

the Beijing Platform of Action

April 1999

Part one Overview of trends in achieving gender quality and women's advancement

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Chinese Government has conscientiously carried out its promises to incorporate gender perspective into the state policies, plans and programmes and make reinforced efforts to establish mechanisms for women's advancement, and further improved laws and regulations on the protection of women's rights and interests by means of legislation and introduced practical and strong measures to ensure the execution of policies,

achievements and/or breakthroughs in concrete terms in all and/or policies and programmes for gender equality and

the Government has incorporated gender perspective into the state policies, plans and programmes

The National Plan for the Development of Women has been formulated

In the light of the new situation in China in the course of the reform and opening up and the new issues emerging in the development of women and by reference to the framework of the draft

Women and State Council Children taking the Lead and with more than 10 ministries or commissions participating in the work.

It marks that the Chinese Government has entered into a new stage of equality into the plans for social development.

2. Local governments have been urged to formulate plans for the development

in 1996-early 1997, 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities government or the whole country formulated their respective women, making them more orientational and operational.

3. Corresponding bodies have been set up in provinces, municipalities

for carrying out the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme for the Advancement of Women and co-ordinating local governments at all levels and the

They are the Development

relevant departments and non-governmental organizations for doing a good job in the work on women and children.

4. Publicity has been given to the Programme and decision-making leaders have been well mobilized and trained

The idea of equality between men and women has been disseminated to the whole society and publicity has been given to the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women.

An all-round mobilization has been conducted for top-level leaders, asking the chiefs of the concerned government ministries and commissions to study the Programme and in accordance with the specific targets set forth in the Programme and the Beijing Platform for Action to formulate departmental plans and policies for the development of women.

Training courses for county magistrates have been conducted to study the Programme for the

Development of Women and the Programme for the Development of Children and to intensify the

economic and social development with the development of women and children and the protection

participated in the training.

5. The implementation of the Programme has been monitored and the objections emerging in the course of implementation have been studied

The monitoring and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme has been lively in the work and for this reason in various and effective mechanisms at different

The situation of women and girls has greatly improved along with the rapid development of the national economy and the formulation and implementation of the Programme.

The programmes for the development of Chinese women and children have covered main areas of the development of women and girls.

The Programme for the Development of Women sets 30 specific targets in 11 areas such as women's participation in politics, employment, protection of right to labour, education, health care, family rights, opposition to violence against women, shaking off poverty, improvement of the social environment, etc. priority of rural areas and establishment of a professional workers' system, etc. analysis, and puts forth 46 policies and measures.

children sets 29 specific targets for the 8 areas such as mother and child health care, extracurricular activities, disabled children and protection of children's rights and

The Programme of the Development of Children sets 29 specific targets for the 8 areas such as mother and child health care, education, drinking water, environment, etc. priority of rural areas and establishment of a professional workers' system, etc. analysis, and puts forth 39 strategies and

development programme have achieved significant results at the present stage.

The Programme of the Development of Children sets 29 specific targets for the 8 areas such as mother and child health care, education, drinking water, environment, etc. priority of rural areas and establishment of a professional workers' system, etc. analysis, and puts forth 39 strategies and

substant as a priority in

• Are the goals of gender equality and advancement of women in relation to other public policy goals? Please explain.

national policy. In the 1980s, President of the State Council and progress of the national policy in promoting the

The Government has listed the promotion of gender equality as a basic national policy. During the period when the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China, pointed out in his speech that "We pay great attention to the equality between men and women and take the equality between men and women as a basic national policy in promoting the social development in China."

documental protection

Also listed as basic national policies are the reform and opening up, and family planning.

tion demonstrates the

To place the equality between men and women on the top of the Government's attention and support to the equality between men and women.

lessons learned.

• Please illustrate with examples of legislation, policies, best practices, etc.

In carrying out the follow-up actions, the Government has paid attention to the role of social forces.

China's national organ for the advancement of women -- the State Council Committee on Women and Children -- is composed of 23 government departments and influential national non-governmental organizations.

The Government and non-governmental organizations have established a good and sustained co-operative partnership, and as a result, the relevant policies, plans and schemes formulated have become an extensive expression of the opinions and demands of the public.

...proposals were approved...
...regard to facilitating girls to go to school, the Government, aside from...
...education, has encouraged the whole society to participate in the input of...
...material resources, and publicized the idea of the equality between men and...
...the activities of the "Hope Project", "Spring Bud Plan" and "Hand in..."

...sweep away the obstacles for girls to go to school. As a result, the...
...apparently risen and the drop-out rate has dropped.

...programmes for...
...and interests of...
...by the Government and...
...parts widely.

...The working team for monitoring and examining the implement...
...the development of women and children and the Law on the Protection...
...women and the Law on the Protection of the Mothers & Pa...
...non-governmental organizations, which collect inform...

...nature of the change...
...of gender consciousness of the governments at all levels and the whole society.

...attention to gender equality and advancement...
...in public perception, in the media, in academic institutions? Please explain

...gender concept has been linked with the idea of the equality between men and...
...has been publicized and practised for decades in China, and has been made...
...combining it with the Chinese theory and practice.

27. The mass media

The Government demands that the mainstream media give publicity to the idea of the equality between men and women and on other aspects of women

The state is adjusting the industrial structure. The planned economy is being gradually transformed into a market economy. The socialist market economy with public ownership retaining a dominant position and diverse forms of ownership developing side by side has begun to take shape.

Because of the adjustment of the industrial structure, some workers have been laid off in their departments for 1998, the laid-off women workers in state-owned enterprises, accounting for 40% of the total number of workers in state-

and the establishment of the democratic legal system and formulated regulations.

ities to the people's congresses have been held at county and township level. The system has been put into practice, whereby rural villagers and urban residents carry out democratic election, democratic policy decision, democratic supervision and

public the prosecutorial affairs of procuratorates and the trials of courts so as to promote judicial justice and increase the transparency of

ed by the reform and opening up in China on the broad masses of Chinese people is as follows:

women have obtained more information and widened their field of vision, they are more concerned about state affairs and peace and development of the world.

The legal sense has been greatly strengthened. 80% of women in the whole country have

and learn to

participation has been enhanced. They have actively participated in such activities as elections, community construction, environmental protection, wiping out ill habits, scientific and technological innovation, and building civilized families. Women deputies to conferences and their

has been

strengthened the sense of administering the country in accordance with the law and apply law to protect their own rights.

participation has been enhanced. They have actively participated in such activities as elections, community construction, environmental protection, wiping out ill habits, scientific and technological innovation, and building civilized families. Women deputies to conferences and their ability of participating in consultations and discussions of state affairs has obviously enhanced.

According to enterprises and state-owned enterprises

In the past The state more than 7,000

Direct election levels. An urban residents carry out democratic management

The system has been put into administration

The influence of Chinese women

In the past

1. The broad vision. I

an elementary knowledge of law has resulted in the
of the idea of equality between men and women in the
idea of preferring men to women has been widely
has been increasingly given importance, and it has become
are equal in handling family affairs.

4. The long-time drive
enhancement of the
whole society. The
abandoned, the educa
a common practice that men and women
and sharing household chores.

In the field of the economic reform:

The net income of farmers has been raised from 133.6 yuan in 1978 to 2,090 yuan in 1997, and that of the urban residents from 449.5 yuan to 5,160 yuan. On an average, the growth rates

Changes have taken place for women in managing family money matters, consum
way of life, the time for cultural activities, sports and recreation has increased and
children's education has also increased.

the area of women's employment has been expanded.

The overall educational level of women has risen. In some newly developed fields
scientific and technological field, the number and proportion of employed women have
increased. For example, women working in such fields as computer, electricity

women workers has reached 71.7%, but as the minority of them cannot fit in with the needs of the

Government has been engaged in the following work:

the basic needs of the laid-off workers and re-employment. The state has policies. The "re-employment project" has been instituted since 1993 to employ workers including women.

Legal and institutional measures

Gender equality and women's advancement are addressed in the national budget. This includes the construction of the women's development programme, and any increases/decreases since 1998.

Promotion of gender equality and women's advancement has run through all government and the financial budgets for that have been merged with those of other departments and projects.

As an example, the educational budget in China is divided into educational expenditure (including elementary, secondary, higher and adult education), capital expenditure, supplementary expenses for urban and rural education expenditure and poverty-stricken areas, all of which include budgets for women. There is not a national standard for budget classified by sex and therefore there is no separate

Along with the social and economic development in China, the input in this field has increased year after year. For instance, the state undertaking expenditures for culture, education, science and public health have:

1997	467,060,000 Yuan
1998	500,000,000 Yuan
1999	540,000,000 Yuan

The budget of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children is allocated directly by the state finance. The budgets for working bodies for women and children at provincial, prefecture and county levels are allocated by the financial departments at the same levels.

Discuss structures and mechanisms that have been put in place to monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the Platform for Action. Describe whether similar mechanisms have been established for follow-up to other conferences, such as the World Summit for Social Development or the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.

In China, the national organ for the advancement of women is the State Council Working

Notes: The sign * denotes newly accepted members after the Fourth World Conference on Women.

At present, trans-department working bodies on women and children have been set up in the 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of the whole country, over 80% of the prefectures (or cities) and the majority of the counties. These working bodies are directly under the leadership of the heads of government at the same level, making it possible to use the network from higher levels to the grass roots in exercising their functions.

The executive body for the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, comprising of more than 20 relevant government commissions, ministries and state organizations with the State Development and Planning Commission taking the lead, is implementing the Plan of Action by integrating it with the state plan for the economic and social development.

* Describe the role of non-governmental organizations in planning and implementing the Plan of Action. Do members of NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established at the Beijing Conference?

Many Chinese non-governmental organizations have carried out active cooperation with the Government in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women.

The All-China Women's Federation and other four non-governmental organizations are the members of the national body for the advancement of women.

In order to put the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women into effect, the All-China Women's Federation in 1995 put forward "five women's actions" for 1996-2000, namely:

Women's Action to Help Poor Women out of Poverty: In 1996-1999, the Federation will help 10 million women to get out of poverty, conducted training on new agricultural technologies for 10 million rural women and organized 660,000 well-off women to pair off with poor women.

Women's Action to Assist Laid-off Women Workers to be Re-employed: The Federation will help 480,000 laid-off women workers to find employment and one million laid-off women have received training.

Women's Action to Wipe out Women Illiteracy: In the past few years, 96 million women have been helped to get rid of illiteracy. 96 million women have received training in various fields, including 10 million technicians. The "Spring Bud Plan" has been put into effect. A total of 10 million yuan of donations has been collected to save and help a million women.

150,000 girls have graduated from primary or junior middle schools.

Women's Action to Help Women Become Competent and Talent Persons: Training of

has been conducted to increase the women's wage and possible full equality of participation in the government. A Women's talent bank has been set up to recommend women cadres to the relevant government departments.

Women's Action to Promote Cultural and Ethical Progress:

The whole society has been mobilized to participate in the activity of creating "civilized families of five virtues", initiating the whole society to cultivate the social and family morality of order, civility, reciprocity, the old and young cherishing the young, observing law and discipline, being civilized and courteous, and thus promote the creation of civilized and harmonious equality.

The drive of Women's series actions has obtained the support of the broad masses and supported by the broad masses of women and is being lauded throughout the country.

The All-China Federation of Labor Unions is also a member of the national advancement of women.

In order to maintain women's right to employment and benefit of women workers, the Federation has done the following things:

1. It has carried out investigations and researches on laid-off women workers and kept abreast of the situation of laid-off women workers.

2. It has participated in the formulation of regulations and for maintaining their rights, and submitted motions to the National People's Congress and the National People's Political Consultative Conference and put forward proposals for solution.

Inducted technical training or re-employment for laid-off women workers

According to incomplete statistics, 1.1 million laid-off women workers have received technical training.

It has recommended laid-off women workers to jobs. According to incomplete statistics, 900,000 laid-off women workers have been recommended to jobs and have been made accordingly.

Apart from that, the Government has co-operated with the All-China Association for Science and Technology and some research organizations in holding symposiums and making special topics.

and interests.

Part three Implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

I. Women and poverty

Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

The Government of the People's Republic of China has identified rural areas as the main areas for the development of women and put forth four concrete targets, including scientific and technological training for women, model households for poverty through aid and establishment of aid-the-poor economic entities mainly for

poverty-stricken population in China has dropped from 65 million in 1995 to 42 million in the poverty-stricken women population has decreased correspondingly, approximately accounting for 60%.

The main measures taken by the Government are:

Formulating preferential policy in favour of poverty-stricken areas;

Increasing the input in infrastructure construction and in scientific and technological development;

Encouraging economic developed areas to assist poverty-stricken areas and assist in

the conditions for subsistence do not exist and the natural

it possible for poverty-stricken households to get

women's work for poverty, special measures have been

through development, is propose that the organizational network of rural women be used for mobilizing poverty-stricken women to learn to read and write and learn technologies, and to develop household economy.

2. To run courses for poverty-stricken women to acquire literacy and to learn technologies in rural areas all over the country. In recent years, more than 10 million women have participated in the technical training every year.

the working...
for example...
a Women's...
aid-the-poor...
ations and...
...

to conduct training on organizational management and provision of
personnel of women's organizations and the backbones of women's
since 1995, the State Council Helping-the-Poor Office, together with
Federation, has convened many aid-the-poor working conferences
strategy, introduce successful experiences and train cadres of w
work better for the aid-the-poor drive

stricken women to shake off poverty by means of granting small-sum credit
has been launched in all poverty-stricken areas throughout the country. The
small-sum loans every year total several billion yuan. Take Yunnan Province
in recent years, governments at provincial, prefecture and county levels have
lending 350 million yuan and extended loans to 190,000 farming households in
113 counties.

4. To
loan
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social forces extensively in organizing social salvage activities for poverty-stricken
has encouraged and supported social forces in all fields to
carrying out social salvage activities for poverty-stricken
Business Project" for salvaging poor mothers, the "Hope
are obliged to discontinue their studies, the "Spring Bud
unable to go to school and the "Hand-in-Hand" activity for
specialized personnel in the fields of science and technology,
health have been organized to go to the rural areas and
ulate cultural, scientific and technological knowledge and

5. To
stricken women. The
make use of their su
women, for example
Project" for helping
Plan" for financing g
aiding poverty-stricke
culture and education
poverty-stricken area
provide medical servi

Obstacles encour

in population live in the areas with extremely bad natural
The look of these areas requires large-scale infrastructure
projects and electric power
transportation, energy, communication, and drinking

construction, such as building roads, bridges, water
projects so as to provide
water for people and animal

women. Women illiteracy rate is very high (40%-70%), and therefore, their sense of participation
is poor and their production capacity is weak. Moreover, the extreme disagreement among the

mobilization, natural resources and economic development in

become an obstacle constraining people from shaking off poverty.

Because of the above-mentioned reasons, plus China's difficulty to put in sufficient hu

ing the problem of adequate food and clothing for all people by the end of this century.

Commitments to further actions and initiatives

to increase the input in the construction of infrastructure, to improve the living conditions and the educational and cultural levels of the poverty-stricken areas and raise their cultural, scientific and technological levels, to mobilize the whole society to help and support the development and construction of poverty-stricken areas.

The education and training of women

Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

The Programme for the Development of Women points out that the education of women has become an important task in the 1990s. It has put forth four specific targets: the increase of the percentage of females in the population receiving education in all categories, the popularization of the nine-year compulsory education, the elimination of illiteracy among middle-aged women, and the development of vocational education and training.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Government has committed itself to carrying out the following measures: to give priority to the popularization of the nine-year compulsory education and the elimination of illiteracy among young and middle-aged women.

Since 1995, the number and percentage of females in China receiving education at all levels have increased year after year. The number has increased from 91.56 million persons in 1991 to 97.452 million persons in 1997, and the percentage has increased from 46.5% to 46.7%. The difference of the attendance rates of boys and girls in primary schools has dropped from 1.2 percentage points to 0.2 percentage points, and the drop-out rate has dropped from 7.49% in 1977 to 1.0% in 1997.

The Government has also carried out a compulsory education project in poverty-stricken areas, to raise the construction of the educational facilities, to effect financial input, to strengthen the management of primary education in the poverty-stricken areas.

The main measures taken to promote the education of girl children are as follows:

1. More publicity has been given to relevant laws to change the conventional idea of preferring boys to girls.

2. Equal education for girls has been listed as a priority in the work examination and appraisal, and special measures have been carried out, and special measuring standards have been established.

3. Conditions have been created for girls to attend schools, the contents of courses have been made to combine with realities in life and production, and training of women teachers have been strengthened.

4. Flexible and diverse forms have been adopted for running schools in poverty-stricken areas.

In terms of the educational system, convenience has been provided for girls to attend schools and the time of teaching has been reasonably arranged.

5. Special funds such as subsidies for compulsory education, aid funds from the Hope Project and the Spring Bud Plan have been used to help and support non-attendance girls.

6. Promotion of the education for girl children has been combined with the elimination of illiteracy among women.

7. The international co-operation in, and the scientific research on the education for girl children, has been strengthened.

... illiterates have been eliminated every year on an average. In 1997, there were 148 million illiterates in the population of 15 years old and up, of whom 65% are female illiterates. The illiteracy rate here refers to the percentage of illiterates or semi-literates among the total number of people of the same age, of whom female illiterates have dropped from 90% in the early period of the founding of the

in varied forms by issuing... The Government has carried out a series of

The projects of co-operation in the maternity and child hygiene have been launched...

putting stress on "poverty-stricken areas." The Ministry of Public Health and the United Nations Children's Fund have co-operated in launching integrated projects on maternity and

China hygiene in 405 counties in the revolutionary base areas, border areas and areas inhabited by minority nationalities. The Ministry of Public Health and the World Bank have co-operated in carrying on the work of maternity and child hygiene in 295 counties in 9 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government.

The State Family Planning Commission and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities have co-operated in the project of giving publicity to and providing service for reproductive health.

Obstacles encountered

The unbalanced development of the urban and rural areas, the insufficiency of sanitary facilities and medical personnel, and particularly the large requirements for inputs in infrastructure cannot be fundamentally changed in a short period of time.

In the mountainous areas, border and remote areas and fairly poor rural areas, the rate of hospitalization for child-delivery by pregnant and lying-in women is still rather low (45%-65%) and the maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate caused are rather high, which fail to meet the requirements of the Programmes.

Poverty has also caused malnutrition in women and children which is expressed as developmental retardation, pathological weakness, iron-deficiency anaemia, iodine deficiency and some endemic diseases. It remains to be solved along with the fundamental improvement of the living environment and the overall raising of the living standard.

The phenomenon of whoring and prostitution which has appeared after the reform and opening up has resulted in the spread within a certain scope of the venereal disease which has been eliminated for a long time and

Comments on further actions and directives

Measures to be taken by the Government: to increase the input in sanitation and health care in tandem with the economic development; to conduct education on hygiene and on population among the entire people energetically; to disseminate and popularize hygienic knowledge extensively; to strengthen the training of rural medical personnel and the construction of medical facilities; to continue the reform of the medical system whereby the state, the collective and individuals jointly bear medical expenses; to work out by the state a plan to treat and control AIDS and to train a professional contingent for the prevention and control of AIDS; to publicize sexual hygiene knowledge and conduct legal and moral education, and to set up more local networks and cure venereal disease.

IV. Violence against women

development of Chinese Women that violence against women, including acts of prostitution, shall be banned effectively. While the illegal acts of abduction of women in general, the illegal acts of abduction of women and children in the period of social reform have been singled out for severe blows and treatment.

It is stipulated in the Provisions on Women, criminal acts of abduction of women and prostitution shall

Main measures taken by the Government are as follows:

1. Laws and regulations have been formulated or revised to strengthen the protection of women's rights.

In 1996 and 1997, China revised the Criminal Procedure Law and the Criminal Law. Important supplements and revisions were made in regard to crackdown on the illegal criminal activities of abducting women and children and compelling women to prostitution; raising the sentencing criteria and augmenting the provisions on administrative penalty and economic punishment.

The governments at all levels, in co-ordination with the revision of the Criminal Law, have intensified the crackdown and adopted the method of combining special-case struggle and concentrated salvage with daily investigation and apprehension and thus effectively kept down the criminal activities of abducting women and children.

2. Special organs for crackdown on abduction of women and children have been set up. With concerted co-operation among the relevant departments of public security, public prosecution, court, civil administration, publicity and education and some popular organizations such as the Women's federations, they have fully mobilized the social forces to take part in the activity of cracking down on the abduction.

3. A good job has been done in the work of recovery, replacement, education and preparations for the salvaged women, so that they will not be discriminated and will enjoy all rights as equals.

Subvention to women and children legal education consolidate the social effects on the crackdown.

activities of this kind still exist in a considerable scope. In particular, they have

certain market in poverty-stricken and less-developed areas. The main reason is that people's awareness to shake off poverty and the weakness of legal system have provided a breeding ground for criminal elements with readily exploitable opportunities. They cheat people under the pretext of marriage introduction to carry out the abduction of women.

As cases of family violence against women are on the rise, the main cause lies in the fact that the traditional idea of regarding women as men's private property is still prevalent in some areas especially in poverty-stricken areas, the changes in status and ideology brought along by the social and economic changes have caused instability in marriage and the existence of arranged marriage and mercenary marriage exist in some border areas. In addition, the factors leading to family violence in remote and poverty-stricken areas are as follows:

Commitments to further

China has taken a series of measures to improve the legal system in the whole society to heighten the publicity to the relevant laws such as Women, the Marriage Law, the Civil Code, etc. In addition, it has carried out the following initiatives:

1. To strengthen the education on the law and morality; the National People's Congress is to revise the Marriage Law to lay down in detail the rights, responsibilities and duties among family members. Before the completion of the revision of the Marriage Law, many localities have formulated laws, regulations and rules for banning family violence in the light of the local circumstances.

V. Women and armed conflict

Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

The Chinese Government adheres to an independent foreign policy of peace, and stands for the principles and upholds justice in international affairs. It stands for mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence among all countries. It maintains that disputes between countries should be settled through peaceful consultations and opposes to resort to force or threat of force. China is a major force for safeguarding world peace and regional stability.

Chinese women's organizations are concerned about the life of the people in the areas of chaos

encountered:

Fourth World Conference on Women, conflicts triggered by racial, religious and ethnic disputes have occurred time and again, and some countries have interfered in the internal affairs of other countries under different pretexts. This has produced negative

Violation by an employing unit of the relevant provisions of law on women's employment shall be considered as a crime. In such cases, the damages caused to women's interests shall be compensated by the employing unit. If the circumstances of the infringement on women's rights and interests are so serious as to constitute a crime, the judicial departments shall investigate into the criminal responsibility of the employing unit in accordance with law.

2. The areas for employment have been expanded, providing more employment opportunities for women.

The Government has paid attention to the development of the tertiary industry and newly emerging trades in order to provide more employment opportunities for women. Except for high-tech areas such as the ship, transportation, finance, insurance, commerce, public health and education, the number of women in employment in some newly emerging trades (such as

child-bearing expenses have been covered by a collective social fund.

The Proposed Methods of Child-bearing Insurance for Enterprise Staff and Workers have been put into trial implementation from January 1, 1995. The child-bearing insurance expenses will be covered by a collective social fund. The enterprise will pay child-bearing insurance premium to the social insurance institution by a certain proportion of the total sum of salaries for the staff and workers in the enterprise to set up a child-bearing fund. The benefits of child-bearing insurance are composed of child-bearing allowance, paid holidays and medical service. At present, the reform of child-bearing insurance system has been introduced gradually in 26 provinces one after another in the whole country and 26.02 million staff and workers have participated in the collective social fund. Together with the women staff and workers for whom the employing units will bear child-bearing expenses, a total of 148.000 million women staff and workers are covered. |

This measure has listed women's reproduction into the social reproductive system and the labour force before the reproduction of the labour force.

information and guidance have been provided to laid-off women workers. In 1997 labour departments organized 2.08 million laid-off or unemployed women to receive training on professional skills and the re-employment rate after training reached 70%.

3. Preferential policies have been formulated to encourage laid-off women workers to organize themselves for employment or to seek self-employment.

Obstacles encountered

As the laid-off workers are in fairly large numbers, there are great difficulties in seeking re-employment. Some women workers have difficulties in getting re-employment because their

skills are outdated, or they rely on the old power system, or they have narrow choice of jobs. As a result, their livelihood and families have been affected to a certain extent.

But in some private enterprises and some Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operations and exclusively foreign-funded enterprises, disregard of interests of diligence in the protection of the rights and benefits of women workers, even the relevant regulations by asking workers to work long time and quota have from time to time. Moreover, some enterprises are in short of labour safety and measures. The labour circumstances are adverse, causing damages to the health of workers.

Measures to further actions and initiatives

The measures to be taken by

to develop the economy

to guarantee the basic needs of the laid-off workers

and to provide training

and regulations so as to increase the sense of legal system of the employers and workers and

to strengthen labour supervision

supervision and management over private enterprises and Sino-foreign joint ventures, and

cooperative businesses, and exclusively foreign

the establishment of trade unions and women

to raise the capability of workers to participate

Practices

participation in politics ranks first

have been put forth, requiring that

VII. Women in power and decision-making

Innovative policies, programmes, projects

in the Programme for the Development of Women

among the foremost priority areas and two co-

have also been worked out, including: to enhance the awareness of women in power through

different channels to formulate concrete plans and necessary measures to improve

proportion of women's participation in the government; to conduct training for

increase women's capability to participate in the government and raise the

proportion of women's participation in the government within a time limit is a

measurable to guarantee women's right to participate in the government. And the

government has written in the training and selection of women cadres to the Constitution.

At present, the proportion of women's participation in the election reaches over 95%. In the

Ninth National People's Congress in 1998, there were 650 women deputies, accounting for

81%. And in the Ninth National People's Political Consultative Conference, there were

341 women members, accounting for 15.54% of the total. These represent an increase of 0.78 and 2.02 percentage points respectively in comparison with the Eighth Congress and Conference.

At present, there are 18 ministers or vice ministers in the 29 ministries and commissions of the State Council, including two ministers. Close to 400 women have been elected as mayors or vice mayors in over 680 cities throughout the country. Women working in government departments make up approximately 33.3% of the total staff, a rise of two million persons compared with the figure before the formulation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, or an increase 2.3 percentage points.

In working out relevant policies and plans, the Chinese Government has paid attention to soliciting opinions from women's organizations. Women deputies in the people's congresses and the women members in the people's political consultative conferences at all levels have taken active part in the administration and discussion of state affairs and exercised their right

to propose or counterpropose with the protection of the

female employment, the retirement age for senior women

or women university graduates. Some of them have been

adopted in model of employment and for other practical

at all levels have taken 36

steps to open study classes in

of the female leaders and

talents to governments and

publics and many provinces.

of the organizations working

from CRY have all been assisted

n's federations have also set up

207. Women's federations above

in recommended a total of 710

to have been appointed

of the women's

rights and interests of

intellectuals and job

of the women's

The All-China Women's Federation and women

women's institutes and schools all over the country

various forms to raise the leadership skill and ma

have set up talent banks to recommend excel

enters at all levels. For example, the vice min

of the women's

in Province, the vice mayors of Guangxi

on the recommendation of the women's feder

talent banks for example, in the five years in

county levels in the Guangxi Zhuang Auton

women cadres to the governments at all levels

The Working Committee has played the leading role in the arrangement of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, in hitting the targets set forth in the Programme. It has made arrangements for the formulation of policies, plans and programmes, and in the execution, monitoring and appraising. It has exerted a tremendous influence in incorporating gender consciousness into state policies, plans, and programmes, especially in urging the state to collect and disseminate classified statistical indexes by sex.

The Programme of the Development of Chinese Women, the establishment of a mechanism of field studies of women's status, data collection and information spreading is taken as a separate priority area, and two specific targets have been set, i.e. to establish a national women's data bank, and to set up classified women's statistical indexes in the state. Government has given importance to the trend studies of women's status, data collection and information spreading, and carried them out step by step under the

Conference on Women, the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children has admitted the State Statistics Bureau as a new member, asking it to compile some classified statistical indexes by sex in conducting the sample survey of localities on the change of population, and assigning the monitoring of the programmes for the development of women and children as an important task of the State Statistics Bureau. Aside from compiling classified statistics on education, health care and sports by sex, the Bureau has, under the leadership of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, worked out a set of indicators for monitoring and appraisal and an index system for the programmes on the development of women and children.

Obstacle Encountered

Since the establishment of the State Council Working Committee on Women and Children, the government has attached great importance to the development of women and children, and has mobilized a large amount of human, financial and material resources.

In terms of classified data statistics by sex, there is a shortage of funds and in some statistical indexes, there is not yet a unified international standard.

Measures to be taken by the Government are as follows:

- to strengthen the structural set-up of the working committees on women and children and enhance their capability in urging the government and the whole society to implement the laws and the programmes for the development of women and children;
- to increase the input of human, financial and material resources into those organizations on the basis of the integrated development of the economy of the country;
- to further increase classified statistics by sex and reinforce the trend studies and the studies on the status of women; to hope that the international

community will provide technical and financial assistance in compiling the classified statistics by sex.

IX. Human rights of women

Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

The Programme for the Development of Chinese Women has defined targets and measures for

the protection of human rights in women's spheres, including the eradicating of poverty by women, education, health care, employment, participation in the government and opposition to violence against women. It has effectively prompted the governments at all levels to combine the protection of women's rights with the promotion of women's participation in the development. To do solid things for the development of women and to further guarantee the materialization of the legal provision on the equality of men and women and the rights of women...

Since the convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Chinese Government has adopted a series of new measures:

1. In its report submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against

Women (CEDAW), the Chinese Government has presented the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In its national reports on China's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in May 1997, the Chinese Government presented its third-fourth combined report and in August 1998, it submitted

the follow-up report. The report and supplementary materials on the follow-up actions for the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action were put out by the relevant government departments.

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

The existing

regulations and rules.

3. The education on disseminating an elementary knowledge of law has been launched to reinforce the legal sense of the whole society

In 1996, China began to execute the third five-year plan for the publicity and education on the legal system (1996-2000). The main contents are: the Constitution and laws and regulations concerning the market economy and the publicity and education for women on disseminating an elementary knowledge of law, especially with respect to the Law on the Protection of

related with the interests of women and children. For example, the Rights and Interests of Women, the Marriage Law, The Law on Minors, the Labor Law and the Compulsory Education Law have publicity to reinforce women's legal consciousness and legal capability of the broad masses of women to defend their own accordance with law.

4) Training has been conducted for law enforcers to intensify law

In some public security, procuratorial and court departments, the study on women and children have been conducted to enhance the intensity the impartiality in the law enforcement and the crackdown security organs, the relevant social organizations and non-government jointly convened national or key area co-ordinating conferences criminal activities in infringing upon the rights of women and children, discussion, sharing information with each other, exchanging experience matters.

examination of law enforcement has been s

The State Council Working Committee on Women's Rights and Interests at various levels have conducted about a group of execution of departments concerned have in 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively. Rights and Interests of Women committees on women and children of the

Women and the Law on the Protection of the Minors as its regular work, and inspection has been conducted regularly.

6. The Chinese Government signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1997 and the International Covenant on Citizens' Rights and Political Rights in 1998. The Chinese Government has acceded to as many as 17 international documents on human rights.

Obstacles encountered

The survival and development are the most fundamental rights of the people, and Poverty is the main obstacle to the realization of women's fundamental rights. In China it manifests itself strikingly in the contradiction between the population and the resources. The limited land resource and the rapid development of the population have made some rural women lose land due to marriage or divorce. The failure of the pace of economic development to keep abreast with the rapid increase of the population of labour force has made it hard to provide sufficient employment opportunities in the labour force market, resulting in a more tense

competition in the area of employment.

The rights of women in the poverty-stricken areas are constrained by

education and health economic conditions.

Violence against women and girl children have

social circumstances

Measures and initiatives

Commitment to

The Government are: to promote the social and economic development so as to lay the foundation for protecting women's rights; to promote gender equality and conduct the legal education throughout the country and legal consciousness of the entire people and to further strengthen the education and training on law enforcement; to improve and develop the system of people's procuratorates; to increase the transparency in law enforcement and promote the legal system.

The measures to promote development in the country to reinforce gender consciousness, eliminate the discrimination, gender mediation and a construction of a

Programmes, projects and good practices

X. Women and the

Programme for the Development of the Chinese Women, the Government, on the actual national conditions, identified the area of focus for the development of women, in which concrete measures

In the course of the Government, promoting the so

measures were put forth. They are: to give publicity for the world society to the great role played by women in creating human civilization and propelling social development; to give publicity to the idea that women have equal personality and dignity and equal rights and responsibilities with men; to give publicity to women with the spirit of self-respect, self-confidence, self-reliance and self-improvement; and to ban disparaging and humiliating portrayals of the female images in the films, televisions, books, newspapers and periodicals. It is aimed at changing the social discrimination and bias against women and enhancing the understanding of the entire citizenry on the rights and interests of women.

of the entire citizenry on the rights

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the mass media of the country have actively incorporated the idea of gender

implemented the above

equality into the media

a special female programme "Half the Sky", and up to

In 1995, the Central Tele

s. In 1997, People's Daily, a newspaper with 15% circula-

now it has broadcast 7

a special women column to give publicity to the status and

circulation in the co

and change the traditional mode of gender role

columns to women from di

mines has opened a special project to present the

and Radio Beijing in its 43 lan

...

progress and new reports of C

ns have also participated in the supervision over

The relevant non-governmental

association set up "the Women's Media-monitoring

media. The Beijing Women

s Association" in 1996, with an aim of monitoring

Network of the Beijing Wor

and bias against women. The network has

the female groups in associa

Chinese Women Weekly entitled "How we see the media"

integrity and changing

established a media-monitoring hot-line.

opened two special colu

and "Media observation

according to incomplete statistics, the number of women's

The newspapers, periodics

figure in early 1990s.

have kept increasing

magazines at present.

in eliminating the conventional ideas and cultivating the

The media has played a

image of new-type wo

Obstacles encountered

development, the cultural undertaking in China are at a

Restrained by the level

of lower development, which is equivalent to the average level of developing

es. In 1996, in China every million people had 23 kinds of books, lower than the

average level of 160 kinds; and every thousand people had 41 copies of daily

newspapers, which was lower than the world average level of 96 copies. In parti-

cular areas, the scientific and technological, cultural, broadcasting and television

facilities are undeveloped and the energy supply is insufficient, and thus the channels for

the people to receive the media programmes are fairly narrow.

the people, there still exists a conventional idea that men are superior than women and

gender role is fixed and unchangeable. In some film and television programmes,

documentaries, books, newspapers and periodicals, there are still some distorted, disparaging

portrayals of women, which have produced negative

influence in the society. The public do not have sufficient sens-

ibility for criticizing the phenomenon of gender discrimination in the media.

Actuated by commercial motives, some people one-sidedly pursue profits and broadcast, publish and distribute some pornographic books, periodicals and cinematographic and television products, and some foreign film and television programmes often play up pornography and violence. All those have poisoned young boys and girls, indirectly giving

rise to crimes or violence against women.

Because of the restraints of economic conditions and scientific and technical progress, women have only limited opportunities and capabilities to apply new

Commitments to further actions and initiatives

The main measures to be taken by the Government are: to actively develop the scientific, cultural, broadcasting and television undertakings and to raise the rate of media coverage; to continue to give publicity to positive images of women through the media, bring about a change of the discrimination and bias against women in the society and enhance the understanding by the entire populace of the lawful rights and interests of women; to continue the campaign against pornography and ban the dissemination of pornographic products; to heighten the intelligence of the rights and interests of women through the media and to promote social status of equality between men and women; to support women to apply new technological

and management.

In 1997, women working in the environmental protection departments numbered 24,000, accounting for 38% of the total staff, a moderate increase compared with the figure in early 1990s.

Since 1982, the State Environmental Protection Administration has been jointly organized by the Chinese Government and women's organizations for 19 years. The broad masses of women have taken part in a campaign for reforestation, creation of shelter forests, and soil and water conservation in a variety of ways. In addition, women have also participated in the "Greening of the Motherland" campaign every year. Other women have also taken an active part in such activities as classification of garbage and recovery of used goods and materials.

The Government has launched an education on the environment in a variety of forms to enlighten citizens to enhance the consciousness of the whole nation on environmental protection.

Some women's organizations and environmental protection organizations have actively participated in it. For example, in 1997, the State Bureau of Environment Protection and the All-China Women's Federation jointly carried out a publicity activity with "Women, Home and Environment" as the main theme in more than 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, and close to 190,000 copies of the pamphlet entitled "100 questions about the knowledge concerning women and the environment" were distributed.

to protect the environment.

Government departments concerned and women organizations have jointly spread the scientific and technological knowledge about environmental protection in various forms such as

broadcast and television, books, newspaper and periodicals, radio-telephone stations, etc.

Under the circumstances of the not-high-enough level of productivity and technology, it is an arduous task to develop the economy and to make rational protect the resources.

The consciousness of the entire nationals on environmental protection is not strong. In particular, people in the undeveloped and poverty-stricken areas, for the purpose of getting off poverty as soon as possible, have disregarded the long-term interests and

in terms of access to resources, information, scientific and technical service, because of the restraint by the economic, cultural and educational level. They have not efficiently participated in the environmental protection

Commitments to further actions and initiatives

The measures to be taken by the Government to facilitate

the management and policy decisions on environmental protection; to strengthen the management on the environment in the whole country in order to protect the environment and the sustainable development; to strengthen the management of laws concerning

to continue to strengthen the consciousness of the whole nation on the environmental protection; to strengthen the supervision over the environmental protection and the management of the environment

XIII. The girl child

Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good

While promoting the social and economic development in

the Government has paid full attention to the subsistence and development of children. In 1989, the Chinese Government signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was approved by the State

successively formulated the Law on the Protection of the Minors and the Outline of the Plan

for the development of Chinese Children in 1990s; to provide safeguards, in terms of state laws and laws, for the subsistence, protection and development of children.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Government has integrated the implementation of the programmes for the development of women and children. In the light of the existence of such questions as non-attendance, dropout, malnutrition, child labours and abandonment of female babies, the government departments concerned and the relevant research institutions and non-governmental organizations held a Symposium on the Strategy for female children in poverty-stricken areas in 1997 to analyze and study the existing questions and work out proper measures.

1. Laws have been improved to intensify law enforcement and strengthen the protection of girl children. In 1996 and 1997, the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law were revised and supplemented. The law enforcement was intensified to strengthen the investigation into and settlement of the cases on the snatching of women and children, the indecent assault on young girls and children, the maltreatment of children, the incest assault on young girls and children.

2. More publicity has been given to the relation between men and women to enhance the consciousness of children, educating children, setting a good example for children.

3. Social forces have been mobilized to promote the development of girl children. The government has been mobilizing poverty-stricken families to shake off poverty, provide financial support to women as raising poverty-stricken families to shake off poverty, provide financial support to women, helping disabled women, helping disabled children, and adopting orphans and disabled children.

4. In the course of implementing the Programme for the Development of Children and the Convention on the Rights of Children, the Chinese Government and the relevant non-governmental organizations have closely with the United Nations Children's Fund in launching projects about the country, vigorously promoting the subsistence, protection and development of children.

5. In the course of the implementation of the Platform for Action, the Chinese Government has encountered the influence of the idea of male superiority over female left over by the long feudalism in China, the concept of valuing the male child only still exists in the minds of some people. Particularly in some undeveloped rural areas, due to shortage of resources, some girls in poor families are unable to get the opportunity for education and health care.

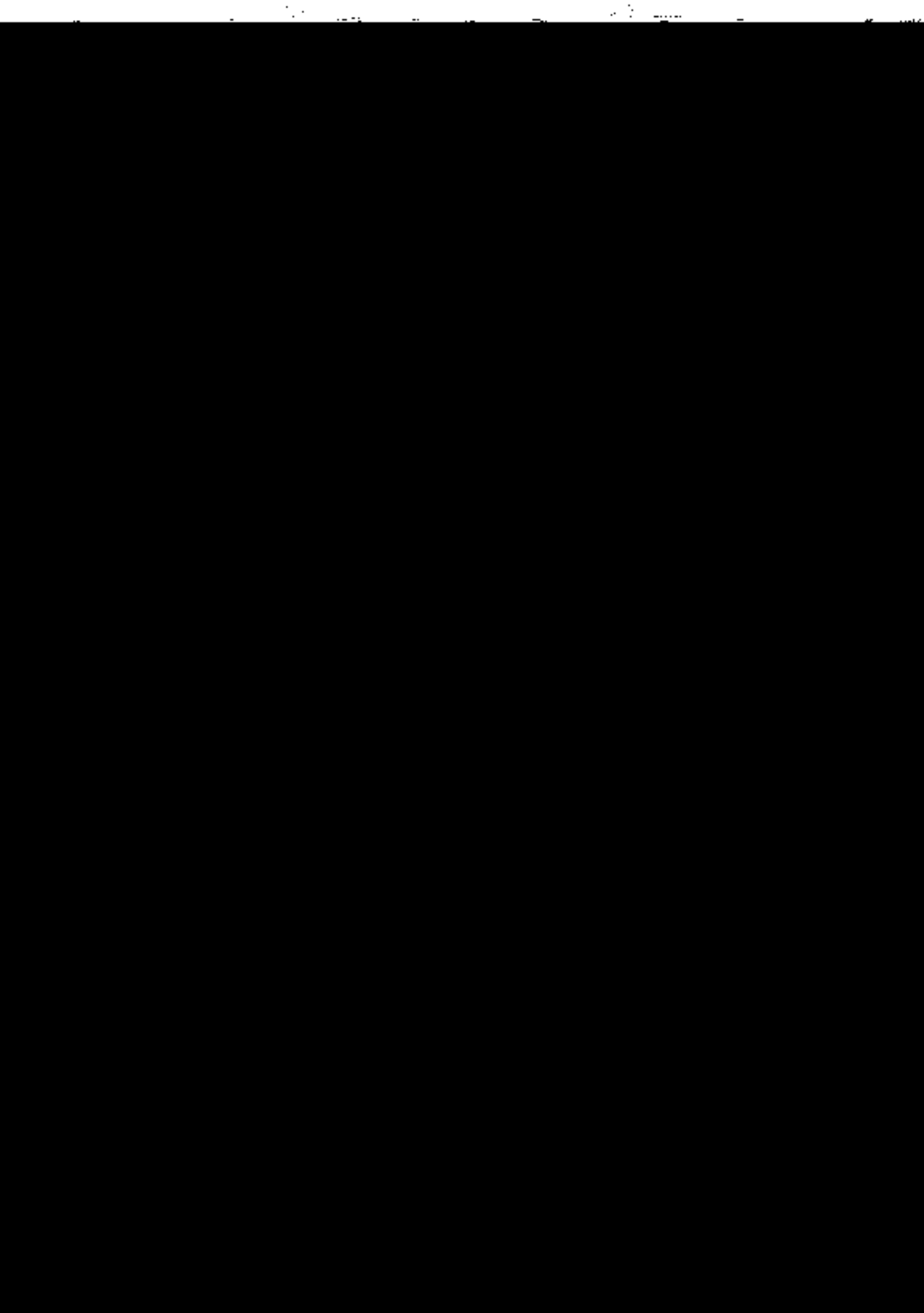
6. In order to further actions and initiatives, the Chinese Government has taken the following measures to be taken by the Government: to promote the all-round development of the girl child, to carry out cultural, educational, and public health undertakings, which is the basis to solve those questions; to continue the publicity in the whole society on the girl child, to increase the knowledge of law and the equality between men and women and further eliminate the discrimination against women.

7. List any further actions and initiatives which your Government believes should or could be taken to fully implement the Platform for Action beyond the year 2000. Among these

identify which ones your own Government intends to take and when.

The monitoring and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women show that the main targets of the Programme and the plans for the development of women in various localities have been met fairly well and most of the indexes have been close to the targets for the year 2000, and the subsistence, protection and development of women have been improved step by step. At the same time, it has been noted that there are still difficulties and obstacles to hit all the targets in the Programme by the year 2000, and the task is very arduous.

In order to further promote the development of women, the Chinese Government is prepared to work out a plan for the development of women for 2001-2010. The general objective is to further implement the basic national policy on the equality between men and women, and in view of the existing obstacles and problems, while accelerating the social and economic development in an all-round way, to place emphasis on resolving such questions as the elimination of poverty, the education for everybody, the protection of the rights and interests of women, the elimination of the conventional idea of discriminating against women, the simplification of law enforcement and the enhancement of the gender consciousness of the public society.



• The cycle for eliminating illiteracy is fairly long, and there exists the phenomenon of newly emerging illiterates and recurrent illiterates

• The input of funds for the elimination of illiteracy is insufficient

CONCRETE MEASURES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ILLITERACY

increase the educational input to poverty-stricken areas and to set up a special education for poverty-stricken areas

carry out the plan of popularizing the nine-year compulsory education by stages

give extensive publicity to the equality between men and women and the Law on Compulsory Education so as to encourage girl children to attend schools and decrease the dropout

on of illiteracy

to mobilize the social forces to take part in

time for helping the poor, the technical

to combine the elimination of illiteracy with

so as to promote women to improve

training and the education of population, in

to increase the scientific and technical capacity of personnel in social development

Women's Education

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform of Action

the Law on Maternal and Child Health Care has been promulgated and carried out

the statistical indexes on information about health care and the work of monitoring and appraisal have been standardized to keep pace with the development of the multiple relations of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women

in rural areas, midwives have been trained, the new midwifery has been introduced emphatically and the infection of infants by new-born babies has been eliminated

The publicity and services on reproduction health have been strengthened and the network of management and services has been improved

The community services have been developed and the network of community services has been established

Scientific way of supplementing iodine has been adopted to eliminate iodine deficiency

• The facilities for drinking water and for lavatories have been restructured to improve the quality of the environment

• Co-operative projects on maternity and child hygiene have been launched with the poverty-stricken areas as the priority

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

• The basic sanitary facilities in the rural area is insufficient

• Medical personnel are in shortage

• The rate of rural women's hospitalization for child delivery in the rural area is low and the maternal and infant mortality rates are fairly high

• Malnutrition of women and children in poverty-stricken areas

• Venereal diseases and AIDS are spreading in a certain scope caused by prostitution

Commitment to further action/new initiatives

• To increase the input on hygiene and health care

• Major efforts to be made to launch education on hygiene and population for the entire people, and to spread and popularize hygienic knowledge extensively

• To strengthen the training of the medical personnel in rural area and the establishment of medical facilities

• To continue the reform of the medical system

• To work out a plan for preventing and controlling AIDS and train a professional contingent for

preventing and controlling AIDS

more medical stations and treat venereal diseases.

Violence against women

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

rights

ed for the crackdown on abduction of women and social
re part in the crackdown

ork of the recovery, replacement, education and precaution
re not be discriminated and enjoy all rights as equals

ed and more publicity for education has been demanded

ed/lessons learned

mentality
used by the changes in the status and thinking brought along

of mercenary marriage existing in some border and remote or

y initiatives

ws and regulations on the protection of women's rights and

le society to

uties among

cal areas of

f peace and

l equality

erainty, mutual

mutual benefit

To make major efforts to disseminate elementary knowledge of the law and reinforce legal sense of the entire people.

- To give more publicity to the law, and conduct education on marriage and family law.
- To revise the Marriage Law, normalizing in detail the rights, responsibilities of family members and formulating regulations and rules on banning family violence.

Women and armed conflict

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

- The Chinese Government persists in following an independent foreign policy line in principle and holds justice in international affairs. It maintains that all countries should stick to the principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs,

the law, now, to go on and strengthen the protection

Special organs have been fully mobilized

A good job has been done for the salvaged women

Legal education has been carried out
Examples of obstacles

Conventional male thinking
Changes in the marriage law by the social and economic development

The corrupt customs in poverty-stricken areas

Commitment to further

To strictly enforce the law to protect women's interests

peaceful co-existence.

• China stands for settlement of disputes between countries through peaceful consultations and opposes the use of force or the threat to use force.

• Chinese women's organizations are concerned about people's livelihood in war areas and

support the government and popular organizations in providing humanitarian assistance within

their power to the countries and areas in war of conflict.

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

Since the Fourth World Conference of Women, conflicts have taken place from time to time in many areas of the world triggered by racial, religious and territorial disputes, and some have had a profound impact on the international affairs of other countries and women's activities. This has brought along negative consequences to the living together in harmony of countries and harmful influence on the progress of world peace.

• China will always persist in following an independent foreign policy of peace, maintains

that all countries should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, and opposes the use of force or the threat to use force in international affairs by any country.

• China will, together with the countries concerned, international organizations and governmental organizations, strive to strengthen cooperation in the fields and interests of women affected by armed conflicts, encourage women to participate in the settlement of disputes, defend peace and promote the execution of the International Humanitarian Law.

Women and the economy

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

• Laws protect women in enjoying equal employment opportunities and strengthen labour supervision

• The area of employment has been expanded to provide women with more employment opportunities

• Vocational training has been strengthened to improve

• Nurseries have been developed to support women

stem has been carried on vigorously and women's

The reform on the child-bearing expenses have been covered by a social fund

training for laid-off

Re-employment service centres have been set up to provide workers

women

Preferential policies have been put into practice for the is-

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

re-employment

As there are numerous laid workers, there is a great difficulty in order that average and the scope for selecting jobs is to secure re-employment

work and some of them are to therefore, it is difficult to

Conventional ideas for selecting jobs

co-operative businesses and of rights of women workers

Some private enterprises and Sino-foreign joint exclusively foreign-funded enterprises are short of

Commitment to further action/new initiatives

re-employment

To provide laid-off workers with basic needs, training and

To change the conventional idea of selecting jobs so as to expand the scope the selecting jobs

To give priority to the relevant labour laws and regulations in order to reinforce the legal consciousness of employers and workers

To strengthen labour supervision, especially the supervision and management over private enterprises and Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative businesses and exclusively foreign-funded enterprises

To encourage and support the establishment of trade unions and women's organizations in all enterprises to enhance the capability of workers to participate in management

Women in power and decision-making



Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

- The understanding of women's capabilities has been enhanced through different channels
- Preferential policies, specific plans and necessary indexes have been worked out to guarantee the fixed percentage of women's participation in politics

...to increase women's capability to participate in

...training of women's cadres

Working Committee on Women and Children has been established

Gender perception has been incorporated into the state policies, plans and programmes

- The Programme for the Development of Chinese Women has been formulated
- Training on reinforcing the consciousness of sex equality has been conducted for decision-making leaders
- Monitoring mechanisms at all levels have been set up to monitor and appraise the implementation of the Programme
- A national women's data bank has been established and the classified women's statistics index has been set up in the state statistics system
- The Government has given importance to the establishment of a mechanism of trend studies of women's status, data collection and information analysis and spreading and has carried it out step

Working committees on women and children at central and lower level financial and material resources

In terms of gender statistics indexes, funds are insufficient in terms of no unified international statistical standards

Commitment to further action/new initiatives

To reinforce the establishment of the organs of working committees on women at all levels to raise their capability to urge the Government and the whole society to pay attention to women and children and the programmes for their development

To increase the input of human, financial and material resources to the organs

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

- The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women has been carried out conscientiously and local governments at all levels have formulated detailed regulations to implement the law, making it more orientational and operational
- The existing laws have been revised and supplemented to strengthen legal protection for women
- Education for dissemination of an elementary knowledge of law has been conducted to enhance the legal sense of the whole society
- Training has been conducted for law enforcers to intensify law enforcement
- Examination on law enforcement has been strengthened

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

- Poverty is the main obstacle to the realization of human rights
- In the face of a population of 1.2 billion, the publicity and education of the relevant laws and regulations and sex equality is insufficient
- Because of the idea of male superiority and female inferiority formed in the long feudal society, some women, especially women in rural area, are in short of the knowledge of law and unable to apply law to defend their own rights

Commitment to action/new initiatives

- To promote social and economic development in an all-round way so as to lay the foundation for the promotion and protection of human rights

To continue the publicity on sex equality and the legal education throughout the country to further enhance the gender and legal sense of the whole people to eliminate the discrimination against women

To strengthen the education and training on gender

To improve and develop the system of people's

To mobilize all social forces to protection the rights of women, especially to give way to the role of non-governmental organizations

Women and the media

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

- Publicity has been given in the whole society to the great role played by women in creating human civilization and propelling social development

- Publicity has been given to the idea that men and women enjoy equal personality, dignity, rights and status

- Publicity has been given to women who possess the spirit of self-reliance, self-confidence, self-

• To continue the campaign against pornography and ban pornographic products

• To repudiate the infringements on the rights and interests of women through the media and mobilize people of all walks of life to establish a good social mood of equality, civilization and democracy

• To encourage and support women to apply new communication technology and participate in the decision making of the media

Women and the environment

critical areas of

Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to the concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

may

Environmental protection has been listed as a priority area in the

tion and sustainable

Women have been urged to participate in the environmental

development to increase the awareness of women of environmental protection

management in the field of environmental protection

• Education on the environment has been launched among the entire national

• Women have been encouraged and supported to learn relevant scientific knowledge and their capability of protecting the environment

Examples of obstacles and other lessons learned

• China is a developing country with a large population and relatively insufficient resources. Under the conditions of not-high-enough productivity and scientific and technological progress, it has an arduous task to develop the economy and to rationally use and protect resources

• People's consciousness of environmental protection is not high enough in some areas, in the economic development, pollution and damage to the environment

• Women are restricted by the economic, cultural and educational conditions in their access to environmental resources, information, scientific and technological training and participation in environmental protection and management activities

commitment to further action on key initiative

To promote more women to receive vocational education, higher education and scientific and technological training so as to promote women to participate in the management and decision making of environmental protection

* To continue the education on the environment throughout the country so as to enhance the consciousness of the entire nation as a whole on the protection of the environment

over the enforcement of the relevant laws on the protection of the environment

* To strengthen environment and

The girl child,

concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

Publicity has been given to the relevant laws and regulations and equality between men and women to heighten the consciousness of the whole people of "loving children, educating children, taking a lead for children and doing solid things for children"

* Laws have been improved and law enforcement intensified to strengthen the protection of girl children

* Social forces have been mobilized to promote the development of girl children

* International co-operation has been carried out

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

1. Education and protection for girls children in poorer/rural areas have become major questions

... women still exists in the minds of some people in the public ...

Commitment to further action/new initiatives

... at the places in question

publicity on the elementary knowledge of law and equality between men and women in the society so as to further eliminate the discrimination against women

ANNEX II

World Data Sets/Indicators for Measuring Development Progress

Year	Population aged 15 and over (10 persons)				Year
	male		female		
	population	percentage (%)	population	percentage (%)	
1997	6313	51.07	60493	48.93	1997

Population in China Statistics 1998

Population aged 15-4; 0-14; 15-49; 60+

(1) Population by age and sex of 1997

sex	0-4	5-14	15-49	60+	total
male	4352	6412	3304	5465	19713
female	3628	5388	4023	4632	17671
total	7980	11800	7327	10097	37404

Data from the Yearbook on China Population Statistics 1998

Population by Urban/Rural Distribution

Urban and Rural Population Distribution by Age in 1995

Age	Urban		Rural	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
0-4	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
5-9	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
10-14	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
15-19	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
20-24	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
25-29	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
30-34	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
35-39	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
40-44	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3
45-49	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.3

70-74	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.8
75-79	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.0
80-84	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.5
85+	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100
population (10,000 persons)	1753132	1780848	4318930	4514058

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980 Census of the United States, Statistical Tables.

• Population Growth Rate and Total Fertility Rate

Population fertility rate, natural growth rate and mortality rate in China

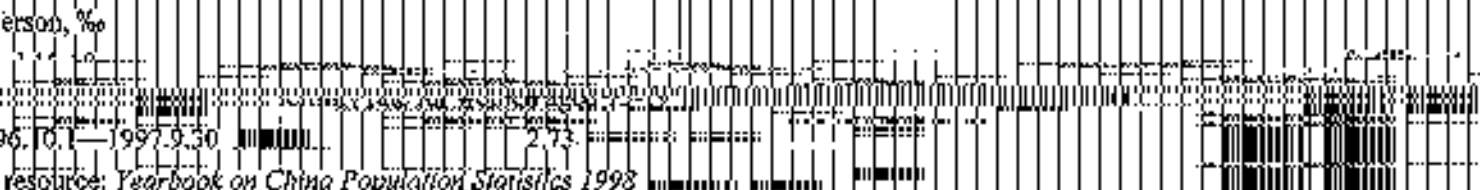
Unit: ‰

	fertility rate	growth rate	mortality rate
1990	21.06	14.39	6.67
1991	18.24	11.82	6.64
1992	18.05	11.64	6.64
1993	17.71	11.49	6.49
1994	17.12	11.57	6.57
1995	16.98	11.56	6.56
1996	16.57	11.51	6.51
1997	16.57	11.51	6.51

Data source: Yearbook on China Statistics 1998

• Fertility Rate for Women Aged 15-19

Fertility rate for women



Mortality Rate

- Life expectancy at birth
- Infant mortality rate
- Under-five mortality rate
- Maternal mortality rate

Mortality

	female	male
average life expectancy 1997	73	69
infant mortality rate	26.04	20.45
under-five mortality rate 1997		9.53‰
maternal mortality rate /100,000		58.72

Reproductive health

Contraceptive prevalence rate (Unit: % person)

Data resource: Population statistics data from State Statistical Bureau

Under-five mortality rate from Yearbook on China Population Statistics

Gender Equality In Education

• Percentages of boy students in primary and junior middle schools

Percentages of boy students in primary and junior middle schools for 1997

Unit: 10,000 persons

	number of students in primary schools	number of students in junior middle schools
1997	57.8	53.7
1995	57.8	53.4

Data source: China Statistics Year Book 1998

educational status (%)

Unit: %

female	male	illiteracy
71.4	28.6	primary school
51.2	48.8	junior middle school
42.3	57.7	senior middle school
42.4	57.6	specialized middle school
36.7	63.3	college-level technical school
463482	468910	population (10,000)
463485	468910	Number of students (10,000)

Statistical Bureau

Data source: statistical data

• Ratio of literate females to males at ages 15-24

Above-15 sex composition of population with

Economic activities

- * Unemployment ratio: Registered unemployment rate in urban areas in 1997: 3.1%
- * Employment-population ratio: Labour participatory rate in 1997: 82.3%
(labour participatory rate = employed population/labour resources)
- * percentages of labour force engaged in agriculture, industry, and services

Unit: 10,000 persons

	employees	by three industries			composition		
		1 st industry	2 nd industry	3 rd industry	1 st industry	2 nd industry	3 rd industry

26.4 11 696000 547300 1049400 185700 493000

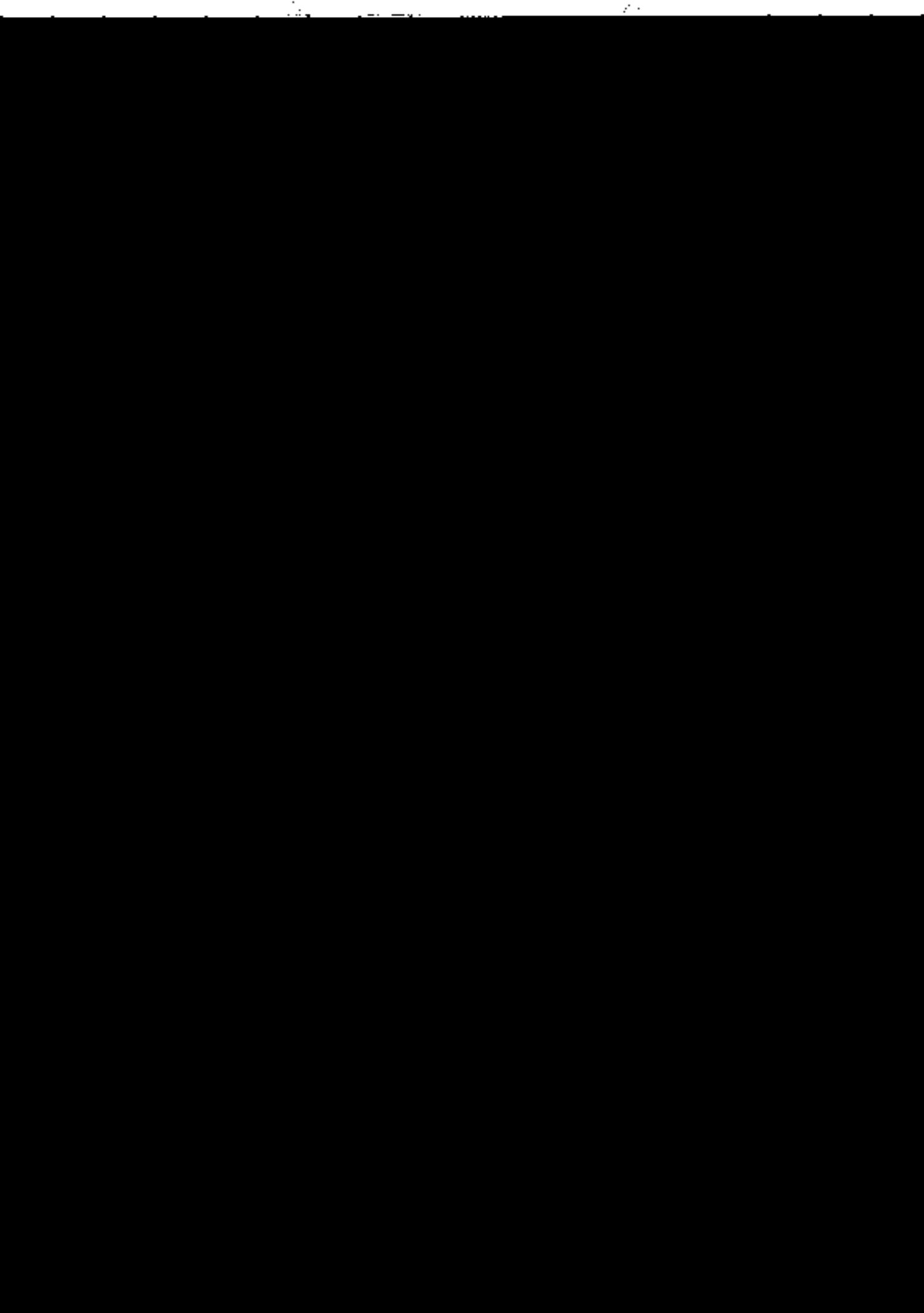
Data source: *China Labour Statistics 1998*

* Employment status of labour force

10,000 persons

urban	rural	by identities in employment	
14668		(1) all employers	
133	71	(2) private enterprise owners	
1024	1827	(3) individual operators	
2669	4122	(4) employees in private enterprises and individual business operators	
	9159	(5) employees in township enterprises	
	(6) rural labour force	34215	34215
Groups by economic sectors			
(1) state-owned sector		11044	11044
(2) collective-owned sector		46256	2883
(3) private sector		1349	750
(4) individual sector		5162	1919
43			3572
468	468		(5) joint operation sector
300	300		(6) share-holding sector
281	281		(7) foreign investment sector
			(8) sector with investment from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan
18	18		other sectors

Data source: *Yearbook on China Labour Statistics*



Education

• Adult literacy rate

(1) Composition of illiterate and semi-illiterate people aged 15+ in 1995 and the illiteracy rate

Unit: %

area	composition of rural and urban population		gender composition		illiteracy rate		literacy rate	
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male
urban	18.6	15.5	75.6	24.4	16.1	5.2	83.9	94.8
rural	81.4	84	71.3	28.7	31.3	12.4	68.7	87.6
total	100	100	72.3	27.7	26.6	10.1	73.4	89.9
population (10,000 persons)	12003.8	4597.42						

Data source: Relevant data from State Statistical Bureau

(2) Gender composition of population aged 15+ with different educational status

Unit: %

educational status	1997	
	female	male
illiteracy	71.4	28.6
primary school	51.2	48.8
junior middle school	42.3	57.7
senior middle school	42.4	57.6
specialized middle school		
college-level technical school	36.7	63.3
university		
population (10,000 persons)	463485	468910

9
Data

Literacy r

24
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data source: R

Net primary

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Female

enrolment ratio
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13346654
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literacy r

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water

% of

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population

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