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***Complementary report presented by the
SOCIAL ORGANIZATION SURES. HUMAN
RIGHTS STUDIES AND ADVOCACY for the
Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review
of the People's Republic of China***

The "Sures" is not only a geographical reference (the place where the vast majority of the world's poor live) but also an ethical political reference that implies a choice for those who, in the colonial, patriarchal context of the domination of capital over life, have excluded and/or subordinated: women, popular sectors, indigenous peoples, afro communities, peasants, LGBT people and nature itself. Sures is a social organization that aims to think and act from and with the South, accompanying and promoting efforts for a dignified life and for a radically democratic economic, political, social and cultural context that makes it possible.

Sures is a Venezuelan civil association dedicated to the study, promotion, education and defense of human rights, with critical, emancipatory and alternative visions. It is a non-profit, independent, nonpartisan, non-confessional, non-governmental organization.

In this sense, our organization SURES has the duty to present additional information to the Third Cycle of UPR of the People's Republic of China. However, analyzing the

progress and challenges of this State in the area of human rights is a great challenge insofar as it considers the complexity of this country in terms of the composition of its political, territorial and population realities. The first thing we must bear in mind is that we are facing the fourth largest country in the world, with a territorial extension of 9,596,960 km² and a population of more than 1,300 million inhabitants, in addition to being the world's leading economic power.

This reality means a great challenge for the guarantee of Human Rights, the people who live there demand their satisfaction, which represents an exercise of greater strength for the design of public policies and mechanisms aimed at achieving this objective. On this occasion, from Sures, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the study, defense and promotion of human rights, we would like to give our considerations on the progress that the country has made in this area based on the analysis carried out by our research team, from a critical perspective of human rights.

With regard to China's regulatory framework, it presents significant advances that favour the guarantee of human rights, while at the same time pointing out that there are still major inequalities between the urban and rural populations, where access to public services and the enjoyment of social rights mark the great differences that must be overcome.

The recent presentation of the State Plan of Action on Human Rights (2016-2020) is a concrete example of China's willingness to adapt recommendations made by countries and international bodies to improve the living conditions of the population. *"The period from 2016 to 2020 is a decisive stage in the completion of the integral construction of a modestly affluent society, as well as an important period for the realization of a constant, stable and orderly development of the cause of human rights in China". (Plan)*

The Plan aims to lift a rural population out of poverty by various means that is limited in the exercise of its human rights by presenting the challenge of overcoming what

are called and have been labelled as the "poor districts". To this end, the ethical-political orientation of this Plan is fundamental with regard to *"lifting 30 million people out of poverty through special industries; 10 million people out of poverty through displacement to other occupations; 10 million people out of poverty through relocation; and 20 million people in need who have lost part or all of their ability to work through social security policies"*. (Plan).

With these initiatives, the People's Government of China is demonstrating its willingness to make progress in the area of human rights, which will enable it to substantially improve the living conditions of its people and the growth of indicators in this area. Another element to be highlighted is the actions they have taken to train the population and leaders of the Communist Party at all levels in the area of human rights, which has been achieved through the incorporation of political cadres and public servants in the curricula of training schools on the subject. To the extent that the population and its leaders have access to knowledge on the subject, we are on the right path to achieving a just society that guarantees human rights.

The progress that has been made in Chinese society is reflected in the legislation and training activities of the population; in this regard, it is plausible to highlight the initiatives taken to guarantee women's rights. According to the documentation consulted, a great effort is being made to eradicate domestic violence, incorporating information campaigns on this scourge, which minimizes and promotes deplorable actions against women.

Likewise, the participation of women in the different spaces of organization and decision-making is valued, thus guaranteeing political rights. Here the challenge is great, we must not forget that there are prejudices and obsolete beliefs about the role of women, related to the home and the decorative and graceful element that must be fulfilled; however, the manifestations and demands of overcoming this patriarchal vision, go through the adaptation of legislation at all levels of power. Another of the strategies to defeat this conception is the use of cultural

manifestations as an emancipatory and transformative tool, so that theatre and the arts in general are used to strengthen messages of respect and recognition of women as a fundamental bastion of Chinese socialist society. Finally, the use of the media in all its forms, for the dissemination of information on this subject, is part of the actions they report to eradicate this vision.

It is important to highlight the prospects for improving the environment, which is considered a basic human right and protected by law that guarantees a dignified life for the Chinese population. In the reports, it has been known the levels of environmental pollution existing due to the failure to comply with legislation and the absence of ecologically plausible actions by some actors in the economy to avoid this situation. The documentation consulted indicates that evasion of regulations and some immediate actions to be taken are being punished rigorously: *-Strengthen the prevention and treatment of hazardous waste pollution. Specific treatment of hazardous waste will be deployed. Increased efforts will be made in the prevention and treatment of heavy metal pollution in priority areas and key sectors such as non-ferrous metals. Capacity will be built for hazard assessment of toxic and environmentally and health-damaging species. The transformation of nuclear installations in the field of safety and the prevention and treatment of radioactive contamination will be promoted, the system of supervision and control of nuclear and radioactive safety and the development of their capacity will be strengthened.* (Plan).

Despite all the progress made, SURES recommends that we continue to strengthen the progress and social protection of Chinese citizens in order to improve the well-being of the people. To this end, we consider it essential:

- To publicize the State Plan of Action on Human Rights (2016-2020) and to continue the design of public policies to achieve the objectives set forth therein.
- Deepen human rights training plans for the Chinese people in particular and their political leadership at all levels.

- To make visible the most vulnerable populations, such as women, children, the elderly, indigenous peoples, among others, as protagonists for the enjoyment of their human rights.
- To give continuity to the objectives of minimizing the existing gap between the urban population and the rural Chinese people, who have less access to public services. Concreting the great challenges of overcoming poverty expressed in the State Plan of Action on Human Rights.
- To fully comply with the international treaties and conventions signed by the People's Government of China.
- Substantially advance in the protagonist incorporation of women in the different spheres of Chinese society, with full recognition of their human rights.