

**Delegation from the People's Republic of China**  
***Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council***

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) are: I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations, II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All and III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples. China suggests discussing topic II first, followed by topic I and III, since good solutions on sustainable energy access profit not only Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, as it is crucial for the achievement of other SDGs.

**I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations**

“Education is very important as it is the key to development” our honorable President Xi Jinping said during a visit of a primary school at Yangjialing, Yan'an, Shaanxi province, on 14 February 2015. China believes in education playing a crucial role in the development of a country and its' society. In the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 ASD), adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) through resolution 70/1 in 2015, the international community promotes 17 SDGs, especially Goal 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education [...]” focused on the importance of education. In 2017, the Security Council and the Secretary General António Guterres urged countries and non-state actors to grant children access to healthcare and education during and post-conflicts. In the past, China has been involved in several conflicts within their own country. After these conflicts ended, China established the largest state-run education system in the world based on the Compulsory Education Law of China (1986). It guarantees nine years of compulsory education, split up into 6 years of primary education and 3 years of junior high school. The literacy rate has risen from 65% in 1982 to 96% in 2015 and is nearly equal for men and women. Since 2007, the number of primary schools has doubled. To underscore the importance of child education, the Chinese government has recently worked hard to put into practice the “principles of children” first. China drafted and implemented three successive National Plans of Action for Child Development (NPACD), aiming, for instance, to gradually popularize senior high school education in large and medium-sized cities. Further, China translated every target of the SDGs into “action plans”, establishing extensive education targets. In order to translate such successes to other nations, China suggests building up an Advisory Team (AT) on Education in Post-Conflict Situations (ATECS), with required knowledge in financing, organization and education. ATECS can be requested by governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) (with permission of the respective nation) in post conflict situations in order to establish new or enhance already existing structures. Government assistance can be offered by ATECS in identified post-conflict regions which show potential for positive development. ATECS offers knowledge and assistance in financing possibilities, developing country suitable learning strategies, educational standards as well as assistance in setting up a framework for an educational system. Financing possibilities can be UN funding systems, like the Education Cannot Wait fund (ECWF), private partnerships as well as school fee systems. The work of the AT will be financed by the ECWF. Transparency on the work of ATECS will be assured through annual reports of ATECS on their work and the current education situation in post conflict situations to the ECOSOC. ATECS should work under the umbrella of ECOSOC, while working closely with UNESCO and the UN Research Institute for Social Development, since it can help providing suitable research for sustainable social development to the requesters. The bureau of ATECS should be located in Nairobi, Kenya since it is a strategically best location with conflict and post-conflict situation being close. An institution such as ATECS would offer the possibility of fast, reliable and professional advice for Member States (MS) and NGOs, providing assistance in post conflict situations not only in order to improve people's lives, but to offer children a future.

**II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All**

In 2017, 120 million people gained access to electricity, meaning that for the first time ever, the number of people without access to electricity fell below 1 billion. However, this means that still more than 10% of the world's population does not have access to electricity yet. In 2015, the GA adopted resolution 70/1, the 2030 ASD, and thus, among others, created SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, since 60% of the greenhouse gas emission are due to energy consumption. Energy plays a crucial role in reaching further goals like SDG 1, SDG 11 and SDG 13. China is aware of every MS's responsibility in achieving the SDGs until 2030 and therefore launched in 2016 its own national plan for implementing the 2030 Agenda. It translates the SDGs into “action plans” and reviews China's experience and achievements in implementing the MDGs. It further provides

guiding thoughts and general principles for implementation, indicates overall approaches, as well as notes opportunities and challenges that it faces in implementing the 2030 Agenda. To ensure the achievement of SDG 7, China set the goal of full rural power coverage by 2020, to be achieved through upgrading power grids of small towns and rural centers. With 70% of the global energy being consumed in cities while partially relying on unreliable and unsustainable sources, further improvements have to be made. In 2017, China proved the possibility of running a whole region on sustainable energy without relying on fossil fuels and gas. The Qinghai Province, with its over 5 million residents, has run its entire region on renewable energy for one week with over 70% hydropower, showing that the grid will be able to remain stable without needing coal or gas to supply 'base load' energy. This supports our suggestion, that only through region-specific individual solutions SDG 7 can be reached until 2030. China thus suggest building up the Implementing Sustainable Energy Review Mechanism (ISERM), formed out of a group of experts within the ECOSOC system, which should consist of experts in the fields of solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass. The task of ISERM is to review the current situation in countries in terms of energy access and renewable solutions. Therefore, countries can request the assistance of ISERM. The aim of ISERM is to then work out country specific "action plans" for the implementation of SDG 7, since up to now only few countries have such plans on the implementation of the SDGs. After working out the individual "action plan", countries can continue the cooperation with ISERM to focus on the implementation possibilities. Financing of the solutions can be possible through the support of the World Bank, since it is committed to assist countries directly in promoting sustainable energy. Furthermore, China suggests financing the work of the ISERM with resources of the World Bank as well as MS voluntary contributions. China offers knowledge as well as substantial monetary aid to support the work of ISERM. We see ourselves capable of offering guidance since we have already developed our own "action plans" and have been one of the first countries to deposit an instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change. China calls upon MS to offer support to the work of ISERM through financing and knowledge, since some countries are lacking knowledge on sustainable energy solutions and country specific "action plans" crucial to the fulfillment of SDG 7.

### **III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

"Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms [...]" This is stated in Article 1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). The World Bank identified indigenous people as a major group facing extreme poverty, representing 15% of the world's population living in said extreme poverty while only making up 5% of the world's population. We do, however, feel the need to point out that 'native' and 'indigenous' are by no means synonymous and should not be regarded as such. China welcomed the adoption of GA resolution 61/295 (2007) which established the UNDRIP, clearly specifying all human rights of indigenous people and calling upon all MS to ensure these rights. The 2030 ASD, adopted through GA resolution 70/1 in 2015, further promotes the rights of indigenous people with every SDG being relevant to these groups, especially SDG 2 (No Hunger) and SDG 4 (Education), given that indigenous people are explicitly mentioned. Although China does not have an indigenous population, it highly supports the positive progress being made over the past 12 years towards the protection of their rights by the international community. Nevertheless, in some developed countries, indigenous groups still face discrimination, violence and other forms of unfair treatment. Furthermore, the concept of indigenous people is the legacy of colonial past and the historical injustice suffered by indigenous people still needs to be redressed. Countries concerned should see the 2030 ASD as an opportunity to enhance their effort for the implementation of the UNDRIP and come up with national plans of implementation of the SDGs, especially those related to the right of indigenous people. China recognizes the importance of the system-wide action plan (SWAP) issued by the Secretary General in 2015 to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UNDRIP. China suggest creating a Report Team (RT) on the Implementation of SWAP to monitor the progresses being made by MS with indigenous population on the implementation of SWAP. The work of the RT is limited to 5 years but can be extended for more years if ECOSOC sees further need. The RT is to annually report to the ECOSOC and the UN Commission for Social Development on the efforts and obstacles connected to the implementation of SWAP. The work of the RT will be financed by the World Bank. In order to involve indigenous people in the review mechanism and to put public pressure towards the implementation of SWAP and the SDGs, China further suggests opening a website which publishes the annual reports of the RT and offers the possibility to indigenous people and civilians of reporting on UNDRIP violations. Especially in developed countries, more awareness of the need to protect indigenous people needs to be risen among the population of said countries. To sum up, China believes that through the work of the RT further improvements towards a better life for indigenous people can be made.