

Position paper of the Chinese Delegation on the Concluding Observations by Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Combined Second and Third Periodic Reports of the People’s Republic of China

On 17, 18 and 19 August 2022, the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China held constructive dialogues with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) in an open, respectful, cooperative and responsible manner. The Delegation answered questions from the Committee by offering detailed legal documentations, informative data and supportive cases. In response to the major concerns of the Committee, the Delegation has also submitted supplementary written materials to enable the Committee to have a better understanding of the implementation of the CRPD in China. Regrettably, the Committee has not fully taken into account relevant briefings and clarifications made by the Delegation and chosen to accept inaccurate even false information, distorted narratives regardless of the truths and made flawed comments in the concluding observations and politicized the Considerations.

The Delegation hereby reiterate our position on major issues raised in the concluding observations:

A. The National Security Law of the Hong Kong SAR

Safeguarding national security is of paramount importance for any country. The Central People’s Government of PRC has an overarching responsibility for national security affairs relating to the Hong Kong SAR, and it is also the constitutional duty of the Hong Kong SAR to safeguard national security. The National Security Law (NSL) was

adopted on the basis of extensive consultation of public opinions from all sectors of the Hong Kong SAR. In this law, provisions related to crimes are clear and definite. The lawful rights of suspects are fully protected, and the judicial independence is guaranteed. The NSL has been instrumental in quelling riots and restoring order in the Hong Kong SAR. It's been amply proven that the law prevents, suppresses and punishes the criminal activities and unlawful acts endangering national security by only a very limited number of people. It safeguards the prosperity and stability of the society, and ensures that almost all residents enjoy rights and freedom in accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR.

The United Nations is an international organization that promotes peace and development of humankind. The protection and promotion of human rights is a noble cause pursued by all humanity, and it is crucial for anyone committed to advancing it to keep objective and fair. It is hoped that the Committee will recognize the positive role of Hong Kong's National Security Law, and give up relevant conclusions that are not true to fact.

B. Vocational Education and Training Center in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China

The questions related to Xinjiang are about fighting terrorism, extremism and separatism. For some time in the past, Xinjiang has suffered greatly from the scourge of terrorism and religious extremism, and the local government has taken measures in counter terrorism to safeguard people's safety. In order to eradicate extremism and ultimately get rid of the roots of terrorism, the government provided vocational education and training for people who were influenced by religious extremism and engaged in terrorist and extremist activities of minor circumstances that were not serious enough to constitute criminal offence.

Thanks to the unremitting efforts, no violent and terrorist activities have occurred for more than five years, followed by secured personal safety, stable working and living conditions, social stability, and socioeconomic

development. Local people have been living and working with peace and contentment.

All people at the vocational education and training center in Xinjiang graduated in October 2019. Hence, it is groundless to recommend that China release persons with disabilities at the training center or meet their disability-related needs in the concluding observations.

To conclude, we reiterate that the Chinese Delegation carried out dialogues with the Committee with utmost sincerity. We welcome constructive dialogues that are objective and impartial with the Committee, so as to facilitate our implementation of the CRPD. Meanwhile, we also urge the Committee to respect the truths, discard prejudices and observations based on false information to ensure that the Considerations be an opportunity for the international community to better understand how China has been making great efforts in promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities, rather than a tool for those with ulterior motives to hype up China's human rights issue.