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including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by Chongqing Centre for Equal Social Development, 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.



Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Building an Inclusive and Equal Digital Space

In the digital age, the rapid development of the Internet and artificial intelligence technologies is profoundly transforming the way human societies produce and live, bringing immense opportunities for economic growth, improved public services, and social progress. However, the misuse of emerging technologies, including deepfakes and generative AI, has intensified existing forms of gender-based violence and created new forms and channels of abuse.

In recent years, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) has become a human rights issue of global concern. A 2026 survey by UN Women covering 641 women in 119 countries showed that 25% of respondents had experienced AI-assisted online violence, 12% had suffered non-consensual sharing of intimate images. Among all forms, violence using deepfake technology has grown particularly rapidly. A 2025 report from the Oxford Internet Institute indicated that there are nearly 35,000 publicly downloadable deepfake models, with cumulative usage approaching 15 million times since the end of 2022, and 96% of these models target identifiable women to produce non-consensual intimate images. Generative AI has dramatically lowered the barriers to producing fabricated and harmful content, while the speed, scale, and anonymity of digital dissemination can magnify the harm to victims.

At the same time, when algorithmic design and training data fail to incorporate gender-equality considerations and adequate safeguards, AI systems may reproduce and amplify existing social biases, thereby creating or exacerbating risks of gender-based violence. The impact of TFGBV is no longer confined to cyberspace. It can have profound offline consequences, including reputational damage, psychological trauma, social exclusion, career setbacks, and increased risks to their physical safety. However, statistics from the World Bank show that fewer than 40% of countries worldwide have legislation protecting women from online harassment and stalking, leaving approximately 1.8 billion women and girls without sufficient legal protection in digital spaces, with limited access to comprehensive remedies and support services. Therefore, ensuring that technological innovation advances in tandem with human rights protection has become a critical challenge that the international community must collectively address.

Facing this global challenge, countries are exploring governance paths suited to their respective national conditions. We observe that China, as a major digital economy, is also actively exploring ways to strengthen the protection of women's rights in digital spaces through legal and policy improvements, platform governance, and social participation.

Strengthening laws, regulations, and policies to build a multi-level protection framework. At the national level, the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests of China brings online violent speech and cyber-harassment within the scope of legal regulation; the Interim Measures for the Management of Generative Artificial Intelligence Services require preventing gender bias and discrimination from the source, including algorithm design and data selection; and the Administrative Provisions on Algorithmic Recommendations for Internet Information Services require Internet platforms to promptly handle information involving discrimination against women and ensure fairness and impartiality in algorithmic recommendations. Provinces such as Guangdong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang have issued local regulations on the protection of women's rights, systematically regulating gender equality in the digital domain; they explicitly prohibit the use of the Internet, AI, and other modern information technologies to commit indecent acts or insults against women; and they require generative AI to avoid generating gender-discriminatory content.

Strengthening remedies and sanctions and defining the ethical boundaries of technology. In recent years, Chinese public security authorities have strengthened law enforcement against TFGBV. In 2024, the Ministry of Public Security released ten typical cases of combating online violence, including cases that directly infringed upon women's rights—such as using AI to produce fake pornographic images and disseminating private videos after a breakup. The authorities have continued the “Clean Cyberspace” campaign to lawfully combat criminal acts such as insult and defamation against women. At the judicial level, people's courts have handed down convictions and sentences that serve as effective deterrence.

Chinese procuratorial authorities also exercise their statutory functions in supervising the application of law and handling cases involving the production and dissemination of deepfake pornographic content, online sextortion, doxing, and other acts, ensuring that criminal accountability for TFGBV is realised. Through judicial practice, China continues to clarify the boundaries of AI application, encouraging technological innovation while preventing technology from becoming a tool for infringing on individual rights.

Promoting innovation in digital platform governance, shifting from passive response to proactive, human-rights-oriented protective measures. Given the rapid spread, high degree of concealment, and long-lasting impact of online violence, major Chinese Internet platforms, under regulatory guidance and social oversight, are actively transforming their governance models toward “early warning and full-process protection.” Taking the practice of the “Douyin” platform as an example, it has launched an AI anti-online-violence campaign, deploying an AI anti-online-violence Agent that works in coordination with identification models, assessment models, and human reviewers, and optimising outbound intervention mechanisms, moving from “passively waiting for reports” to “proactively identifying risks” and actively reducing online violence in digital spaces, especially harassment and harm against women and girls.

Promoting women’s participation in digital technology development and fostering more inclusive technology governance. According to statistics, China has approximately 40 million female science and technology workers, accounting for 45.8% of the total; in the AI field, women make up over 30% of practitioners, and in AI application sectors the proportion exceeds 51.3%. Programmes such as the “AI Bean Plan” have trained nearly 10,000 rural women as AI data annotators, transforming them from marginal observers to active participants in technology. The large-scale entry of women into key roles such as AI R&D, data annotation, and algorithm governance means that the design, training, and deployment of AI systems benefit from a more balanced gender perspective. As the UNESCO report AI and Gender Equality points out, correcting algorithmic bias depends not only on technical optimisation but also, more fundamentally, on the deep involvement of diverse actors—especially women—throughout the entire technology lifecycle.

At the same time, TFGBV demonstrates that the protection of women’s rights can no longer be separated from the governance of emerging technologies. Addressing this challenge requires moving beyond the punishment of individual abusive acts toward a more comprehensive framework covering technology design, platform responsibility, legal remedies, social participation, and international cooperation. First, the pace of technological development is increasingly challenging the capacity of existing regulatory frameworks, requiring faster and more adaptive protection mechanisms in digital spaces. Countries should accelerate the enactment or revision of legislation and policies targeting TFGBV, strengthen enforcement and remedies, and clearly define the illegal boundaries of such content, platforms’ content review obligations, and victims’ avenues for redress. Second, mainstream gender equality throughout the AI lifecycle and strengthen gender-responsive technology governance. To this end, we call on countries to adopt policies that encourage and support women’s entry into STEM fields; technology companies and platforms should establish inclusive recruitment and promotion mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities for women in key roles such as AI R&D and algorithm governance. At the same time, gender-equality principles should be embedded throughout the product design process, and investment in anti-online-violence technology R&D should be increased. Third, enhance digital literacy and foster broad social participation. Digital safety depends not only on technology and institutions but also on public engagement. The international community should actively conduct digital literacy and cybersecurity education to enhance women’s ability to identify digital risks, protect privacy, and exercise their legal rights. At the same time, public awareness campaigns should guide all members of society to refrain from participating in or secondarily disseminating online harassment and violent content, addressing gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes at their cultural and social roots, and jointly building an inclusive and equal online ecosystem. Fourth, deepen international dialogue and cooperation to build global governance consensus. TFGBV is not constrained by time or space; harmful information can spread across borders instantaneously, and perpetrators, servers, and victims often reside in different countries, creating practical obstacles such as jurisdictional determination, cross-border evidence collection, and transnational

accountability. The international community should strengthen cooperation on mutual legal assistance, cross-border evidence preservation, platform accountability, victim support, and the sharing of good practices and technical solutions. Technological development must be premised on respect for and protection of human dignity and fundamental rights. AI governance should adhere to the principles of a people-centred approach and AI for good. Digital tools must not become weapons for perpetrators but should serve as vehicles for promoting equality and justice.

Addressing TFGBV is not only an urgent task for protecting women's rights; it is also a test of whether human rights principles can effectively govern the development and application of emerging technologies in the digital age. Governments, international organisations, technology companies, and civil society should work together, respecting each country's national conditions and legal systems, to ensure that technological innovation is accompanied by effective human rights safeguards, corporate responsibility, accessible remedies, and meaningful participation by women.
