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Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of China on the Protection of the Rights, Interests and Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities in China

1. We are pleased to see that China's policy system for persons with disabilities is taking shape. The Voluntary Service Policy for Persons with disabilities is a direction, goal, code of conduct or action plan formulated to regulate and promote the organized volunteer service for persons with disabilities. In the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Protection and Development of Persons with disabilities issued by the State Council in 2021, the Ministry of Civil Affairs built a national volunteer team construction information system and launched it, and issued the Measures for Voluntary Service Records and the Issuance of Certificates (Trial), Thereafter, the policy of volunteer service for persons with disabilities has become an important part of the policy of assisting the group.

2. We believe that China's disability service organizations are moving towards standardized development. In recent years, the degree of recognition and support of the society for voluntary services for persons with disabilities has continued to rise, and the atmosphere of helping persons with disabilities has become stronger, the number and scale of volunteer service organizations for persons with disabilities have increased, their types have become more diverse, and the forms of activities have become more abundant. By the end of 2021, there were 2,997 social organizations for persons with disabilities, and 37,443,000 volunteers registered with the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) at all levels nationwide. At present, the types of volunteer services for persons with disabilities in China are becoming more and more abundant, not only involving rehabilitation, employment assistance, education counseling and care, but also providing psychological counseling, cultural and sports activities, marriage counseling and legal aid services for persons with disabilities who have special needs[i]. At present, the funding sources of volunteer service organizations for persons with disabilities are mainly divided into government grants, welfare social donations and self-financing.

3. We notice that the per capita number of services by volunteers for persons with disabilities in China has increased significantly. The policy environment for the construction of China's volunteer team for persons with disabilities has been continuously improved, and the scale of the team has continued to grow. Volunteers for the persons with disabilities refer to volunteers who have registered with the CDPF or in units authorized by the CDPF and have participated in disability assistance services for a cumulative period of more than 3 hours. In 2020, 32.5% of residents in China were willing to participate in volunteer activities to assist persons with disabilities, and 14.98% of the surveyed residents participated in volunteer activities to assist persons with disabilities. In 2021, 2,704,600 persons with

[i] /HRC/25/5, 186.105. Continue actions address the needs of persons with disabilities (Senegal)；

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disabilities were assisted by registered volunteers of the CDPF at all levels, and the per capita number of services by volunteers recorded by CDPF at all levels reached 10.52 in the same year.

4. We appreciate the continuous improvement in the quantity and quality of disability assistance projects in China. The rise and development of volunteer services for persons with disabilities in China go hand in hand with economic and social development and the rapid development of the cause of persons with disabilities. The continuous improvement of the macro environment has promoted the rapid development of volunteer services. Since its launching in 2014, more than 40 million volunteers have participated in 639,000 volunteer service projects across the country, directly serving more than 50 million times services for persons with disabilities. Nearly 60% of the volunteer service projects for the targeted group aim at the integration of persons with disabilities volunteer service, and promote the integration of them into social development by strengthening the communication and integration of people with disabilities in society and promoting their employment[ii].

5. With the support of the Chinese government, Chinese social organizations, including the Amity Foundation, have actively carried out various types of work to help persons with disabilities in response to their survival and living needs. Chinese social organizations provide microcredit to persons with disabilities to help them develop production, encourage and support their entrepreneurship, and improve their self-employment and quality of life[iii]. Chinese social organizations provide personalized and diversified vocational training and services for people with disabilities, make up for the lack of resources, stimulate their own talents and potentials, and help them become self-reliant and integrated into society. In line with 186.79[iv], Chinese social organizations, through the integrated education development project, based on the special needs of children with disabilities, introduce advanced integrated education concepts, change the concepts of relevant leaders and teachers, link high-quality educational resources[v], improve teachers' teaching ability, and formulate integrated education programs suitable for children with disabilities in China, so that children with disabilities can truly integrate into ordinary classes and achieve a truly effective state of integration.

6.We observe that discrimination against persons with disabilities still occurs at this stage and hope that further efforts will be made to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in society. Discrimination takes many forms, not only in real life but also in the online environment, and governments should invest more in social advocacy and public education[vi].

[ii] A/HRC/25/5, 186.244, Continue promoting the right to development (Namibia);
[iii] A/HRC/25/5, 186.76. Continue the efforts aimed at fighting against poverty and discrimination of the most vulnerable groups (Ecuador);
[iv] A/HRC/25/5, 186.79. Continue its efforts to successfully achieve the child development Plan 2011-2020 set by the State Cuou8ncil in 2011 (United Arab Emirates);
[v] A/HRC/25/5, 186.207. Continue to improve its education system and access to quality education for its people (Singapore) ;
[vi] A/HRC/25/5, 186.210. Improve access to education for disadvantaged people (Senegal);

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7. We advocate that the public shift from paying attention to the welfare of persons with disabilities to paying attention to the protection of their rights and interests, and respecting their inherent dignity. It is hoped that the government will establish a sense of equality in society and promote the judicial protection of the rights of persons with disabilities through the development of legal services for persons with disabilities[vii].

8. We call for encouraging more persons with disabilities to pay attention to their rights and interests, participate in social activities, increase their visibility in society, maximize the value of persons with disabilities, give them equal opportunities, and promote their contribution to social development.

9.We hope that the government and all sectors of society will further strengthen their attention to the living issues of persons with disabilities. Under the influence of the epidemic, the problem of life care for persons with disabilities is still prominent. There is an imbalance in regional development of social organizations assisting persons with disabilities in China, and the number of social organizations assisting persons with disabilities in economically developed areas is significantly higher than that in economically underdeveloped areas. The project design for Persons with disabilities is still not mature enough, and the design do not always focus on specific groups, and there are problems of low individualization and differentiation[viii].

[vii] A/HRC/25/5, 186.106. Continue its ongoing efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities through relevant laws and regulations (Brunei Darussalam) ;
[viii] A/HRC/25/5, Redouble its efforts in implementing poverty alleviation projects and promoting the development of impoverished areas (Malaysia);