Country Report

on China’s Implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals
and the Program of Action for A World Fit for Children set forth at the UN Special Session on Children

2001-2005
Introduction

The United Nations Millennium Summit and the UN Special Session on Children, which were convened respectively in 2000 and 2002, set the global goals for social and child development. Having earnestly implemented the National Program of Action for Child Development in China in the 1990s, the Chinese Government in May 2001 promulgated and then started to implement the National Program of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010) (hereinafter as the Program of Action). The Program of Action serves both as China’s national plan in promoting child development in China and as a follow-up in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals set forth at the UN Special Session on Children. During the last five years, the Chinese government allied itself with other countries in comply with the mandates and spirits of the UN Millennium Summit and the UN Special Session on Children, upholding the principle of “children first” and unremittingly dedicating to child development, honoring its global commitments, and promoting the survival, development, protection and participation of children in China.

In 2006, China started to monitor and assess the implementation of the child development goals all across China in an attempt to evaluate the progress in achieving the MDGs and the Program of Action. The monitoring database has been supplemented, improved and analyzed at national, provincial and county level. Relevant government departments at all levels have conducted self-assessment on the goals which they undertake. Thirty one provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government in mainland China have carried out provincial-level assessment. Fifteen monitoring and assessment teams composed of the relevant departments of the national government conducted national-level assessment in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government in mainland China. Child representatives from Beijing, Henan Province, Anhui Province and Hebei Province were engaged in the assessment by attending some workshops, in an attempt to improve children’s ability to participate in the implementation of the Program of Action, and to ensure that the monitoring and assessing system can comprehensively and accurately reflect child’s perspectives. Meanwhile, assessment and analysis have been conducted on the two themes, namely the Research on the Relationship between National Laws, Regulations and Policies and the Child Development Goals, and the Analysis on the Media Materials on Child Protection Issues such as Crimes, Trafficking and Violence. Based on all these efforts is the Country Report on China’s Implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Program of Action for A World Fit for Children set forth at the UN Special Session on Children (2001-2005), which is presented herewith.

I. National-level action to honor the commitment to global child development goals

China has taken the following actions to honor its commitments to the global child development goals:

1. Integrate child development into the overall National Economic and Social Development Program, aiming to promote child development in parallel with the economic and social development

Guided by the important principles such as scientific development concepts to pursue people-oriented, comprehensive, balanced and
sustainable development, and building up of a socialist harmonious society, the government pays greater attention to the balance between social and economic development in formulating the Eleventh Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development. The Plan incorporates women and child development and highlights the areas closely related to women and child development such as education, public health, culture and population quality. A particular new chapter entitled Protection of the Legitimate Rights and Interests of Woman and Children has been added in the Plan. Women and child development goals are to be considered in formulating each sectoral development program, to ensure the convergence of the objectives. All provinces (regions and municipalities) incorporate the goals and content of women and child development into their local Eleventh Five-Year Plan respectively. Some of the provinces (regions and municipalities) even include the women and child development goals into their sectoral programs, setting the key women and child development objectives in the plans of the relevant government sectors. All the relevant departments make efforts to consider women and child development objectives and solve the practical difficulties along the chain of procedures of plan making, financing, projects screening and approving and police analysis and so on.

2. Formulate and improve policies, laws and regulations, aiming to protect the legitimate rights and interests of children
China has formulated a series of laws, regulations and policies on the survival, protection and development of women and children and established a sound legal system to protect the rights and interest of the children, including the Constitution, the Criminal Law, General Principles of the Civil Law, Marriage Law, Education Law, Compulsory Education Law, Protection Act for the Disabled, Law on the Protection of Minors, Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, Maternal and Infant Healthcare Law, Law on Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, Adoption Law and Population and Family Planning Law.

China has since 2001 revised the Constitution, The Law on Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Disease, The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, the Compulsory Education Law and The Law on the Protection of Minors; and China is in the process of revising the Protection Act for the Disabled.

Since 2001 China has put into effect a series of regulations and policy papers relating to women and children, including:

- Decisions of the State Council on Reform and Development of Basic Education
- Measures for Assisting Vagrants and Beggars with no means of Support in Cities
- Provisions on Legal Aid
- Interim Measures for the Management of Fostering Care by Families
- Basic Regulations on the Social Welfare Institutions of Children
- Regulations on Marriage Registration
- Regulations on the Management of the Internet Access Service Business Establishments
- Proposals of the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council on Further Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Moral Education of Minors
- Decision on Further Strengthening Rural Education
- Provisions for Further Compulsory Education
for Migrant Children
• Proposals on the Reform and Development of Early Childhood Education
• Proposals of the General Office of the State Council on Strengthening Safety Management in Kindergartens, Primary and Middle Schools
• Proposals on Further Increasing Support to/and Aid for the Poor Disabled
• Proposals on Further Developing Border Areas and Bringing Prosperity to People
• National Compulsory Standards for Child Toys
• National Technical Code for Toy Safety
• Provisions on Further Strengthening the Management of the Minor Vagrants
• Circular on Carrying out the Project of “For China’s Bright Future: Action to care for the Children of Prisoners
• Instructions on Increasing Assistance to the AIDS Patients, their Family Members and AIDS Orphans Who are in Difficulties
• Instructions on Further Improving the Education and Assistance of Juveniles with Special Difficulties in Rural and Urban Areas
• Regulations on Administration of Publication of Audio-visual Products
• Provisions on Carrying out the Work in Prevention of Juvenile Delinquencies
• Assessment Standards for Safety and Sanitation of Rural Drinking Water
• Provisions on Increasing Assistance to Orphans
• Circular on Further Strengthening and Improving the Planning and Construction of Facilities for Juvenile Activities
• Decisions on Further Improving Public Health in Rural Areas
• Regulations on Prohibition of Gender Identification of Fetus and Gender-selective Abortion Surgeries
• Provisions on Comprehensive approach toward the Issue of Imbalanced Gender Ratio at Birth
• Circular of the State Council on Deepening the Reform of the Financing Mechanism for Rural Compulsory Education

At present, China is formulating a series of laws and regulation papers such as the National Program of Action for Anti-trafficking, Regulations on Improving Nutritional Conditions, and Regulations on Supervision of the Safety of Large Entertainment Facilities.

In 2002, China has signed and approved the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children,
3. Further strengthen government's role in administrating child issues, improve and implement the cross-sectoral mechanisms for child development

The National Working Committee for Children and Women under the State Council (NWCCW, an government agency responsible for issues relating to women and children, composed of relevant government departments and NGOs) has been enlarged from 29 to 33 members, with the Propagation Department of the CPC Central Committee, Ministry of Construction, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce as new members. The provincial, municipal and county-level WCCW and their coordinating offices have further strengthened the mechanism through the increased personnel and financial resources. Under the coordination and facilitation by WCCW at all levels a cross-sectoral mechanism for child development has been established, which is led by the governments, participated by the relevant departments and supported by from all walks of society. The central government and governments at all levels regard child development as an important responsibility in public affairs administration. The child development is also incorporated as part of the national economic and social development program, part of governments working program, part of the performance assessment for departments at all levels and part of the fiscal budgeting. The sectoral departments are mandated to take responsibilities for the relevant child development goals. All the relevant departments need to report annually
on the implementation of the women and child development goals to the WCCW of the same level.

4. Formulating local and sectoral programs, aiming to achieving national child development goals

In addition to the National Program of Action, all the provinces (regions and municipalities) and prefectures (cities and districts) and counties in mainland China have formulated the local child development programs which define goals and measures for local child development. The relevant government departments have formulated a series of sectoral programs, including China’s Plan of Action for the Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS, the Program for Rural Primary Health Care Development in China (2001-2010), Program of Action for China to Improve the Quality of Population at Birth and Decrease Birth Defects and Disabilities, Program for Food and Nutrition Development in China, Program on Providing Nine-Year Compulsory Education and Eliminating Illiteracy among Youth and Adults in the Western Region, Action Plan for Revitalizing Education for the period of 2003 to 2007, Program for Reform on Basic Education Courses, Program for Guiding Mental Health Education of Primary and Secondary School Students, Outline of Guidance for Pre-school Education, Program for the Tenth Five-Year Plan on National Family Education, Program of Action for the Health of 900 Million Farmers Nationwide, Program on Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis Nationwide, Action Plan for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness from 2003 to 2005, Program for Improving Nutrition of Babies at the age of 0 to 5 from 2005 to 2007, Action Plan on Maintaining Polio-free Status Nationwide for the Period of 2003 to 2010, and Program on Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis B Nationwide for the period of 2006 to 2010. At the same time, some counties in the poor western region have developed cross-sectoral action plans for child development.

5. Take special actions, aiming to tackle priority and difficult issues

(1) Reduction of maternal and child mortality

The goals of reducing maternal and child mortality

mortality rate and eliminating neo-natal tetanus were not met in the first National Program of Action for Child Development in China in the 1990s. Therefore, China has since 2000 implemented the project entitled Reducing Maternal and Child Morality Rate and Eliminate Neo-natal Tetanus (referred to as Reduction and Elimination) in the western poor region. By 2005, 1.5 billion yuan has been spent from the central and provincial budgeting and the project has been expanded to cover 22 provinces (regions and municipalities) and 1,000 counties, benefiting 400 million people. By measures such as cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration, upgrading of equipment and capacity building of staff of health institutions at both county and village levels, establishment and consolidation of county level maternal emergency centers, and the advocacy of hospitalized delivery through “fast referral system” connecting county, townships and villages, the maternal and child mortality in the middle and western regions decreased by 24.6% than in 2001.

(2) Improve children’s nutritional status
In 2002, China promulgated and implemented The Outline for Food and Nutrition Development in China (2001-2010), which clearly indicates the priority being given to children’s nutrition and the need to set up the mechanism to ensure maternal and child nutrition. The relevant government agencies organize and implement child’s nutrition improvement plan of actions and conduct periodical assessment on child’s nutrition status, organize nutrition counseling and training courses on health education, advocate for breast-feeding and fortified food
staff, such as soy sauce with iron, vegetable oil with vitamin A and fortified flour etc., as so to bring down the incidence of iron deficient anemia and micronutrients deficiency among people, especially women and children. Based on the goal of eliminating iodine deficiency disorders which had been basically achieved in 2000, the State Council again raised the Proposal on Further Strengthen the Work of Eliminating Iodine Deficiency Disorders in 2001. Since 1995, China conducted the epidemic assessment on iodine deficiency disorders once every 2 to 3 years and each year China launches a nationwide campaign to publicize the merits of iodinized salt to consolidate the achievements.

(3) Ensure that the children are able to receive the compulsory education in rural areas, particularly in the poverty-stricken areas

Ensuring children’s access to the universal nine-year compulsory education in rural areas particularly in the poverty-stricken areas ranks as a top priority for education policy makers. In 2003, the State Council called the National Conference on Rural Education and promulgated the Decisions on Further Strengthening Rural Education. In 2004, the government held the Working Conference for the Strengthened Implementation of the “Two Basics” Programs in the Western Region, where the National Action Plan of ‘Two Basics’ Program in Western China was being launched, which clearly spelled out that by 2007 the popularization of the nine-year compulsory education in Western China should cover over 85% of the population there, and the illiteracy rate among young and adolescents will be reduced to below 5%. In 2005, the central government held the National Conference on the Reform of Financing System for Rural Education”, and A Circular of the State Council on Deepening the Reform of Financing System for Rural Compulsory Education was issued, aiming to set up the framework of new financing
system for rural compulsory education. Down from 2001 China has implemented some programmes and projects, including the second round of the Project of Compulsory Education in Poor Areas in China, the Project of the Consolidation of the Dilapidated Houses in Rural Primary and Secondary Schools, the Project of Boarding School Construction in Western Rural Areas, and the Project of Modern Distance Education in Rural Primary and Secondary Schools, consequently having alleviated to a larger extent the difficulties faced by most rural students in getting access to school and largely narrowed the education gap amongst different regions. Different levels of governments have earmarked funding for the policy of “two exemptions and one subsidy” (which refers to exempting miscellaneous and textbook fees and subsidizing the boarding students) for students from poor families. This policy has benefited a total of 340 million students in the central and western rural areas. The central government has made the decision that starting from 2006, all the miscellaneous fees will be exempted for the students in the compulsory education in the western rural areas, and this policy will apply to students in this category in the central and eastern areas in 2007. The Project Hope, which aims to help children out of schools has so far established 12,000 Project Primary Schools and supported more than 2.8 million dropouts.

(4) Strengthen services and protection of the children who are orphaned, disabled and homeless

The government further improved laws, regulations and policies for the survival, protection and development of orphaned and disabled children, formulated and implemented The Basic Regulations of the Child Social Welfare Institutions, The Interim Regulation...
for Managing Family Adoption and Fostering, the Suggestions on the Increased Assistance to Orphans and the Suggestions on the Strengthened Management of the Street Children. All these specifically regulates the norms of service of the welfare institutions, the requirement of family adoption, the rights of the fostered children, the life, medical treatment, housing and employment of the orphans. The governments has further strengthened the building up of child welfare institutions and protection institutions for the street children with the aim of improving the educational and rehabilitation conditions for those orphaned and disabled. The government has also been exploring more family-like models to care for the orphaned and disabled children, renovating mechanisms for the assistance and protection of the street children by piloting some models which can be featured as multi-channeled, multi-modality and multi-functional, such as the setting up of “quasi families”, around-the-clock help desks, help in the street, vocational training, family fostering, and primary schools for those being help etc. The governments have set up the nationwide management information system for wanderers and established electronic archives for over 20,000 street children. In 2004, China launched the Program of Tomorrow for the Surgical Rehabilitation of Disabled Orphans which conducted 20,000 surgeries for the disabled orphans. China launched The Project of Helping Blind Children in the Central and Western Areas back to School, with a total input of 120 million yuan, which benefited 50,000 poor disabled students in central and western areas in China.

(5) Promote the right protection of the migrant children

With the increasingly rapid development of the market economy, industrialization and urbanization in China, a great number of farmers have rushed into cities to seek job opportunities. According to the Fifth National Census in 2000 the migrant population below the age of 18 reached 19.82 million, accounting for 19.37% of the total migrant population. Because the migrant people don’t live in the place where they register the residence, the policies on children protection and social security, which are largely formulated and implemented on the local basis, do not apply to the protection of the migrant people, including migrant children. In recognition of this, the relevant departments have formulated and
promulgated a series of policies. Examples are The Interim Measures for Migrant Children to be Enrolled into School which was issued in 1998, the abolition of 7 fee charged items including the temporary residence cards for migrant workers in 2001. In 2003, The Suggestions on Further Improve the Compulsory Education Work for Migrant Children were promulgated, which set the principle that the local governments and the full-time public schools in the destination cities shall take the major responsibility in providing education service for the migrant children. A Circular on Integrating Fees for Management of Migrant Workers into the Regular Budgeting of the Local Governments was issued, requesting that primary and secondary schools all across the country adopt the “single track charging” approach, which implies that the migrant children only pay the same fees as the local students for compulsory education. The National Program of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010) issued by the State Council makes clear proposals on issues of education and health care for migrant women and children. Some localities have formulated and implemented cross-sectoral action plans and the cross-sectoral working mechanism, carried out comprehensive publicity and training activities, set up and improved the administration of migrant population, expand the functions of migrant population management and services in the communities, in order to develop new models for the right protecting of the migrant population.

(6) Prevent children from abuse, exploitation and violence

The Chinese government has given highest priority to the issue of children violence. The Law on the Protection of Minors, is just revised by the National People’s Congress, to include such items as prohibition of all kinds of violence toward children, prevention of children from violence, punishment against violent crimes on children, prohibition of child trafficking and employment of child labor, ensuring the security in and round campus and so on. In 2004, on request by the United Nations, China submitted feedbacks on issues relating to the violent crimes on children. In 2005, a sampling survey on violent crimes on children was being conducted and a national symposium was being held on actions against violence to children. The mass media timely spot and disclose criminal cases of child’s right violation in some places, while the relevant authorities including the

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Public security bureaus, the procuratorate and the courts heighten their efforts in detecting and ruling on the criminal cases. Some agencies are offering legal assistance to the children being violated, providing them with shelter and care to help them settle down properly.

The Chinese Government has intensified efforts to combat children and women trafficking. Firstly, the Criminal Law was amended in 1997 to include such crime items as children and women trafficking and purchasing of the trafficked children and women, and increased the administrative responsibility, raising the punishment standards on these crimes. Secondly, specific works in prevention and combating of trafficking have been strengthened by the governments. A trafficking-combating mechanism has been formulated, which is led by governments with cooperation by NGOs and support from international organizations. The governments set up the transfer, training and rehabilitation centre for the rescued women and children to help to locate and identify parents, provide services and support for the rescued children. Thirdly, advocacy has been strengthened among adolescents, migrant population and parents to enhance the awareness and capacity for the prevention and crackdown on trafficking, aiming to calling on the whole society to join the anti-trafficking efforts. As for the prohibition of employing child labor, the Labor and Social Security authorities, aided by other relevant departments, have established the coordination and supervision mechanism to prohibit the employment of child labor, setting up the system of legal supervisors on labor safety, who conduct regular on the employment status of enterprises.

(7) Protection of girls
Four key measures have been taken which

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aim to protect girls. First, strengthening the law enforcement to stop the illegal gender identification of babies and selective abortion. Second, launching the Program of Care for Girls to advocate the concept of gender equality and fewer but better births and bearing, aiming to nurture a favourable environment for girls, raise the economic and social status of the family raising girls and reduce and eliminate discrimination against girls. Third, promoting girls’ access to school to reduce dropouts, and providing training on basic knowledge, vocational skills for the elder girls who had stayed out of school. Fourth, enhancing the awareness of girl’s issue among the decision makers, officials, parents, children and the general public to protect the legitimate rights and interest of girls. By the end of 2005, the Spring Bud Program, which aims at helping poor girls back to schools, has supported 1.6 million poor girls.

(8) Promoting family education

The relevant agencies have formulated and implemented the Action Plan for Family Education in China, by which the major tasks and specific goals in family education are defined. People are providing guidance and services to parents via the parent schools. At present, there are more than 320,000 parent schools of different kinds and levels in China and a nationwide, five-
level network of family education has been set up.

(9) Preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS and increasing assistance to AIDS orphans

China has established the HIV/AIDS prevention and control mechanism which is led by governments, supported by different departments and participated by the whole society. The central government established the National Working Committee for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, and has taken many measures in this regard. The special fund for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment has risen to approximately 800 million yuan per year and the local budgeting is also increasing. In 2006, China promulgated the Regulation on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment. China’s Mid and Long-term Programme of Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (1998-2010)” and China’s Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention (2006-2010) spell out national goals in HIV/AIDS prevention and control, put forward strategies such as “putting prevention first, taking integrated approaches in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment”. China formulated a series of policies including the Outline for Advocacies on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, Guidance on National Education Programme on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (2004-2008), Suggestions on the Promotion of Condom usage for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Measures on Anti-virus Treatment of HIV/AIDS and Voluntary Counseling and Testing, and Circular to Increase Assistance to AIDS Patients, their Families and Orphans living in Difficult Situation. Since 2003, the policy of “four free of charge items and one support” has been implemented, namely provision of free of charge anti-virus drugs to HIV/AIDS patients, free of charge anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, free services to block mother-to-child
transmission, free tuition charge for AIDS orphans to get enrolled in the schools, and support for the poor people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. China has established online direct reporting system, increased the number of supervising spots and improved the monitoring system including laboratory screening and voluntary counseling, focusing on high risk population. A mother-to-child transmission blocking expert team is formed and a mother-to-child transmission blocking project was launched to provide HIV testing and counseling service to prenatal pregnancies in areas with high HIV/AIDS prevalence. The pilot project to block mother-to-child transmission is expanded to cover 28 provinces and 271 counties (districts). Various education and advocacy activities have been carried out to combat social discrimination. Condom usage has been advocated extensively and 320 methadone outpatients clinics have been set up. AIDS patients are under proper treatment. By November 2006, anti-virus treatment has covered 862 counties (districts) in 31 provinces (autonomous regions or municipalities), and a total of 20,453 patients have been treated. As a result the mortality rate by HIV/AIDS in high prevalence areas is largely reduced. Many of the prevention and control polices and measures such as the care for AIDS orphans and exemption of their tuitions have been implemented on a step by step basis. Governments at different levels have taken various measures to help AIDS orphans, such as adoption by welfare institutions, family fostering and grant for schooling. Centers for assisting in provinces of high HIV/AIDS prevalence are set up to provide basic services to AIDS orphans. Non governmental organizations are increasing their participation into HIV/AIDS prevention and control and playing active roles.

II. Promote resource input and financing for child development goals

Over the past five years, China’s economy has been experiencing rapid and steady development. GDP stands at 18308.5 billion yuan in 2005, 57.3% higher than in 2000, with an average yearly growth rate of 9.5%. GDP per capita has risen to 14040 yuan in 2005 from 7858 yuan in 2000. National fiscal revenue amounts to 3164.9 billion yuan, 1.36 times than
in 2000, with an average yearly growth of 58.3%.

The disposable income by city residents is 10,493 yuan, 58.3% higher than in 2000, with an average yearly growth of 9.6%;.

The net income by rural families is 3255 yuan, 29.2% higher than in 2000, with an average yearly growth of 5.3%. With the development of the economy, the Government has increased the funding and resources allocated to the development of women and children, to promote the woman and child development in harmony with the economic and social development.

Based on the Tenth Five-Year Programme, the Chinese government formulated the Eleventh Five-Year Programme and specified other works such as sectoral programmes, investment plans, price management and policy formulation. China strengthened the infrastructure for social development, improved the public services directly relating to the interests of women and children. In central and western areas of China, the governments implemented such schemes as Work for Relief and Residential Relocation for Poverty Alleviation, aiming to improve the living and productive condition of the local people, and to build up their capacity for economic development.

The fiscal financing for education at national level rose from 256.26 billion yuan in 2000 to 446.59 billion yuan in 2004. Starting from 2004, the Chinese government has been allocating funds on popularization of nine-year compulsory education and elimination of illiteracy among youth and adults in the western areas. During 2001-2005, the Government allocated 9 billion yuan to eliminate the dilapidated buildings in central and western rural areas, and 10 billion yuan on the construction of boarding schools in the western areas. The Government also
allocated 7.2 billion yuan on establishing and improving the mechanism which aims to ensure that poor rural children can receive year compulsory education. The governments are implementing the policy of “two exemptions and one Subsidy” (which refers to exempting miscellaneous and textbook fees and subsidizing the boarding students) for students from poor families. The government also spent 10 billion yuan on the distance education for rural primary and secondary schools. Led by the Central Government, local governments also increase financing to support the rural compulsory education. In 2003, the central government decided to further strengthen rural education development, convened The First National Conference on Rural Education, made the decision that the incremental educational financing will be allocated for the rural areas, so as to converge resources on important projects for rural compulsory education. In 2005, the central government issued The Circular on Deepening the Reform of Financing System for Rural Compulsory Education. By 2010 rural compulsory education will be completely integrated in the public financing system.

The government increased financing on health. The budget on health has risen from 48.971 billion yuan in 2000 to 102.699 billion yuan in 2005. The governments are actively pushing forward the build up of the rural public health service system, putting special emphasis on township hospitals, county hospitals, country traditional Chinese medicine hospitals and MCH clinics, improving rural public health status, to contribute to the goal of primary health service for all the women and children. From 2003 to 2005, the central government allocated 9.2 billion yuan on strengthening of the public health system, and 1.23 billion yuan as subsidies. From 2001 to 2005, the government allocated 880 million yuan on vaccination for children.

From 2001 to 2005, the central government largely increased funding on rural drinking
water. During these five years, with 11.7 billion yuan allocated by the central government and 10.6 billion yuan collected by local governments, the drinking water problem facing 67 million rural people was solved. The central government allocated 100 million yuan to help the disabled children in the welfare institutes back to their families and society. The Ministry of Civil Affairs collected 600 million yuan since 2004 for the Program of Tomorrow for the Surgical Rehabilitation of Disabled Orphans which aims to perform operation on more than 30,000 orphans in welfare institution. So far over 20,000 surgeries have been performed for the disabled orphans. A total of 65 million yuan of national level welfare lottery fund and 100 million yuan matching fund by local government was spent on the construction of over 130 rescuing and protection centers for street children. From 2002 to 2005, the central government transfered 524 million yuan to local governments to support the development of culture, sports and public media. Up to 2005, the central government allocated 160 million yuan on the construction of 2133 sporting facilities for the youth. The central government spent 800 million yuan on the Programme of Every Village Can Access Broadcasting and TV, and on the Programme of 2131 Project on movies. All These enriched the cultural life of children and juveniles in remote areas.

From 2001 to 2005, the Ministry of Commerce collected 237.08 million dollars through multilateral and bilateral channels on the cooperative programs in primary health, basic education, girl’s education, child protection, and formulation of action plans for children etc.

III. The monitoring and assessment of the child development goals

1. Supervision and assessment system established

Both central and local governments have established effective monitoring and assessment system. Leading groups, statistical groups and expert groups are set up. The statistic authority has improved working mechanism for cross sector cooperation. Every year regular monitoring and assessment
meetings are held regularly to assign tasks, and to discuss and solve problems. The government also sets up the reporting system to monitor and assess statistics on children, and make adjustments on a yearly basis.

2. The monitoring indicator system established and training courses organized

Based on the MDGs and the objectives of UN Special Session on Children, The statistics authority organized experts and relevant departments to formulate the monitoring indicators system for The National Program of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010). The statistics authority compiled training materials for statistical monitoring, and organized training courses on knowledge of statistical monitoring, statistics analysis and writing, data-base techniques and so on. Over 500 people have trained during past five years.

3. The monitoring data collected and statistical analysis conducted

Each year, the central and provincial statistics authorities collect monitoring data from relevant departments, conduct statistical analysis, and report feedback data regularly to relevant departments, so as to provide statistical services.

4. The data-base on women and children development established

The central government and governments of 30 provinces
regions, municipalities) have set up data-bases on women and children development. A Manual on Data-base Utilization has been compiled. From 2006, monitoring staffs from over 300 districts (cities, prefectures) have been trained to help them set up their own data-base on women and children development.

5. Sectoral surveys conducted to amend the data base

In 2001, the National Bureau of Statistics and All China Women’s Federation conducted an survey on women’s status and amend the statistics on women’s development. The China Disabled People’s Federation organized the first sampling survey on the status of disabled children of 0-6 years old. This survey helps to obtain important information such as the morbidity of child deformity, the degree and composition of the deformity, geographic distribution, status and needs for rehabilitation. These reliable statistics help governments and relevant authorities in formulating policies, development of prevention and early intervention, improvement of the rehabilitation, pre-class education and right-protection of the disabled children particularly in rural and remote areas. In 2002, the NWCCW and China Children’s Center conducted a Survey on the Status of Homeless Children in Nine Cities in China and obtained the information on health, and sanitation education, right protection of the homeless children. The Ministry of Health launched a survey on the nutrition and health status among the Chinese, and conducted statistics and analysis on women and children’s nutritional status. In 2005,
the Ministry of Health conducted a nationwide sampling survey on the morbidity of moderate and severe iron deficiency anemia among pregnant women, the incidence of moderate and severe malnutrition, underweight births among children under 5 years old, the popularity of parents’ knowledge on raising children in a scientific manner, and the rate of breast-feeding. The National Statistics Bureau conducted a survey on the quality education in primary and middle schools and on time-use and time-allotment. In addition, the population census, labor survey, economic census, monitoring on poor population, MCH monitoring and death and mortality monitoring etc. also provide much statistics for child development, contributing to the analysis of children’s developmental status and policy formulation.

6. Gender statistics promoted

To solve the issue of gender statistics, the National Bureau of Statistic coordinated the relevant agencies to conduct research on the gender statistics system in China, formulated the important the gender segregated indicator system on the key goals of women and children development in China, and revised Reporting System for Women and Children Statistics by regions, and formulated The Integrated Reporting System by Women and Children Department, which integrated gender segregated statistics into the national statistical system.

IV. Participation by children and juveniles and its impact

The participation by children represents a brand new perspective by the society toward children. Children’s participation in China is developing, expanding and deepening constantly. In schools, teachers begin to pay attention to children’s ideas and opinions, and...
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engage them in the class affairs and school management. People can see and listen to child representatives in various meetings and forums relating to children. Various organizations develop activities which encourage children’s participation. For example, the Juvenile Military School Project teaches children to be tough and strong. The Experiencing Education Project helps children raise their ability to participate in the society through family life, school life, social life and the nature. The Hand-In-Hand Help Each Other Project helps nurture children’s love and responsibility for the society. The advocacy of knowledge on safety raises children’s self-protection awareness and capability. Projects such as Surfing in Healthy Manner, and Stay
Away From Piracy, Saying No to Harmful Publications, and Protecting Intelligent Property Right raise children’s awareness of unhealthy contents, IPR piracy and harmful publication. Green School Project helps disseminate environment knowledge and highlight environment protection, strengthening children’s environment protection awareness and ability. In addition, children are encouraged to participate in activities such as ideology and ethics, ban on drugs, AIDS control, iodine deficiency, advocacy of legal knowledge, environment protection, and right protection for homeless children. Children are encouraged to improve themselves and extend the advocacy to families and the whole society. In the mid term review of the Program of Action, children are invited participate as the beneficiaries. Children can review the work for children from their own perspective, analyze problems in their own manner, express their willingness and request in their own language, their own way, and formality, and display their participatory capacity, contributing to their own development. Children’s participation in the review enable us to better understand children’s status in terms of existence, development, protection and participation from the perspective of children, and to know the fields and objectives in Child Development to which children give priority.

V. Progress in achieving the child development goals

The National Program of Action for Child Development in China (2001-2010) integrates Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals in the UN Special Session on Children, categorizing child development into the following four segments: child and health, child and education, child and law, and child and environment, with 18 primary objectives and 53
supporting objectives. By the end of 2005, in 30 out of 50 quantitative objectives we have reached the 2010 targets on or ahead of schedule. In 2 objectives we can expect to reach the targets, in 12 objectives we are facing difficulties, and in 6 objectives we are short of relevant statistics.

In the past five years, China, by implementing the Program of Action, has made much progress in achieving MDGs and the goals of the UN Special Session on Children, with the joint efforts by the national and local governments and the relevant departments.

1. Constant improvement of child’s health and nutrition

Infant mortality rate and under 5 mortality rate is down from 32.2‰ and 39.7‰ in 2000 to 19.0‰ and 22.5‰ in 2005 respectively, having achieved the goals which are to be met by 2010 in the Program of Action, i.e. one fifth down to 25.76‰ and 31.76‰ respectively by 2010 compared to 2001, and surpassed the goals of UN Special Session on Children, which is one third down to 21.5‰ and 26.5‰ by 2010 than in 2001. The maternal mortality rate is down from 53.4/100,000 in 2001 to 47.7/100,000 in 2005, down 24.6% in western areas than in 2001, still away from the objectives of the Programme of Action (39.75/100,000) and of the MDG (22.2/100,000 by 2015), and of the UN Special Session on Children (35.3/100,000). The morbidity of moderate and severe malnutrition under 5 and morbidity of the underweight newborn are down from 11.2% and 2.4% in 2000 to 6.9% and 2.2% in 2005 respectively. The breast feeding rage for 0-4 month infants surpassed the goal 85% in 2003 and now stands at 92.84%. The rate of newborn tetanus is reduced from 1.88/10,000 in 2000 to 0.77/10,000 in 2005. The coverage rate of expanded program of immunization remains high, and the rate of four vaccines is over 98%. Vaccination against hepatitis B is included in the EPI and the vaccination rate reaches 98.96%. The incidence of hepatitis B and carriage of HBsAg amongst children are under control in most areas in China. The rate of qualified iodinized salt consumed by residents rose from 88.9% in 2000 to 93.47% in 2004, basically accomplishing the phased goal to eliminate the iodine deficiency disorder (IDD).
2. Continued increase of basic education coverage

By the end of 2005, 2890 counties (cities, districts) had realized the objectives of “Two Basics”, which are basically achieving the popularization of compulsory education and basically achieving the eradication of illiteracy among the youth, covering over 95% of the population. The enrollment rate to primary school among children of schooling age had reached 99.15%, of which 99.16% for boys and 99.14% for girls. Primary school dropout rate was 0.45%, of which 0.47% for girls. The graduation from primary school was 98.42%. The gross secondary school enrollment rate was 95%. Secondary school dropout rate reached 2.62%, of which 2.31% for girls. The secondary school graduation rate was 69.68%. All these had achieved the MDGs and the goals of UN Special Session on Children. Preschool education enrollment rate had increased from 28.05% in 2000 to 41.4%. Senior secondary education was further expanded with gross enrollment rate reaching 52.7%. Basic education status for children of the floating population was further improved. The access rate for disabled children to enjoy education was expanded: the enrollment rate to compulsory education had reached 80% for blind, deaf and mentally retarded children.
3. Violence and crimes against children effectively checked

During these five years, nine regional campaigns to combat child and woman trafficking were undertaken. Statistics reveals that from 2001 to 2005, the Chinese police authority cracked more than 150,000 raping cases and 18,536 child trafficking cases, rescuing over 50,000 women and children. The proportion of victims under 14 years old was down from 1.7% in 2000 to 1.1% in 2004. Based on the newly revised Provisions on Prohibiting the Employment of Child Labor, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security each year conducts specially purposed inspection nationwide, and severely cracks crimes on child labor. Relevant departments conducted advocacies and publicities on laws and regulation to raise public awareness of the protection of child’s interests. Over the five years, the coverage rate of advocacy and publicity on the woman and child protection reached 97% in the urban and 92% in the rural areas. Judiciary authorities, women’s federation and the Youth League set up legal aid institutions to provide children with legal services and assistance. Governments in many

![Proportion of Victims under 14 Years Old in Criminal Offences (%)](image1)

![Number of Minors Having Received Assistance from Legal Aid Institutions](image2)
areas have expanded the scope of legal aid to include matters like family violence, abuse, desertion, adoption and guardianship of children etc. There are 6,018 legal aid institutions, 21,941 legal aid working stations, and over 100 service centers for child protection. From 2001 to 2005, a total of 552,247 legal cases concerning women and children were handled nationwide, and a total of 147,268 legal aid cases concerning criminals by minors, of which 66,667 minors were provided with legal aid. In addition, 28 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) and over 70 cities opened hotlines of psychological counseling for juveniles and youth.

4. Disadvantaged children placed under special protection

The number of child welfare institution in China increased from 126 in 2000 to 224 in 2005. 600 social welfare institutions set up child departments. A total of 66,000 orphans and disabled children were being raised. There were 8,644 children orphaned by AIDS in 2005, of which 4,730 were of schooling age. Among them, 4,385 were receiving education free of charge, accounting for 92.7% of the total. There are 130 help and protection institutions for the street children nationwide. From August 2003 to July 2005, 325,000 street children were assisted and 240,000 electronic files were set up for assisted children. From 2001 to 2005, China set up 1,802 county level integrated service facilities for the disabled persons, 18,724 township service stations, over 1,700 rehabilitation centers for the deaf children, and tens of thousand of rehabilitation centers for children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation and autism. In 2005, 54,700 disabled children were under rehabilitation, adding up to a total of 264,000 over the years.
5. The natural condition for child development further improved

The coverage rate of clean toilet in rural areas increased from 44.84% in 2000 to 55.31% in 2005, and the detoxication rate of human excrement rose from 31.22% to 59.46%. The coverage rate of running water in rural areas rose from 55.22% to 61.32%, and the beneficiary rate rose from 92.38% to 94.10%. The coverage rate of green plantation in urban areas reached 31.66%, 3.15% up than in 2000.
6. The social environment for the child development further improved

In 2004 China formulated the Proposals on Strengthening and Improving the Ethics and Morality of the Minors, aiming to construct educational networks composed of schools, families and the society to provide a social environment conducive to child development. China encourages active participation by children in social development to help cultivate positive ideology and values, as well as their sense of responsibility and care for the social development. The relevant department strengthened the planning and construction of playgrounds and facilities for child activities. China Central Television and regional TV stations opened separate channels for children. By the end of 2005, there are 2,736 public libraries, 59 more than in 2000; 1,556 museums, 164 more than in 2000; 256 science and technology museums and 206 popular science centers nationwide in China, which are open to children free of charge or at a preferential rate. Over 100 million youth are visiting these facilities each year. There are 1,400 Youth Palaces nationwide in China. Since 2000, China set up 2,379 sporting clubs for youth nationwide, and there are over 100 million youth participating in the activities in the clubs. China has basically achieved the goal that each county has cultural centers and libraries. China is now speeding up the implementation of Program on Each Village Having Access to Radio and TV, the Program on Radio and TV in Tibet and Xinjiang, etc. The radio and television coverage rate risen from 92.59% and 93.99% in 2000 to 94.6% and 95.9% in 2005 respectively.
The quality inspection authority and industrial and commercial administration authority tightened the control on the standards and criteria of manufactured products relating to children, and strengthened the permit and market access approval mechanism. Sampling Inspection and law enforcement was heightened to ensure the quality of food, toys, equipment and entertainment facilities for children. The cultural and publication authorities also tightened restrictions and management unhealthy publications, online products and illegal internet bars to clean up the market of cultural products.

VI. Main problems and measures in child development

The review of the Programme of Action reveals that China, as a developing country with 345 million children under the age of 18, is still faced with some problems in creating ideal conditions for child development, particularly in achieving the global goals in the Declarations and in the A World Fit for Children.

1. Disparity of child development in poverty-stricken areas

There exist significant regional disparities in terms of social and economic development in China and child development is also quite uneven. The population in absolute poverty in rural areas reached 23.65 million by 2005, mostly in the western areas. In 2005, the infant mortality rate, under five mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in rural areas are twice to thrice those than in the cities; the infant mortality rate and under five mortality rate in remote areas are four to five times than in the coastal areas and the maternal mortality rate is seven to eight times those than in the coastal areas. There are still over 300 counties in the western areas which fail to achieve nine year compulsory education, mostly in remote and
poverty-stricken areas. Poor areas are short of resources for public health, education and others, and the social security system need to be improved, and coordinating capacity of the governments needs to be further strengthened.

2. New issues in child development caused by the floating population

With the development of China’s market economy, industrialization and urbanization, large quantities of labour forces are moving to industries and to urban areas. In 2005, the size of floating population in China stood at around 150 million, and the number of children under the age of 18 who have to move with their parents amounted to 20 million. The number of children who are left behind in the rural residence reached approximately 20 million. These children are facing problems in terms of physical and spiritual development, education and behavior owing to lack of parental care and proper education. The issue of the children caused by the floating population is becoming a new topic in child development in China.

3. Social security system for children need to be established

China has established the framework of new social security system, but problems exist such as low level of security, insufficient protection, limited coverage and large rural and urban disparities, and particularly poor security for children. Not all children are covered by the existing system. Regulations have to be worked out to help the children in difficult situations such as orphans, the disabled, the urban poor,
children orphaned by AIDS, children in floating population, children with divorced or single parent etc.

4. Birth deformity becoming prominent

Birth deformity is high in China. Statistics reveals that in 2004 the incidence of birth deformity was 128.38 per 10,000, meaning that 800,000 to 1 million babies are born with deformity each year in China. Child disability is bringing about heavy burden to both families and the society.

5. Gender ratio at birth still escalating

The third, fourth, and fifth population census in China in 1982, 1990 and 2000 reveal that the gender ratio at birth is 108.5, 111.3, and 116.9 respectively, implying the rising trend of gender ratio.

6. The incidence of accidents and injuries children on the rise

Statistics analyzed by the NWCCW reveal that injuries from drowning, traffic accidents, falling off, animal bits, burning, scald, and choke have become the primary cause of death for children between 1 and 14 years old. The incidence of accidental injuries for children between 0 and 14 is 10%, with 1% dead and 4% disabled. Based on these statistics, at least 10 million children suffer from accidental injuries every year in China, of which at least 100,000 die and at least 400,000 are disabled. Over 18,500 children under 14 died of road accidents each year. Accidental injuries are threatening the health and life of children.

7. The situation of combating AIDS still grim

The review conducted in 2005 reveals that there were 650,000 HIV carriers and AIDS patients in China, of which there are 75,000 AIDS patients. In 2005 there were 70,000 new cases of HIV
infection, with 25,000 died of AIDS. The review shows that AIDS incidence continues to rise in China. New infections are mainly caused by injection, drugs and sexual behavior, and HIV/AIDS is spreading from high risk population to general population. It is estimated that there are around 39,000 children under 18 who are orphaned by AIDS in China, and the number of female infection is rising rapidly. The male to female ratio of HIV infection rose sharply from 9:1 several years ago to 3:1 at present. The rise of female infections increases the risks of mother-child transmission, posing potential threat to child’s survival and protection. The major challenges in HIV/AIDS control are as follows. Some local and sectoral leaders and are not fully aware of the threat of HIV/AIDS; the implementation of policies on protection of AIDS patients are not balanced; the ratio of HIV infection cases who are found is low; advocacy and education campaign is not carried out deeply enough; the coverage of intervention among high risk population is very limited; prevention in floating population is difficult to be implemented etc.
8. Child participation in development not fully stressed

Government and relevant departments from time to time fail to give priority to the child’s interests, nor to reflect the notion of “child first”. Children are not fully engaged in the political, economic, cultural and social life. They are viewed simply as passive individuals and objects to be shaped in many issues relating to child interests and development.

To tackle these problems, the Chinese government is to take the following measures:

1. Implement the people-oriented scientific development concept, promote the build up of a harmonious society and push forward the coordination of child development with socio-economic development

China is currently implementing the scientific development concept to build a well-off society in an all-round way. In 2006, the implementation of the Program of Action for child development and the protection of child’s rights have been included into the Eleventh Five-year Plan of the National Economic and Social Development. The guiding principle for the construction of the harmonious society clearly indicates “to give priority to solving the problems mostly concerned by the people”, such as issues of employment, social security, poverty relief, education, medical care, environmental protection and safety, etc. This will create a more favourable economic and social environment for child development.

2. Strengthen government’s function in managing the work on children
The governments will strengthen the leading role and improve the working mechanism to effectively manage child issues. The governments shall implement the objectives and responsibilities of the Programme of Action, increase investment, coordinate and integrate resources, provide policies, institutional arrangement, funding, organizational support. The governments shall implement the principle of “Child first” and “Maximizing child’s interests”, giving priorities to the interests and demands of the children to maximize child’s right.

3. Continues to protect the interests of children through law formation and enforcement

The government shall encourage research on law-making and promote legislation in children-related areas, strengthen the legal responsibility of governments at various levels and of related departments, step up legal supervision and expand education and advocacy in law making and enforcement.

4. Endeavors to solve the key problems in child development

The governments shall center on the four priority areas in promoting child development, namely health, education, legal protection and environmental protection, put emphasis on the rural areas, bring the social and economic development in poor areas in parallel with the implementation of Programme of Action of child development. The governments shall boost
the support to the poor areas and minority regions in central and western areas in terms of economy, health, education, environment protection to create a better condition for children. The government shall bring down the morbidity and mortality of children and reduce the birth deformity rate, and raise children’s living, nutritional and health status. The government should further deepen the reform on financing for compulsory education in rural areas; reduce the dropout rate of children, particularly of girls; crack down on crimes of child-trafficking, killing and desertion of newborn girls, and illegal employment of child labor; prohibit gender identification of fetus, check the rising trend of gender ration at birth; create cooperative mechanism for cross sectoral participation, improve laws and regulations that protect children from harms, formulate cross sectoral action plan and intervention measures, prevent and control child injuries, purify the social environment for child development, and reduce the negative impact on children by harmful public information.

5. Continue to protect the rights of disadvantaged children

The governments shall strengthen the social security system for the disadvantaged children to give more care to the disabled orphans, the street children, the children with single parent and children left-behind in the rural areas. The governments should renovate mechanism to integrate the floating population into the local social and economic development plans and management, into the functions of the local government. The government should establish management model which may deliver services to both resident and floating population and set new social resources allocation mechanism suitable for market economic mechanism. The government shall improve social welfare system for orphans, step up the construction of child welfare institutions, build up capacities to guide the rehabilitation of disabled children and treat and care for the AIDS patients HIV carriers. The government shall implement the project to block
the mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS, properly assist the AIDS orphans and control the prevalence and spread of HIV/AIDS.

6. Further strengthen international communication and cooperation to learn experiences from other countries

The government should be aware the key and difficult issues and child development in China, and the priority areas in global child development, further strengthen international exchanges and cooperation to learn new concepts, new techniques, new methodologies, and exchange information and share experiences in such fields as health, education, basic community services, protection of children in difficulties etc., with the aim to promote development and progress of children’s cause both in China and around the world.

China will spare no efforts to honor its commitment to the MDGs and goals set by A World Fit for Children, unswervingly promote the survival, protection, participation and development of children and contribute to a better world for the Chinese children.