



Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation welcomes the discussion, under the agenda item entitled “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels”, of the sub-items of "sharing national practices of States in the implementation of multilateral treaties" and

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of sub-item "sharing national practices of States in the implementation of multilateral treaties" is of great significance. In last year's discussion on the sub-item of "the role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law", China already stated its general position on the multilateral treaty processes. As of now, China has been a state party to nearly 500 multilateral treaties and has consistently abided by the fundamental principle of "*pacta sunt servanda*" by fully and faithfully implementing and complying with its treaty obligations. All multilateral treaties binding upon China have been effectively implemented at the legislative, executive and judicial branches. In practice, China implements multilateral treaties mainly through the following three approaches:

First, prior to being a party to a multilateral treaty, china would formulate and amend its relevant laws and regulations to create conditions for the implementation of the treaty. For example, before China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, it amended and cleared away the laws and regulations that were not in keeping with WTO rules, followed with the enactment of new laws in order to be better able to implement the relevant WTO agreements after China's admission.

Second, some multilateral treaties may be directly applied in China after entry into force for China. Such practices are generally concentrated in the civil and commercial areas. For instance, General Principles of the Civil Law of the People

Third, domestic laws are amended or improved to meet the requirements contained in multilateral treaties. For instance, since China's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women(CEDAW) in 1980, China has over the years formulated laws to protect the fundamental rights of women, such as the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests and Anti-domestic Violence Law. In addition, China has amended its Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Marriage Law and Law on the Contracting of Rural Land, thus incorporating the relevant provisions of CEDAW in its domestic legal regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese government believes that to effectively leverage the role of multilateral treaties in promoting and advancing the rule of law at the international level, it is imperative to pay attention to not only the negotiation and conclusion of multilateral treaties, but also their implementation. More importantly, countries should implement them in a spirit of good faith and avoid misinterpretation and abuse in violation of the basic principles of international law and in departure from the original legislative intention of the treaties. Such practice can achieve nothing but to undermine the seriousness and authority of treaties, and ultimately harm the rule of law at the international level.

Mr. Chairman,

The second sub-item under this agenda item is "practical measures to facilitate access to justice for all, including for the poorest and most vulnerable". Protecting the right of citizens to resort to the law and ensuring their equal access to legal protection regardless of their economic conditions



directly under the jurisdiction of the central government) had established province-level specialized funds for legal aid, 3,500 legal aid windows have been opened throughout the country to provide services to the public, and more than 70,000 legal aid stations have been built.

Fourth, we have enhanced protection of special groups to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the vulnerable. Over a dozen laws, including the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly, Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, Law on the Protection of Minors and Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, set out clear provisions on protecting the litigation rights of the vulnerable groups. China's courts at all levels have reduced or exempted the litigation fees for persons with disabilities who meet the requirements and have worked hard at building accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities to facilitate their litigation. China has built up an initial form of a legal aid network for women which comprises of multiple legal aid stations dedicated to helping women, and launched the China Legal Aid Action Project for Women. As for cases involving minors as offenders and/or victims, the legal aid agencies or courts also provide legal or judicial assistance to them according to law.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law is a common pursuit of mankind. Domestically, the Chinese gov

