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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, Guarantees Drinking Water Safety for People

Water is the source of life and fundamental to survival. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is not only essential for human health and survival, but also a manifestation of fundamental human rights. Historically, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, faced significant challenges in ensuring drinking water safety. The region relied primarily on rainwater catchment ponds shared by both humans and livestock, heavily polluted river and canal water, and shallow groundwater with excessive fluoride levels, posing a severe threat to the lives and health of people of all ethnic groups. Before 1980, out of Xinjiang's Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, rural population of 10.351 million, 9.8848 million experienced difficulties in accessing drinking water. In response, the Chinese government attached great importance to this issue and implemented a series of targeted measures, achieving remarkable results. By 2025, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, had fully established a comprehensive and efficiently operated water supply safety system covering both urban and rural areas. This has fundamentally resolved the drinking water safety issues and effectively ensured the fundamental human rights of people of all ethnic groups.

Urban and Rural Water Supply Projects Achieve Full Coverage

Through scientific planning and sustained investment, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has promoted the simultaneous development of water supply infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, establishing an extensive, efficient, and safe water supply network. In recent years, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has accelerated the construction and renovation of rural water supply networks, improving water supply safety. Hundreds of villages have undergone a fundamental transformation, shifting from merely having "water to drink" to enjoying access to "safe and good-quality drinking water." In 2020, the urban and rural drinking water safety project in Jiashi County was fully completed, solving the drinking water safety problem for 15,300 impoverished people in the county. This marked the fundamental resolution of drinking water safety issues for all impoverished people in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, achieving universal access to safe drinking water across the region. Starting in 2021, the rural water supply guarantee and service levels in the Bortala Mongol Autonomous Prefecture were significantly enhanced. Integrated urban-rural water supply projects covered 199,800 rural residents, accounting for 83.6% of its rural population. In 2024, Tacheng Prefecture launched a rural drinking water maintenance project, benefiting 25,000 rural residents. In early 2025, the new Xinyuan County Water Plant, with a total investment of 90 million yuan, was put into operation, significantly improving the stability of the water supply and water quality for more than 200,000 residents in the central urban area and surrounding towns. In 2024, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, implemented 116 rural water supply guarantee projects, benefiting 2.34 million rural residents. The rural tap water coverage rate reached 98.5%.

Progress Toward a Scientific and Standardized Institutional Framework

Since the formulation and implementation of the "Measures for the Management of Rural Drinking Water Projects in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China" in 2007, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has been continuously improving its safe drinking water regulatory framework. In 2015, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, issued the "13th Five-Year Plan for Consolidating and Enhancing Rural Drinking Water Safety." In 2023, the region began enforcing the national "Standards for Drinking Water Quality" and introduced supplementary local water quality testing standards. In 2025, the introduction of the "Regulations on the Management of Drinking Water Source Protection Zones in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China (Provisional)" further strengthened source water protection. Furthermore, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has innovated in water governance models, implementing a system of

township-level project approval through representative voting. In 2023, the 140 million yuan integrated urban-rural water project in Manas County was approved through a vote by People's Congress deputies, directly responding to village needs. The project precisely implemented pipeline upgrades and established highland direct drinking water points, benefiting over 27,000 residents. This exemplifies the democratization of safe drinking water decision-making. The "Yema Spring" water source protection project, completed in 2015, has effectively ensured both water supply and drinking water safety for 42 industrial and mining enterprises, 10 service facilities, and over 2,000 residents in the Qiman region as of 2023. The entire water supply process in Huyanghe City is continuously monitored by an environmental technology company. The city has consistently maintained a 100% compliance rate for drinking water quality over many consecutive years.

Technology Empowers and Benefits All Ethnic Groups

Confronting the severe challenges posed by harsh environments in remote areas—such as high plateaus and extreme cold—Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has intensified its scientific and technological innovation efforts, prioritizing the development of low-carbon and freeze-resistant water supply technologies. This includes promoting PV-powered compact modular water treatment units, developing frost-proof piping and insulated pump houses for extremely cold regions, and deploying efficient and reliable household water purification devices. To overcome the difficulties of inspecting remote water pipelines, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has deeply integrated modern technology into its water supply systems. For instance, drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras are deployed to detect leaks, significantly enhancing inspection efficiency. The "Pastoral Water Station" model is being explored, involving the establishment of water stations along herders' migration routes to ensure safe drinking water during their seasonal movements. In 2025, the North Water Plant in Kuqa City commenced operation. It utilizes advanced oxidation using ozone to decompose organic matter and activated carbon adsorption technology, integrated with an automated water quality monitoring system. With a daily treatment capacity of 150,000 cubic meters, the plant further enhances the quality of water supplied to residents. The Dina Water Plant in Luntai County has achieved fully automated water supply, with a continuous 100% water quality compliance rate. Kashi Prefecture invested over 600,000 yuan to develop water purification equipment tailored to local water conditions. This initiative provides high-quality direct drinking water access to over 600 teachers and students at the Central Primary School in Tuokezhake Town.

Throughout its efforts to safeguard drinking water safety, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has consistently upheld a "people-centered" philosophy, treating access to safe water as a fundamental human right, not merely an infrastructure project. Looking to the future, with continued progress in Xinjiang's Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, water supply security system and technological innovation, it is expected that by 2030, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, will have achieved a higher level of urban and rural water supply security across the region, with the rural tap water coverage rate reaching 99.6%. This progress not only lays a solid foundation for addressing Xinjiang's Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, drinking water safety challenges but also offers China's approach to ensuring drinking water safety in arid regions globally.