

**Respectable Special Rapporteur and the Organizing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum,**

I'm Wei Jinjin from National Ethnic Affairs Commission of the P.R.C.. I'm very glad to attend this forum. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of *the UNDM*. I would like to share with you China's regional ethnic autonomy system and its practical experience to supply a case of effective normative framework for reference.

Regional ethnic autonomy is a basic political system of China, stipulated in *the Constitution of the P.R.C.*, which is a correct choice made by China after a long period of exploration. repeated comparisons and according to China's national conditions as well as the people's will. In this normative framework, under the unified leadership of the State, regional autonomy is practiced in areas where people of ethnic minorities live in compact communities. In these areas, organs of self-government are established for the exercise of autonomy.

In China, the practice of regional ethnic autonomy not only ensures the unity of the country, but also enables the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to become masters of the country, opening a new chapter in developing socialist ethnic relations featured with equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony among all ethnic groups. After more than 70 years' efforts, China has established and continuously improved a legal and regulatory system for ethnic affairs, which is based on *the Constitution* and takes *the Law of Regional Ethnic Autonomy* as its core.

There are 7 chapters and 74 articles in *the Law of Regional Ethnic*

*Autonomy*. Its legal effect is not limited to the ethnic autonomous areas only; every individual in China and all state organs shall obey and implement this law, to guarantee the citizens from all ethnic groups enjoy equal rights.

Till now, China has set up 155 ethnic autonomous localities, including 5 autonomous regions, 30 autonomous prefectures, 120 autonomous counties/banners. Besides, there are nearly 1000 ethnic townships established as supplement.

Entering the New Era, focused on common prosperity and development among all ethnic groups, China is devoted to accelerating the national economic development, improving people's livelihood, scientifically planning development in ethnic areas and adjusting measures to local conditions, to ensure that the fruits of development are more sufficiently and equally shared by the people of all ethnic groups. Practices have fully proved that, regional ethnic autonomy system is deeply rooted in the soil of China and is suitable for the national conditions and the fundamental interests of all the Chinese people.

To conclude, China's practice on regional ethnic autonomy provides a successful case study for promoting effective implementation of *the UNDM* according to domestic actual situations, which can also be considered as country-specific experiences of China in terms of safeguarding ethnic minority rights and interests through institutional construction.

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