

The People's Republic of China

Positions for the Commission on the Status of Women

I. Ensuring Access to Environmentally Sustainable Technology for Women in Rural and Low-Income Areas

The People's Republic of China affirms the global need for women in rural and low-income areas to have access to environmentally sustainable technology. However, the issue at hand is twofold. It is essential that this commission promotes women's guaranteed access to technology that will significantly raise the standard of living in underprivileged areas, and this commission must simultaneously guarantee that this technology is environmentally sustainable. Women already face virtually insurmountable social and legal barriers to prosperity, and the environment continues to suffer under the global supremacy of unsustainable technology. Therefore, achieving the dual objectives of this commission is an imperative goal that will improve the lives of half the global population and work to preserve the natural world entirely.

Internationally, China has supported the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in A/RES/70/1 and has actively worked to achieve each one by 2030. **Domestically**, China has taken advantage of our efficient form of government and has effectively disseminated technology to rural areas in order to increase access to health care for our most vulnerable citizens. As noted by the South China Morning Post, China has implemented "mobile all-in-one diagnostic stations" that eliminate a citizen's need to travel long distances to see a medical professional.¹ This effort conveys how the Chinese government is well-equipped to provide access to technology to women and all citizens in rural and low-income areas. In terms of promoting gender equality, the ideological cornerstone of the formation of the Chinese Communist Party is comprehensive equality, which fundamentally includes women's rights in tandem with worker's rights.²

China echoes the demands of clause 35 in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which seeks to ensure women's equitable access to technology.³ China also reaffirms the goals laid out in A/RES/70/219 that promote women's integration into development through access to technology and technical training. China aims to build upon these vital precedents and further promote gender equity and environmental sustainability through the **Alternative Fuel Sources for Women** plan, or **AFSW**. The crux of this plan is the proliferation of flexi-biogas in primarily rural areas, an idea which the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) first championed in their Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture Module.⁴ The People's Republic of China looks forward to elaborating more on our AFSW plan to provide access to vital fuel alternatives like flexi-biogas to women who need them most around the world.

II. Establishing Measures of Transitional Justice for Women

¹ Dai, Sarah. "How Technology Is Helping to Improve Health Care in Rural China." South China Morning Post. April 20, 2018. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.scmp.com/tech/article/2135880/look-how-china-using-technology-improve-rural-access-quality-health-care>.

² Gilmartin, Christina. "Gender in the Formation of a Communist Body Politic." *Modern China* 19, no. 3 (1993): 299-329. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/189347>.

³ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women. October 17, 1995. Article 25. <http://www.un.org/esa/gopher-data/conf/fwcw/off/a--20.en> (accessed February 25, 2019)

⁴ "Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture." Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

The People's Republic of China commemorates the efforts of all Member States to promote effective measures of transitional justice for women, however, our delegation recognizes the need to improve and strengthen the measures already in place. Women are often not included in peace processes and are unable to contribute to reconstruction efforts in conflict regions. As a result, women lack the vital tools to attain equitable justice for themselves, including access to a fair trial, basic human rights, and accountability of government. Solving these issues is imperative towards the success and rights of women globally.

Internationally, the People's Republic of China is active in various global agreements to promote and protect the rights of women. China ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and continues to uphold the agreements of the platform. **Regionally**, China is actively engaged with the Asia-Pacific bloc, such as through the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to address closing the gender gaps and promote transformative change. **Nationally**, China is very active in formulating legislation to assist women's rights. This is seen through China's National People's Congress adopting the Anti-Domestic Violence Law in December 2015 to define, combat, and prosecute domestic violence acts. Special courts for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children have gained prevalence since being enacted in 2009 as well as training on social gender theory to combat domestic violence in cooperation with the Women's Federation are actively seen.

Recognizing the need for effective methods to establish transitional justice for women, the People's Republic of China would like to focus on three critical areas via **A.C.A.** Awareness raising is necessary at both the local and national levels. This includes educating and encouraging leaders through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Smile Foundation to promote disarmament, economic benefits that include women into various aspects of society, and the necessity to allow women to participate in decision-making efforts. Community mobilization will work to involve women into decision-making, peace talks, and opportunities to access basic human rights services, like justice for victims and a proper trial to acquit those accused of crimes. Rebuilding economic and political infrastructure will result in the establishment of adequate human rights and an increase in women becoming self-sufficient. Emphasis must also be considered for rural communities, which can be achieved through mobile clinics like the Ranbaxy Community Health Care Society and mobile courts, so all aspects of society can achieve proper rights. Finally, **Accountability** is needed. Utilizing various NGOs like the International Center for Transitional Justice's (ICTJ) Tribunals can allow for successful transitional justice that promotes a call to action, community transition from war to peacetime, and accountability at all levels of government, including international cooperation. Utilizing the key features presented in the **A.C.A.** plan can ultimately work to encourage governmental accountability to the issue, promote the needs and rights of women, and provide a platform that works to place more women into decision-making roles in all aspects of society and in conflict zones.