be fully implemented. In October 2022, the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women was comprehensively revised by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, with stronger protection of women's rights and interests in economic, cultural, social and family life, so as to promote gender equality and women's well-rounded development.

3.We note that the Chinese government has refined and improved the mechanism against sexual harassment, as an effort to fully implement the relevant provisions of Article 3 of the Convention guaranteeing women enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This demonstrates China's firm stance on protecting women's basic human rights. In 2019, "disputes over liability for damages caused by sexual harassment" became an independent civil cause of action. In 2021, the Civil Code has explicitly defined sexual harassment and imposed statutory duties on employers to prevent and correct sexual harassment. In 2022, the revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women improved the systems and mechanisms for the prevention and handling of sexual harassment by giving a principled definition on the concept of sexual harassment for the first time, and stipulated the responsibilities of schools and employers to prevent and handle sexual harassment.

4.We note that the Chinese government has consistently implemented the relevant provisions of Article 6 of the Convention, which stipulates that "suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women", by launching policies, laws, rules and regulations to severely combat the crime of women trafficking. In April 2021, the Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in China (2021-2030) issued by China's State Council has made requirements to improve the long-term anti-trafficking mechanism that integrates prevention, crackdown, assistance, placement and rehabilitation. Afterwards, a series of rules were formulated by local governments to implement the action plan. In March 2022, the Ministry of

Public Security, in concert with All-China Women's Federation and other departments, organized a one-year campaign to crack down on the crime of abducting and trafficking women and children across China. The revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women in 2022 further improved the anti-abduction mechanism, stipulating that it is the responsibility of governments and the relevant departments, village and neighborhood committees to discover, report, rescue, shelter, assist and care for women who were abducted, trafficked or kidnapped.

5. We note that the Chinese government has placed great emphasis on the provisions of Article 11 of the Convention, which call for measures to eliminate discrimination against women in employment. A series of laws and policies have been promulgated by the central and local governments to improve women's rights and interests in labor and social security. In February 2019, nine ministries of the central government jointly issued the Circular on Further Regulating Recruitment and Promoting Women's Employment, which improved regulations on recruitment and promoted women's employment. The revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women in 2022 included major breakthroughs in eliminating gender discrimination in employment, strengthening special labor protections for female employees, improving maternity protection and strengthening the rights and interests of women in need. It fully responded to the actual difficulties faced by women in job application and employment, and addressed the needs of disadvantaged women groups such as the poor, the elderly and women with disabilities in a comprehensive manner.

6. We note that the Chinese government continues to implement the relevant provisions of Article 14 of the Convention, which stipulates that "eliminating discrimination against women in rural areas", and has constantly strengthened the protection of rural women's rights to land and other related rights and interests based on the realities of China's countryside. In January 2019, the newly revised Law on Land Contract in Rural Areas came into force, providing special protection for rural women's rights to land contractual management. The revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women in 2022 stipulates explicitly that women have equal rights with men in confirmation of membership in collectively owned rural economic organizations, land contractual management, distribution of earnings of collectively owned rural economic organizations, compensation and resettlement for land expropriation or compensation for requisition, and the use of rural residential land, etc. It also provides that women's rights and interests involving the collectively owned rural economic organizations shall not be infringed upon in villagers' autonomy charter, village regulations and agreements and decisions on matters involving villagers' interests, on the grounds of them being single, married, divorced, widowed or having no male householder.

7. We note that the Chinese government, when promulgating laws and policies related to the protection of women's rights and interests, has fully heeded the opinions from various sectors, especially those from women, while drawing on the experience of the international community in protecting women's rights and interests. Thus the principles of democratic and scientific legislation are upheld throughout the whole

legislative process. Take the comprehensive revision of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women in 2022 as an example. The draft was released for public comments twice on the Internet and received more than 700,000 comments, making it one of the most-commented draft laws in recent years. The revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women has earnestly responded to social concerns, and helped address practical issues in the protection of women's rights and interests.

8. Noting that China has made tremendous effort and substantial achievements in eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality and well-rounded development of women, we should be mindful that China, as a large developing country, still needs to make sustained and long-term efforts to protect women's rights and interests. We suggest the following: 1, efforts shall be made to raise public awareness on the newly revised Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women so that the whole society can fully understand the relevant provisions on the protection of women's rights and interests; 2, fully implement the China National Program for Women's Development to accelerate the well-rounded development of Chinese women in the new era; 3, ensure that women enjoy easier access to and more support for judicial and legal services, to safeguard their rights in accordance with the law.

9. The Female Lawyers Association of All China Lawyers Association will continue to encourage female lawyers to provide more legal aid for women by using their legal expertise so as to promote gender equality and protect women's lawful rights and interests through the rule of law.