

Speech at Asia-Pacific Regional Forum

Distinguished Special Rapporteur, Organizing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum:

I'm Wang Hua from the Department for National Solidarity of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China. It is my great pleasure to introduce the [procedural and substantive](#) rights of ethnic minorities in China to participate in state and local administration.

Firstly, laws clearly stipulate the participation of ethnic minorities in administering state and local affairs. According to *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, “All power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people....The people shall, in accordance with the provisions of law, manage state affairs, economic and cultural undertakings, and social affairs through various channels and in various ways.”; “All citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of 18, regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, occupation, family background, religious belief, level of education, property status or length of residence, shall have the right to vote and stand for election...”; “All ethnic groups of the People's Republic of China are equal. The state shall protect the lawful

rights and interests of all ethnic minorities”. *Electoral Law of the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of the People's Republic of China* specifically stipulates “Elections Among Ethnic Minorities”, guaranteeing the rights of ethnic minorities to participate in the administration of state affairs. At present, all 55 ethnic minority groups have deputies to the National People's Congress. *Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional Ethnic Autonomy* clearly states that “Among the chairman and vice-chairmen of the standing committee of the people's congress of a national autonomous area shall be one or more citizens of the ethnic group exercising regional autonomy in the area. The chairman of an autonomous region, the prefect of an autonomous prefecture or the head of an autonomous county shall be a citizen of the ethnic group exercising regional autonomy in the areas concerned. Other members in the people's governments of an autonomous region, an autonomous prefecture or an autonomous county shall include an appropriate number of members of the ethnic group(s) exercising regional autonomy as well as members of other ethnic minorities.”

Secondly, ethnic minorities take an active part in the administration of state and local affairs in various ways.

First, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has set up a special sector for ethnic minorities to ensure that ethnic minorities participate in the formulation of major national policies and the management of major local affairs through political consultation, democratic supervision and the deliberation of state affairs. Among the members of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, 247, or 11.45%, are from ethnic minorities. Second, before formulating and releasing major policies and guidelines, party committees and governments at all levels will regularly solicit opinions from ethnic minorities by holding symposiums with their representatives to ensure that ethnic minorities actively participate in the development of economy, politics, culture, social and ecological progress. Third, various forms of communities and social organizations of ethnic minorities have been established in all regions to provide opportunities and platforms for ethnic minorities to participate in the cause of ethnic unity and progress.

Thirdly, ethnic minorities are active participants in international affairs. China has been earnestly fulfilling its obligations under international human rights conventions such as the United Nations' *International Covenant on Economic,*

Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, fully protecting the legitimate rights and interests of ethnic minorities in China, actively participating in global human rights governance, and contributing its experience and strength to the advancement of human rights in the world.