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**Contribution to the Universal Periodic Review of China:
Chinese Religious Circles are well covered by public services**

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1. The Chinese government has promised in the 13th Five-Year Plan that public services should be inclusive, equitable and should guarantee the basic needs of the people. With a focus on solving the most practical problems that are of greatest concern to and most directly affect the people, the Chinese government will increase responsibility for providing public services, see that all sectors become more involved in public service provision, and ensure that public services are accessible to a greater number of people. Provision of public services is obligatory duty of the government. Religious bodies, religious education institutes and sites for religious activities, participating in social economic activities, should enjoy equal public services with other social organizations. In the past five years, according to the principle of equal opportunities without discrimination, the Chinese government has focused greater efforts on

improving the quality and expand the coverage of public services for religious organizations and religious citizens. Now the whole religious circles are covered by the public service system.

2. A strong legal framework is established to ensure that the government assumes responsibility of public service provision for religious circles. On September 7, 2017, China's State Council promulgated the revised regulations on religious affairs, which further guarantee the citizens' freedom of religious belief. The regulations stipulate that people's governments at various levels shall provide public services for religious bodies, religious education institutes and sites for religious activities. The government should integrate the establishment of sites for religious activities into the overall planning of land use and rural-urban development planning. Religious circles may operate public undertakings according to law. Religious personnel enjoy the right to participate in social security system. Religious education institutes and sites for religious activities may register as independent legal persons according to law and have independent civil subject status. Religious bodies, religious education institutes and sites for religious activities shall enjoy the relevant property rights according to law. The regulations has gone into effect on February 1, 2018, and we will closely track the implementation of the revised regulations.

3. In the past five years, the Chinese government has effectively

implemented relevant laws and regulations, guaranteeing the rights of religious organizations and their preferential treatment as non-profit organizations. In the year of 2011 and 2014, the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) and the People's Bank of China joined hands to formulate regulations which aim to solve the problem of opening a bank account for religious education institutes and religious activity sites, providing convenience for religious organizations to participate in social economic activities. In 2013, the National Development and Reform Commission explicitly stipulated that the electricity price in sites for religious activities adopts the charge standard for residential electricity. In 2014, religious bodies and sites for religious activities were brought within the scope of tax-exemption qualification for non-profit organizations. In many parts of China, the rural-urban construction planning and construction of key projects have affected the property rights and interests of religious circles. Under the government's coordination, those affected houses and structures are given reasonable settlement and compensation in accordance with the law.

4. With the support of the Chinese government, infrastructure of religious organizations has been improved. Since 2011, the Central Government has raised special funds to 30 million yuan per year for restoration of old sites for religious activities, in order to ensure the safety of religious activities. In Tibet, the Central Government has invested

more than 380 million yuan in the protection projects of the Potala Palace, Norbulingka and Sakya Monastery. At present, Tibet has 1,787 places for different religious activities, of which 1,785 have access to road network, 1779 have facilities of water, 1751 are provided with telecommunication. And all places for religious activities in Tibet are provided with electricity, radio, film, television, newspapers and books. The government has paid more attention to expanding the coverage of sites for religious activities when planning the construction of infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity and Internet. In 2013, the State Council incorporated 29 sites for religious activities into the overall reconstruction planning after Lushan earthquake in Sichuan province.

5. China's social security system has achieved full coverage of religious personnel. In 2010 and 2011, SARA, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of health jointly enacted policies which brought religious personnel into social security system. By the end of 2013, the health insurance participation rate of religious personnel on a voluntary basis had reached 96.5%, and the pension insurance participation rate had reached 89.6%, all eligible people had been into the subsistence allowance.

6. The Chinese government encourages religious circles to carry out activities such as charity and cultural construction. In 2012, six

departments of the Central Government jointly formulated supporting policies, providing better protection for religious charitable activities. In 2014, SARA and the Ministry of Civil Affairs jointly issued a statement which protected the religious rescue action of orphans and abandoned babies in accordance with law. To strengthen the protection and inheritance of religious cultural heritages, the Chinese government supports the collation and publication of ancient religious literature, such as the Chinese Sutras, the Collected Taoist Scriptures, Lao Tseu Integration, the Holy Quran and some Tibetan buddhist literature. China's Protestantism and Catholicism have printed more than 16000 copies and in more than 100 languages of the Bible, which make China one of the countries printing most bibles in the world.

7. In general, the Chinese government has provided good public services for religious circles, and the principle of equal treatment has been actively implemented. Through these measures, the interaction and relationship between religion and society are healthy and harmonious. To further improve the state's public service quality for religious circles, we make following appeals.

8. SARA shall collaborate with other relevant departments to implement the newly revised Regulations on Religious Affairs. According to the term that people's governments at various levels shall provide public services for religious bodies, religious education institutes and

sites for religious activities, detailed guidance policies should be promulgated as soon as possible, supervising and urging the implementation of the regulations by local governments.

9. Religious education institutes and sites for religious activities that meet the requirements of legal person registration should actively apply for it, so as to better enjoy national preferential policies and accept public services from the government. It is suggested that religious personnel register with corresponding religious bodies according to the regulations so as to participate in social security system and enjoy relevant rights according to law.

10. The religious circles should strengthen supervision over the provision of public services by the government and claim their own rights according to law. Governments at all levels should accept the supervision of the religious circles, listen to opinions and improve public services.

11. The international community should comprehensively understand China's Church-State relations. Do not distort the state's normal public services for religious circles to the control and utilization of religion. Such views and opinions will simply isolate the religious circles from the whole society and cause paradox and opposing which are not beneficial to the development of religion and social harmony.