**Human Rights Council**

**Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law**

LIAO Yuhan, Chongqing Centre for Equal Social Development

**Item2 Equal access to justice: a foundation for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and sustainable development**

Thank you chair.

The rule of law is widely recognized as an essential component of good governance and sustainable development. It plays a key role in enabling equitable economic growth, enhancing fair and effective delivery of services, and strengthening institutional inspection and monitoring power. Ensuring justice by securing a well-functioning and resourced legal system is the core principle of the rule of law.

China has been committed in the promotion of the rule of law and making justice accessible to all people. Not long ago, the evaluation of China’s *National Human Rights Action Plan* has been released. It shows from 2016 to 2020, the Chinese government continued to increase its efforts to advance law-based governance and judicial impartiality. Mechanisms have been implemented to safeguard lawyers' rights to practice in accordance with the law, and institutional guarantee for the rights of litigants and other parties involved in the lawsuit has been enhanced. A database and reporting system have been established to prevent leading officials’ intervention in judicial activities, ensuring the people’s courts exercise adjudicative power independently and in accordance with the law.

Earlier this year, China has issued the plan to build the rule of law in China (2020-2025). It emphasizes that law-based governance in all areas must be elevated to a position that has overall, strategic and fundamental significance. The plan states that effective checks and supervision of the exercise of power, full protection for the legitimate rights and interests of the people and the establishment of faith in the rule of law are among the overall objectives.

It is firmly believed that advancing access to justice will remain to be the core principle in China’s future reforms.

Thank you.