

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS**

Delivered at the First Session of the 14th National People's Congress

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Fellow Deputies,

On behalf of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), I now present this report on its work for your deliberation.

The Major Work of the Past Year and the Past Five Years

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, in response to grave, intricate international developments and a succession of risks and challenges, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has brought together the entire Party, the entire military, and the entire Chinese people and led them in adopting a number of strategic measures, developing a range of transformative practices, and making a series of breakthroughs and landmark advances, thereby setting China on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects.

The Communist Party of China's 19th and 20th national congresses captured worldwide attention and provided profound answers to a number of major theoretical and practical questions on upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics on the new journey in the new era. They charted a course and established a guide to action for building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts. Rich in major political, theoretical, and practical achievements, the two congresses will go down in history. They set the direction and offered guidelines for carrying out the work of people's congresses in the new era.

Over the past year, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the 13th NPC Standing Committee earnestly implemented the guiding principles from the Party's 19th and 20th national congresses and accomplished all the tasks set forth at the Fifth Session of the 13th NPC in March 2022.

- In pursuing high-quality legislation, we formulated 5 laws, revised 9 laws, adopted 4 decisions on legal issues and major matters, and issued 1 legal interpretation.
- In exercising effective oversight, we conducted inspections on the implementation of 5 laws, heard and deliberated 23 oversight reports, held special inquiries, and carried out 8 research projects.
- In adhering to high standards in our work related to deputies, we processed 487 proposals and 9,349 suggestions from deputies and saw deputy attendance in the work of the Standing Committee, special committees, and working commissions and committees exceed 100.

- In advancing our diplomatic agenda, we made decisions on ratifying or entering into 14 treaties and important agreements, organized and attended 116 bilateral video events and international video conferences, held 38 offline foreign affairs events, and exchanged nearly 600 diplomatic letters.
- We approved 393 appointments and removals of employees of state institutions in accordance with the law.

Fellow Deputies,

The five-year term of the 13th NPC Standing Committee was a time of historic change in China in which the cause of the Party and the country flourished. We acquired a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We became more conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership. We stayed confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We upheld Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and upheld the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

We resolutely implemented the Party's theories, lines, principles, and policies and kept the NPC's work oriented in the right direction. We closely followed the Party Central Committee's major decisions and plans, aligned ourselves with the people's aspirations for a better life, and focused on the need to modernize China's system and capacity for governance. We put into practice the important concept of whole-process people's democracy and closely relied on all deputies in exercising our powers to enact laws, conduct oversight, make decisions, and appoint and remove officials in accordance with the law. We earnestly fulfilled the honorable duties conferred upon us by the Party and the people and strove to honor our solemn commitment to living up to the trust of the Party Central Committee and the expectations of the people.

Over the past five years, our most important achievements are progress in developing the theory on the people's congress system and in carrying out the practical work of the people's congresses with the guidance and encouragement of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core.

Specifically, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the important concept of whole-process people's democracy and expounded the basic meaning, defining features, and major principles of China's socialist democracy, thus making an original contribution to Marxist theory on democracy. His thinking on upholding and improving the people's congress system clarified the four-fold role of people's congresses.* This marked a step forward in better defining the people's congress system and making it more mature, consolidated, and complete. In October 2021, the Party Central Committee held the first-ever conference on people's congresses' work, where General Secretary Xi Jinping gave an important speech and laid out systematic plans for upholding and improving the people's congress system and strengthening and enhancing the work of people's congresses in the new era.

The system of people's congresses has ensured the genuine and organic integration of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance, and it serves as China's foundational political system that underpins the country's governance system and capacity. The people's congress system has been brought into full play, and, in practice, it has displayed tremendous vitality and strengths. It provides safeguards for the people to manage state affairs, economic and cultural undertakings, and social affairs through various channels and in various ways in accordance with the law.

Over the past five years, we adopted an amendment to the Constitution, formulated 47 laws, conducted 111 rounds of revision to existing laws, and adopted 53 interpretations, decisions, and resolutions on legal issues and major matters. A total of 19 draft laws and decisions were deliberated and are pending adoption. We heard and discussed 182 reports on oversight work and other issues, inspected the implementation of 30 laws and decisions, and carried out 11 special inquiries and 33 research projects. All 2,282 proposals and 43,750 suggestions we received from deputies have been processed, with 98 percent of deputies reporting that they were satisfied with the handling of their proposals or suggestions. We made decisions on ratifying or entering into 36 treaties and important agreements, sent or received a total of 261 delegations, and held and attended over 400 bilateral and multilateral diplomatic events via video. We also approved 1,515 appointments and removals of employees of state institutions in accordance with the law. Our

* The four-fold role refers to the fundamental identity of the people's congresses and their standing committees as political institutions that consciously uphold the leadership of the Communist Party of China, institutions of state power that ensure the running of the country by the people, working institutions that assume functions conferred by the Constitution and the law, and representative institutions that always maintain close ties with the people.

main work during the past five years was as follows.

1. Ensuring full implementation of the Constitution and upholding its authority and sanctity

In his article marking the 40th anniversary of the current Constitution, General Secretary Xi Jinping discussed the Constitution's supremacy, emphasized the importance of upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership over constitutional work, and called for the implementation of the Constitution in all aspects of China's governance, thereby setting the direction for putting the Constitution into full effect.

(1) We improved the Constitution and relevant laws.

The amendment to the Constitution adopted at the First Session of the 13th NPC in March 2018 made it clear that the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and it established the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in China's political and social activities.

We improved the organizational and electoral systems of people's congresses and their operating mechanisms. We revised the Electoral Law and the Rules of Procedure of the NPC Standing Committee. We submitted to the NPC for deliberation draft revisions of the NPC Organic Law, the NPC Rules of Procedure, and the Organic Law of Local People's Congresses at All Levels and Local People's Governments at All Levels. We deliberated the draft revisions to the Legislation Law and submitted them to this session for deliberation.

We formulated the Supervision Law, the Supervisory Officers Law, and the Law on Administrative Action for Public Employees and made a decision on the formulation of supervisory regulations by the National Commission of Supervision. We revised the Organic Law of the People's Courts, the Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates, the Judges Law, and the Procurators Law and formulated the People's Jurors Law. We revised the Civil Servants Law, the Trade Union Law, the Organic Law of Villagers' Committees, and the Organic Law of Urban Residents' Committees.

We formulated the Law on the Protection of Heroes and Martyrs, revised the National Flag Law and the National Emblem Law, and promoted the implementation of relevant stipulations in the National Anthem Law. With these efforts, we protected the dignity and legal rights and interests of our heroes and martyrs, preserved the dignity of our national symbols, and championed patriotism and the core socialist values, thus assuming our political duty to ensure China's ideological security in accordance with the law.

(2) We maintained constitutional order in the special administrative regions.

In May 2020, a decision on establishing a sound legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) to safeguard national security was adopted in accordance with the Constitution at the Third Session of the 13th NPC. As authorized at the Session, we formulated the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong SAR and decided to add it to Annex III to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR, to be promulgated and implemented locally by the Hong Kong SAR. This filled a long-existing legislative vacuum with regard to national security in Hong Kong. We also adopted an interpretation of certain articles in the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong SAR, further clarifying the position and duties of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security and the chief executive of Hong Kong in dealing with national security issues.

In March 2021, a decision on improving the electoral system of Hong Kong was adopted in accordance with the Constitution at the Fourth Session of the 13th NPC. We revised Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR as authorized at the Session to improve the methods for the selection of the chief executive and for the formation of the Legislative Council, and we also adopted a decision on issues regarding the qualifications of members of the Legislative Council, thus helping develop an effective system for democratic election.

We adopted decisions to grant the Macao SAR jurisdiction over the Macao side of the Hengqin port and related extended areas and to launch trials for allowing lawyers from Hong Kong and Macao to practice in nine mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area, in order to support Hong Kong and Macao in better integrating themselves into China's overall development.

In adopting the legislation and decisions concerning the special administrative regions, we fully implemented the policy of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy. We worked to see that Hong Kong and Macao are administered by patriots and that the central government exercises overall jurisdiction over the two regions. These efforts provided a strong legal foundation for Hong Kong's entry into a new stage in which it has restored order and is set to thrive and for ensuring the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao.

(3) We strengthened constitutional review and enhanced the recording and review of normative documents.

We developed sound working mechanisms for constitutional review and

conducted ex ante, interim, and ex post constitutional reviews on a regular basis throughout our legislation and revision processes. In response to questions regarding the constitutionality of the draft revisions of the Population and Family Planning Law, we issued opinions based on our research into relevant matters stipulated by the Constitution. We responded promptly to public concerns, including on protecting freedom of correspondence and privacy of correspondence, establishing unified personal injury compensation standards for urban and rural residents, and promoting the use of standard spoken and written Chinese in areas with large ethnic minority populations. We worked to see that all laws, regulations, policies, and measures conformed to the Constitution both in letter and in spirit.

We formulated methods for recording and reviewing regulations and judicial interpretations. We developed sound mechanisms for coordinating recording and review work and for hearing and deliberating an annual report on this work. We also established an expert committee for recording and review. Our work in this area has become significantly more institutionalized, procedure-based, and professional.

We made it a rule to put on record all documents that are subject to recording, to review all recorded documents, and to correct all errors identified. As such, we reviewed all 7,261 normative documents submitted for recording and review and examined 17,769 suggestions for review from citizens and organizations, offering opinions on how to deal with them. We reviewed and overhauled normative documents in over 20 areas, including environmental protection, improvement of the business environment, food and drug safety, population and family planning, implementation of the Civil Code, and administrative penalties, and we urged relevant formulating bodies to revise or rescind more than 25,000 documents. By doing so, we protected the legal rights and interests of our citizens and upheld the unity of the law.

(4) We promoted compliance with and public awareness of the Constitution.

We organized activities and symposiums to mark National Constitution Day every year, helping people everywhere become more mindful of the Constitution. In line with the Constitution, we made two decisions to confer national medals and titles of honor to commend prominent figures who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the development of the People's Republic of China, foreign friends who have contributed greatly to cooperation and exchanges between China and other countries, and people who have made outstanding contributions in the fight against Covid-19. We also decided to grant special pardons to certain criminals serving sentences,

with a total of 23,593 criminals being pardoned through legal procedures, demonstrating the socialist humanitarian spirit. We organized ceremonies for 132 newly appointed officials to pledge allegiance to the Constitution, helping increase our public employees' sense of purpose and motivation regarding constitutional implementation.

In promoting its implementation, we have become more keenly aware that the Constitution embodies the collective will and common aspirations of the Party and the people; that it is the highest form of expression of the state's will; and that it is foundational, overarching, stable, and enduring. The Constitution contains provisions on the country's major systems and matters, and it bears overall, principled, programmatic, and guiding significance for the nation and society. The very life of the Constitution is in its implementation, as is its authority. We must improve and develop the Constitution in keeping with the times, improve the institutional framework for ensuring its full implementation, and update relevant legal systems and mechanisms, so as to provide a legal footing for efforts to modernize China's system and capacity for governance and build a modern socialist country.

2. Improving the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics and making good laws to promote development and ensure good governance

Adapting to the new requirements for our legislative work in the new era, we closely followed the major plans for modernizing China's system and capacity for governance, bolstered legislation in key areas, emerging areas, and foreign-related areas to shore up shortcomings and weaknesses in advancing the rule of law, and made our legislative work more systematic, holistic, coordinated, and responsive.

(1) We advanced legislative work to promote high-quality development.

We conducted seven rounds of deliberation on China's first-ever code, the Civil Code, and solicited public opinions on seven occasions before it was deliberated and adopted at the Third Session of the 13th NPC. We formulated the Foreign Investment Law and the Hainan Free Trade Port Law to support a new round of high-standard opening up. In order to stimulate rural revitalization and prioritize agricultural and rural development, we enacted the Rural Revitalization Promotion Law in a timely manner; revised the Seed Law, the Law on the Contracting of Rural Land, the Land Administration Law, the Agricultural Products Quality and Safety Law, and the Animal Husbandry Law; and deliberated draft laws on rural collective economic organizations and other issues.

In an effort to establish a fairer and more equitable legal system underpinning the market economy, we formulated the Electronic Commerce

Law and the Law on Futures and Derivatives; revised the Anti-Monopoly Law, the Securities Law, the Workplace Safety Law, the Audit Law, the Urban Real Estate Administration Law, the Law on the Protection of Investment of Taiwan Compatriots, and the Foreign Trade Law; and deliberated a draft law on financial stability, draft revisions to the Company Law, and other draft laws.

We revised the Patent Law, the Copyright Law, and the Scientific and Technological Progress Law to help build China's strength and self-reliance in science and technology. To ensure taxation is administered in accordance with the law, we enacted the Cultivated Land Occupation Tax Law, the Vehicle Purchase Tax Law, the Resource Tax Law, the Urban Maintenance and Construction Tax Law, the Deed Transfer Tax Law, and the Stamp Tax Law; we revised the Individual Income Tax Law; and we deliberated a draft law on value-added tax. With laws having been made for 12 out of 18 tax categories, we have further improved the legal system for taxation.

(2) We accelerated legislation relating to national security.

Giving prominence to safeguarding national security in our legislative work, we formulated the Biosecurity Law, the Data Security Law, the Cryptography Law, the Land Border Law, and the Anti-Organized Crime Law; we revised the Counter-Terrorism Law, the National Intelligence Law, the Archives Law, and the Maritime Traffic Safety Law; and we deliberated draft revisions to the Counter-Espionage Law.

To step up legislation in foreign-related fields, we enacted the Law on Countering Foreign Sanctions and the Export Control Law and deliberated draft laws on foreign relations and foreign state immunity. With these efforts, we improved the legal system for opposing foreign sanctions, interference, and long-arm jurisdiction and provided legal protection for the interests of our country and our people.

We ratified treaties and important agreements in areas such as extradition, criminal judicial assistance, countering extremism, transfer of sentenced persons, arms trade, joint military exercises, counter-terrorism, and civil aviation. We formulated the Law on International Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and revised the Criminal Procedure Law, thus providing legal means for pursuing fugitives who have fled abroad and recovering stolen state assets.

We formulated the Coast Guard Law, the Law on the Protection of the Status, Rights, and Interests of Servicepersons, the Reserve Forces Law, and the Regulations on Firefighter Ranks. We revised the National Defense Law, the Law on the People's Armed Police, the Military Service Law, and the Law

on the Protection of Military Installations. We made decisions on temporarily adjusting the application of certain laws during the reform of the national defense mobilization system, on the rank system for active-duty enlisted service members of the People's Liberation Army, and on adjusting the application of certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law for the military during wartime. All this has helped strengthen the rule of law in national defense and military development.

(3) We established a system of laws for environmental protection.

We stepped up legislative work in environmental protection to promote ecological advancement. We formulated the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Noise Pollution, and the Wetland Conservation Law and revised the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes, the Wildlife Protection Law, and the Forest Law. We formulated the Yangtze River Protection Law, the Yellow River Protection Law, and the Black Soil Protection Law; we drafted and deliberated a law on ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and revisions to the Marine Environment Protection Law; and we adopted a resolution on strengthening environmental protection across the board and advancing the battle against pollution in accordance with the law.

Through unremitting efforts, we have developed a "1+N+4" legal system for environmental protection, which consists of the Environmental Protection Law as the foundational, umbrella law; a number of laws in specific areas including air, water, solid wastes, soil, noise, sea, wetlands, grasslands, forests, and deserts; and four laws for special regions, namely the Yangtze River Protection Law, the Yellow River Protection Law, the Black Soil Protection Law, and the draft law on ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau currently under deliberation. In doing so, we have effectively advanced the Beautiful China Initiative, which aims to achieve harmony between humanity and nature.

(4) We carried out legislative work to promote social development and improve the people's wellbeing.

To protect our citizens' right to education, we formulated the Family Education Promotion Law and revised the Education Law and the Vocational Education Law, thus driving modernization in the education sector. We drew up a work plan for enacting and revising laws to strengthen the rule of law in the public health sector. We formulated the Law on Basic Medical and Health Care and the Promotion of Health, the Vaccine Administration Law, and the Physicians Law; revised the Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention and the

Drug Administration Law; and made a decision to completely ban the illegal trade and consumption of wildlife.

Addressing issues of great public concern, we formulated the Personal Information Protection Law, the Law on Countering Telecom and Online Fraud, the Legal Aid Law, the Community Correction Law, and the Law on Food Waste; we revised the Civil Procedure Law, the Administrative Penalty Law, the Social Insurance Law, the Population and Family Planning Law, and the Physical Culture and Sports Law; we made a decision to abolish the system of custody and education for prostitution-related offenses and related legal regulations; and we deliberated draft revisions to the Administrative Procedure Law and other laws. These efforts have helped protect our people's rights and interests and enhance public wellbeing through legal means.

We passed Amendment XI to the Criminal Law. We formulated the Veterans Support Law and revised the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, the Law on the Protection of Minors, and the Law on Preventing Juvenile Delinquency, so as to provide stronger protection for the rights and interests of special groups.

(5) We made authorization and reform decisions.

In response to the legislative needs that arose in advancing reform across the board, we worked hard to ensure that all national development endeavors and major reforms have a solid legal basis. To deepen reform in state institutions, we issued decisions on adjusting the statutory functions of administrative bodies involved in the institutional reform of the State Council, on the functions of the NPC Constitution and Law Committee, and on China Coast Guard's functions and powers with regard to protecting maritime rights and enforcing maritime law.

To ensure smooth progress of reform initiatives and pilot projects, we conducted 57 rounds of revision on relevant laws; we authorized the State Council to temporarily adjust the application of certain laws in pilot free trade zones three times, to approve a proportion of new local government debt ceilings in advance, to launch reform trials for property tax, to temporarily adjust the application of certain provisions of the Metrology Law in pilot cities for business environment innovation, and to extend the trial periods for rural land reform and the drug marketing authorization holder system; and we authorized the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and its standing committee to formulate regulations for Pudong New Area.

Focusing on advancing comprehensive and integrated reform of the judicial system, we made decisions to establish the Shanghai Financial Court, Beijing Financial Court, Chengdu-Chongqing Financial Court, and Hainan

Free Trade Port Intellectual Property Court. We authorized the Supreme People's Court to carry out reform trials for streamlining civil litigation procedures and defining the adjudicative functions of the four levels of courts, and we made a decision on litigation procedures for cases involving patents and other intellectual property rights. We heard and deliberated reports on the implementation of 10 authorization and reform decisions.

Over the past five years, under the centralized, unified leadership of the Party Central Committee, a legislative framework has taken shape under which Party committees give guidance, people's congresses play the leading role, the government offers support, and all stakeholders participate. We made sure that people's congresses effectively played their leading role in selecting legislative subjects, evaluation, debate, launching projects, coordination, drafting, soliciting opinions, and deliberation. We enriched our approach to legislative work, devoting our attention to both substantial legislation and shorter, more efficient, high-impact legislation. We made extensive use of special plans for enacting and revising laws, legislative task forces, targeted and precise legislation, and case-specific legislation, and we encouraged the adoption of methods and models such as joint legislation and legislation based on regional collaboration.

We advanced legislative work in a scientific and democratic way in accordance with the law. We carried out legislative debates and consultations and conducted evaluations of legislative items both before and after their promulgation. We solicited 154 rounds of public opinion on draft laws and received more than 1.09 million comments. All of this effectively enhanced the quality and efficiency of our legislation.

Over the past five years, we have made steady progress in advancing high-quality legislation, further improved the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, and provided more complete legal protection for efforts to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

3. Making good use of the oversight power conferred upon the NPC by the Constitution and conducting appropriate, effective, and law-based oversight

We brought into better play the important role of oversight by people's congresses in the Party and state oversight systems and employed a combination of statutory oversight methods to ensure that China's Constitution and laws were effectively implemented and that administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory, and procuratorial powers were properly exercised in accordance with the law.

(1) We conducted examinations and oversight of plans, budgets, and final accounts and oversight of state-owned asset management.

We revised a decision on strengthening oversight of economic work, heard and deliberated reports on the implementation of plans for national economic and social development and the midterm assessment report on the implementation of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), and examined and approved the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2021-2025) and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035. We held quarterly meetings to analyze the economic situation and strengthened preliminary examination of plans and oversight of major matters.

We revised a decision on strengthening examination and oversight of central government budgets and carried out reforms to expand the focus of budgetary examination and oversight by people's congresses. Each year, we heard and deliberated reports on central final accounts, budget execution, and auditing of central budget execution and other fiscal revenues and expenditures, and we heard and deliberated reports on the rectification of problems discovered through audits and worked to see that these problems were truly resolved.

Exercising oversight of government funds in specific key areas, we heard and deliberated reports on the allocation and use of government funds for medical and health care, environmental protection, agriculture and rural areas, transportation, and social security, with our focus on policy implementation and use of funds.

Strengthening oversight of state-owned asset management was a decision made by the Party Central Committee and a new function conferred on the NPC Standing Committee. In response, we adopted a decision and formulated and implemented a five-year plan on enhancing oversight of state-owned asset management. Hearing and deliberating annual comprehensive reports on the management of state-owned assets, we selected key areas and conducted oversight each year. We heard and deliberated special reports on the management of state-owned assets held by financial firms, government offices and public institutions, and enterprises. We also heard and deliberated a special report on the management of state-owned natural resource assets. In doing so, we helped make state-owned asset management better planned and regulated.

(2) We heard and deliberated work reports on specific issues.

Regarding the pursuit of high-quality development, we heard and deliberated reports on promoting innovation-driven development,

developing the marine economy, transforming and upgrading foreign trade, reducing taxes and fees, carrying out financial work, introducing a registration-based IPO system, building a modern integrated transportation system, and developing the digital economy. In doing so, we pushed for the resolution of serious problems hindering reform and development in key areas and emerging sectors.

With regard to agriculture and rural areas, we heard and deliberated reports on poverty alleviation, supply-side structural reform in agriculture, rural industry development, reform of the rural collective property system, establishment of a new system for agricultural operations, and efforts to consolidate and expand poverty alleviation achievements in support of rural revitalization. Through these efforts, we played a positive role in advancing rural revitalization on all fronts.

In the area of environmental protection, we heard and deliberated the State Council's annual reports on the state of the environment and progress on meeting environmental protection targets. We also heard and deliberated reports on environmental protection in key areas, regions, and river basins, including those on the prevention and control of air, water, soil, and solid waste pollution, ecological conservation and environmental protection in the Yangtze River basin, and ecological conservation in Xiong'an New Area and Lake Baiyangdian. We used the rule of law and legal tools to step up pollution prevention and control and protect China's clear waters and green mountains.

As for social programs, we heard and deliberated reports on employment, integrated development of compulsory education in urban and rural areas, management of physicians, development of cultural industries, reform and development of preschool education, development of the social security system, preservation of cultural heritage and implementation of the Cultural Heritage Protection Law, teacher training and implementation of the Teachers Law, promotion of children's health, work related to the elderly, and efforts to reduce students' homework and off-campus tutoring burdens. In doing so, we helped resolve issues of public concern.

Giving greater weight to key issues in social governance, we heard and deliberated reports on ensuring procedure-based law enforcement by public security organs, pursuing corrupt officials hiding abroad and recovering stolen state assets, and doing more to address the illegal entry, residence, and employment of foreign nationals in China.

We heard and deliberated a State Council report on the protection of the rights and interests of overseas Chinese nationals.

(3) We strengthened oversight of the implementation of laws.

We formulated methods for inspections into the implementation of laws to standardize the entire process including subject selection, organization, reporting, deliberation, rectification, and feedback. Firmly grounded in statutory provisions, we inspected the implementation of the following laws.

2018: Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, Statistics Law, Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, Law on Protecting against and Mitigating Earthquake Disasters, Law on the Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, Marine Environment Protection Law

2019: Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, Law on Promoting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Employment Promotion Law, Higher Education Law, Renewable Energy Law, Fisheries Law

2020: Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution, a decision to completely ban the illegal trade and consumption of wildlife, Wildlife Protection Law, Agricultural Mechanization Promotion Law, Charity Law, Law against Unfair Competition, Law on the Provision of Public Cultural Services

2021: Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes, Law on Traditional Chinese Medicine, Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, Animal Husbandry Law, Notarization Law, Fire Prevention and Control Law

2022: Environmental Protection Law, Yangtze River Protection Law, Science and Technology Popularization Law, Rural Revitalization Promotion Law, Foreign Investment Law

After hearing and deliberating work reports on specific issues and inspection reports on the implementation of laws, we conducted special inquiries into the following matters: preventing and controlling air pollution, solving difficulties in enforcing court judgments, increasing legal oversight of civil litigation and enforcement, the allocation and use of government funds for medical and health care, promoting development of small and medium-sized enterprises, preventing and controlling water pollution, public-interest litigation filed by procuratorates, preventing and controlling soil pollution, rectifying problems in budget execution and other fiscal revenues and expenditures discovered through audits, building a modern integrated transportation system, preventing and controlling environmental pollution by solid wastes, and environmental protection.

(4) We stepped up oversight of the administration of justice and of work to promote legal literacy among the public.

With a focus on ensuring judicial impartiality, we conducted regular oversight of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. With regard to the Supreme People's Court, we heard and deliberated its reports on resolving difficulties in enforcing court judgments, criminal trials, civil trials, adjudication involving intellectual property, and foreign-related adjudication. With regard to the Supreme People's Procuratorate, we heard and deliberated its reports on strengthening legal oversight of civil litigation and enforcement, public-interest litigation filed by procuratorates, application of the plea bargaining system, processing of lawsuits and appeals, and procuratorial work relating to minors.

To improve public communications and education on the rule of law, we carried out research on the seventh five-year initiative to increase legal literacy among the public, heard and deliberated a report on the implementation of the resolution on that initiative, and adopted a resolution on the initiative for the eighth five-year period. This contributed to the creation of a healthy rule of law environment for our efforts to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

(5) We made sure our research outcomes were put to use.

In concert with our legislative and oversight work, we carried out research on poverty alleviation, rural revitalization, food security, environmental protection, pollution prevention and control, local legislation by cities with districts, the response to population aging, and the initiative to cherish food and oppose waste. In doing so, we helped address major and difficult issues that involved the people's immediate interests. To expand the scope of our oversight, we carried out research on implementation of the National Security Law and on reform of the supervision system and implementation of the Supervision Law.

We carried out research on major issues regarding the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, management and reform of government subsidies, improvement of the individual income tax system to help regulate income distribution, measures to leverage the important role of overseas Chinese in the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative, development of a national park-based nature reserve system, and better protection of germplasm resources and innovation in plant breeding. This helped resolve key issues in our economic and social development.

We carried out research on the development of education among ethnic minority groups, implementation of the 13th five-year plan on boosting development and raising living standards in border areas with large ethnic

minority populations, initiatives to foster ethnic unity and progress, and economic and social development for ethnic groups with smaller populations. In doing so, we helped promote development and progress in areas with large ethnic minority populations.

We carried out research on hidden local government debt, management and reform of budgets for basic old-age insurance funds, prevention and mitigation of systemic financial risks, reform of social insurance systems and implementation of the Social Insurance Law, management and reform of government investment funds, and management and reform of special local government debt. Our efforts made fiscal and financial oversight more effective.

Oversight by people's congresses is conducted with the authorization of the law and on behalf of the people. We worked to see that oversight is always conducted in accordance with the law, in line with our statutory functions, within our statutory scope of authority, through statutory procedures, and based on relevant legal provisions. Our goal was to ensure that the Constitution and laws are effectively implemented and all state organs perform their functions pursuant to law.

We exercised follow-up oversight to monitor the effects of our work. Focusing on the Party Central Committee's major decisions and plans and attending to the people's concerns, expectations, and wishes, we conducted follow-up oversight on prominent issues in areas such as environmental protection, management of public funds and assets, law enforcement, and administration of justice. We made sustained efforts and did not stop until we saw progress made and institutions improved.

We continued to improve mechanisms and methods for conducting oversight and urged relevant departments to act on the results of our work report deliberations. While carrying out inspections into the implementation of laws, we introduced third-party evaluations, adopted various measures including random inspections, unannounced visits, big data analysis, and questionnaire surveys, and delegated local people's congresses to carry out inspections nationwide. We combined inspections into the implementation of laws with legislative evaluations and efforts to promote legal literacy among the public, paying particular attention to facilitating institutional and legal solutions to common and systemic issues. During inspections into the implementation of laws concerning environmental protection, we received nearly 900,000 questionnaires and attracted 178 million participants to our online quizzes.

Throughout this congress, we have ensured oversight across all fields. We heard and deliberated the first comprehensive reports on the management of state-owned assets, the first report on financial work, and the first work report by the National Commission of Supervision, and we conducted the first special inquiries into the work reports of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

In the course of exercising oversight, we gained a better understanding of the nature and role of oversight by people's congresses; strongly encouraged the implementation of the Constitution and the law and the proper use of power and law-based performance of functions by governments, commissions of supervision, people's courts, and people's procuratorates; and ensured that the powers of all state organs and their employees were subject to oversight and checks.

4. Leveraging the role of deputies to attend to all public concerns

Following General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on maintaining close ties between standing committees of people's congresses and deputies and between deputies and the public, we strengthened and enhanced all aspects of our work related to deputies, providing services, support, and safeguards for their law-based performance of duties. In this way, we made sure that the idea of the people as masters of the country was reflected in how our deputies played their roles.

(1) We improved our ability to handle deputies' proposals and suggestions.

We worked to see that deputies' proposals and suggestions were of high quality and were handled effectively. Upon receiving proposals or suggestions, we sent a status update and written outcome to each deputy involved, paying attention to both the results and process of handling. We forwarded all proposals to special committees for consideration and heard and deliberated their reports on the results of consideration every year, giving impetus to the enactment of a number of important laws urgently needed in economic and social development. We offered feedback on every suggestion put forward by deputies regardless of whether the NPC was in session, with 74 percent of the issues raised therein already solved or currently being addressed.

(2) We supported deputies in engaging in our work.

We sent 1,026 invitations to deputies to attend our meetings in a nonvoting capacity and basically ensured all NPC deputies from the primary level attended at least one meeting during their tenure. We established a mechanism for holding discussions for nonvoting deputies attending our meetings. Altogether, we organized 17 discussions with total deputy

attendance reaching 770, soliciting their views and suggestions on the NPC's work, the advancement of democracy and the rule of law, and economic and social development. We arranged for deputies to consider and discuss drafts of the amendment to the Constitution, the Supervision Law, the Foreign Investment Law, the Civil Code, the Organic Law of the NPC, the NPC Rules of Procedure, the Organic Law of Local People's Congresses at All Levels and Local People's Governments at All Levels, the Legislation Law, and other laws before they were officially submitted to the NPC for deliberation. We solicited comments and suggestions on 36 draft laws from deputies working in relevant fields or possessing relevant professional expertise prior to our deliberation. Deputy participation in legislative research, drafting, debates, and evaluations topped 400, and the figure for participation in inspections into the implementation of laws, research projects, plan and budget examinations and oversight, and state-owned asset management oversight exceeded 2,000.

(3) We refined mechanisms for communications with deputies.

Members of the Council of Chairpersons and the Standing Committee maintained direct contact with 432 deputies. We developed working mechanisms for special committees and working commissions and committees to stay in touch with deputies from relevant fields or with relevant knowledge. Through diverse channels such as meetings, visits, phone calls, emails, WeChat, and research projects, we strengthened regular contact with deputies, reached out to those working on the frontline at the primary level and those with specialized knowledge, and engaged deputies in all aspects of our work.

(4) We encouraged deputies to maintain close ties with the public.

We organized research projects and group inspection tours for deputies, with total attendance reaching 8,389, leading to the compilation of 497 reports. We organized deputies' research and inspections in places other than where they were elected in an orderly and well-regulated manner. We arranged for deputies from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan and from the PLA and the Armed Police Force to carry out research and inspections in relevant provinces, autonomous regions, and cities directly under the central government. We organized for Hong Kong deputies to conduct a remote video inspection of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. We set rules of procedure for deputies' participation in activities of the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. There were more than 9,100 instances of deputy participation in activities of the State Council and its departments, the

Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate and over 240 instances of deputies serving as special supervisors and inspectors. We gave full play to the role of outreach and liaison offices for deputies and encouraged NPC deputies to attend local public outreach activities.

(5) We improved the ability of our deputies to perform their duties.

We organized the election of deputies to the 14th NPC and provided guidance for the election of deputies to people's congresses at the county and township levels. A total of 2.77 million deputies to people's congresses of all levels have been chosen through democratic elections in accordance with the law. This fully demonstrates the people-centric, broad, and authentic nature of socialist democracy. We formulated 35 measures to strengthen and enhance our work related to NPC deputies, stepped up development of deputy liaison offices, and provided all-around services and support for deputies' performance of duties. We held 26 online and offline study sessions for NPC deputies, with a total attendance of 16,000, and essentially all new deputies from the primary level participated in study sessions pertaining to their duties. We established an NPC online school, where 2,539 NPC deputies took online courses.

Over the past five years of deputy-related work, we have acquired a deeper understanding of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important statements on work related to deputies. His instructions on maintaining close ties between standing committees of people's congresses and deputies and between deputies and the public reflect the defining feature of our country, which is that it is run by the people, and they highlight the institutional strengths of whole-process people's democracy. They shed light on the fundamental goals, inherent requirements, and working principles for our work in this regard. As such, we have earnestly followed his instructions and worked to ensure that our deputies better play their role as an important bridge and channel through which the Party and the country stay in touch with the people.

Since the beginning of the 13th NPC's term, **our deputies' sense of duty has become even stronger**. Through attending NPC sessions, submitting proposals and suggestions, engaging in our work and the work of special committees and working commissions and committees, and conducting research and inspections, deputies have learned about and brought forward the people's needs and wishes and participated in the exercise of state power on their behalf.

Deputies' duties have been more clearly defined. The role of deputies to people's congresses is not one of political glory; it is an important post that

requires a great sense of commitment and responsibility. Deputies are elected by voters or electoral units, but that doesn't mean that they can represent only the interests of the constituencies or organizations that elected them, and still less can they represent special interests. Rather, they represent the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people. They must reflect the will and wishes of the public, communicate the Party Central Committee's major decisions and plans to the people, and see that those decisions and plans are implemented.

Deputies have better fulfilled their roles. As part of people's congresses, deputies are members of organs of state power, but they also come from the people and are rooted in the people. They have jobs outside of their roles as deputies, but they also have to perform their state duties. In their daily jobs, our deputies have assumed important responsibilities and conducted themselves in ways that befit people's congress deputies in the new era. And, through the concrete performance of their state duties, they have accomplished their honorable mission of representing the people, working for the people, and serving the people.

5. Giving play to the NPC's strengths in international exchanges and working to advance the overall diplomatic agenda of the Party and the country

With the guidance of Xi Jinping's thinking on diplomacy, we prioritized the implementation of consensus reached at the head-of-state level, grounded our efforts in our functions as the nation's legislative body, and leveraged our strengths and capacity in international exchanges to serve our national strategies and defend our national interests.

(1) We strengthened bilateral exchanges with parliaments of other countries.

We maintained exchanges and communications with parliaments of nearly 190 countries and regions and signed 11 agreements on friendship and cooperation with relevant countries and multilateral parliamentary organizations. We hosted 111 delegations to China and sent 150 delegations abroad. Since the onset of Covid-19, we made active use of "cloud diplomacy" and held more than 260 bilateral video events. We also organized 98 offline diplomatic events and exchanged nearly 2,000 diplomatic letters.

We advanced legal cooperation projects with relevant countries and engaged in exchanges and discussions on issues such as constitutional reviews during the drafting of laws, the establishment and improvement of legal systems, supporting regulations for laws, and technical standards in the legislative process. We visited relevant countries for legislative exchanges on the formulation of a medical security law and revision of the Physical Culture

and Sports Law. We actively engaged with the parliaments of nine countries that recently established or restored diplomatic relations with China, holding 22 online and offline meetings and talks and establishing communications with all of them. We leveraged the roles of NPC staff stationed abroad and conducted research on the legislative practices of relevant countries and regions.

(2) We deeply engaged in multilateral parliamentary exchanges and cooperation.

We gave full play to the guiding role of high-level exchanges between the NPC and foreign parliaments and actively participated in multilateral mechanisms including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, the Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, and the six-nation Conference of Speakers of Parliament. At these events, we presented China's opinions and stayed firm in safeguarding our national interests.

We sent delegations to 65 international conferences and attended 137 conferences via video, engaging extensively with members of parliaments around the world to secure international support for the Belt and Road Initiative, the building of a human community with a shared future, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and other Chinese propositions.

We organized six offline seminars for members of parliaments from developing countries, attracting 123 parliamentarians from 25 countries. We held virtual seminars with parliaments of four African countries, five Central Asian countries, three North African countries, and French-speaking countries in Africa to enhance communication and cooperation in relevant fields. We attended legislative exchange events held by multilateral parliamentary organizations and shared information about China's legislative system and practices.

(3) We put regular exchange mechanisms and friendship groups to good use.

Regular exchange mechanisms and friendship groups are a unique strength of the NPC's diplomatic work. To date, the NPC has established mechanisms for regular exchanges and political dialogue with parliaments of 21 countries and the European Parliament. This term, we held 35 meetings under such mechanisms with parliaments of 16 countries and the European Parliament, realizing multi-tiered exchanges and cooperation in a wide range of areas.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, through the 136 bilateral friendship groups the NPC has established, letters were sent to foreign parliaments to

share information about the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, our opposition against the politicization of efforts to trace origins of Covid-19, the 14th Five-Year Plan, and the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress. In this way, we provided effective support to the country's overall diplomatic efforts.

(4) We resolutely safeguarded China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.

We took active and appropriate action to safeguard our national interests using international rules and adopted countermeasures against members of parliaments of certain countries on the basis of the principle of reciprocity. We put spokespeople at all levels of the NPC. We made unequivocal and timely statements on 48 occasions about the NPC's stances on issues such as Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, human rights, the Covid-19 pandemic, and other sensitive issues that involve China. These came in the form of remarks by the NPC Standing Committee spokesperson, statements from the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, and remarks by spokespersons of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee and the Standing Committee Legislative Affairs Commission.

(5) We actively conducted international communications.

We conducted foreign exchanges on national governance experience; introduced to the world information about Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, achievements and experience in China's reform and opening up, the people's congress system, and the ways in which the Chinese people run China; and shared the features and strengths of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics.

We translated annual compilations of the laws of the People's Republic of China into English and had them published, and we released the English translations of 87 laws and decisions on the official website of the NPC, presenting China's achievements in advancing the rule of law on all fronts. We developed and made good use of the NPC's English website and explored more forms of new media to enhance our international reach and influence through information sharing and communications. We invited 94 deputies from the primary level to attend the NPC's foreign affairs activities and discuss the strengths of the people's congress system through sharing their personal experiences in performing their duties.

The NPC's diplomatic work over the past five years has made us all the more aware that, in this new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the primary tasks in the NPC's diplomatic work are as follows: (1) focusing on the

country's overall diplomatic agenda, helping implement important consensus reached between heads of state, and ensuring that all the diplomatic tasks assigned by the Party Central Committee are accomplished; (2) better identifying the NPC's position, tasks, features, and strengths in the country's diplomatic work and, through its contact with foreign legislative bodies, fostering a positive international environment for China's development and winning more international friends to protect our national interests; (3) stepping up to the front lines of any legal, political, or diplomatic struggle whenever the country requires, without the slightest hesitation, to carry out our political responsibilities as the national legislature and defend China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.

6. Intensifying self-improvement efforts under the overarching principle of strengthening ourselves politically

Upholding the Party's overall leadership over the work of people's congresses and complying with General Secretary Xi Jinping's requirement to fulfill the four-fold role, we constantly enhanced our political ability and our professional competence and worked hard to become an institution that is trusted by the Party Central Committee and that meets the expectations of the people.

(1) We improved our operating mechanisms.

We improved the timing, procedures, and content of our meetings and applied the principle of democratic centralism. We convened 5 NPC sessions and 39 Standing Committee meetings and heard and deliberated 1,029 issues. Fully playing its role, the Council of Chairpersons held a total of 136 meetings. We strictly observed our rules of procedure, put forward, pursuant to law, times of meetings, lists of voting and nonvoting participants, and schedules for general meetings and group meetings, and enforced strict procedures for requesting leaves of absence, thus keeping the meeting attendance rate above 96 percent. We earnestly carried out work related to proposal submission and deliberation and developed a mechanism for holding an additional Council of Chairpersons meeting in each odd-numbered month to discuss draft laws to be submitted to Standing Committee meetings for votes. We further standardized the hearing and deliberation of work reports, inquiries on special topics, speeches, and voting.

(2) We gave full play to the roles of special committees and working commissions and committees.

To better adapt to the needs of the NPC's work in the new era, we respectively renamed the Law Committee and the Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee the Constitution and Law Committee and the Supervision

and Justice Committee, established a Social Development Committee, and made partial adjustments to the statutory functions of the Education, Science, Culture, and Public Health Committee.

We enhanced the institutions and procedures of special committees, who held over 500 meetings. The Council of Chairpersons, special committees, and working commissions and committees led work on drafting laws and decisions or submitting them for deliberation on 91 occasions, and they coordinated and offered guidance on the drafting of 137 laws, with 92.7 percent of the items on our legislative agenda completed by the end of our tenure. All 202 proposals and 171 reports submitted to our meetings for deliberation were first deliberated by special committees, who produced reports on the results of their deliberations. Special committees were also responsible for organizing and conducting research projects and inspections into the implementation of laws.

We strengthened institutional development by establishing and revising a number of systems and rules on legislation, oversight, processing of deputies' proposals and suggestions, deputy-related work, and research projects. We developed a dynamic closed-loop mechanism for the formulation, evaluation, and revision of laws to ensure that special committees and working commissions and committees were put to effective use.

(3) We strengthened our working bodies' ability to provide quality services.

We increased the number of local legislative outreach offices to 32, now covering 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and cities directly under the central government across the country. We made progress on the Digital NPC project. We developed a unified national platform for recording and reviewing normative documents and opened a platform for online submission of suggestions for review from citizens and organizations. We established a national database of laws and regulations. We set up five local liaison offices for our Budgetary Affairs Commission and developed an online NPC budget oversight system that covers 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and cities directly under the central government, over 90 percent of prefectural-level cities, and over 80 percent of counties and districts.

We launched an online state-owned asset oversight system to facilitate our deliberation. We developed and launched an online NPC deputy work platform, and we enhanced the quality of video conferences and the online audience experience. We opened an exclusive e-government WeChat account for the NPC bodies, making possible the full online processing of deputies' proposals and suggestions and application of research results. We improved the NPC's mechanisms for receiving and processing public letters and visits

and set up an online platform for handling public letters, which allowed us to process more than 430,000 letters and visits.

We improved the NPC's ability to carry out media and public communications work. We organized press briefings, press conferences, the "deputies' corridor," and the "ministers' corridor," and we assigned a spokesperson for each delegation and set up video interview rooms at the press center when the NPC was in session. We strengthened our reporting along the whole process of our legislative and oversight work and did a better job publicizing the work of our deputies. We gave full play to the roles of China Institute of Theory on the People's Congress System and our magazine *National People's Congress of China*, and we promoted greater integration of our publicity efforts through publications, internet, microblogs, WeChat, and mobile applications. We wrote theoretical books on the studies and interpretation of the theory on the people's congress system. Throughout the pandemic, we provided quality services to NPC sessions and Standing Committee meetings and ensured normal operations of the Great Hall of the People.

(4) We strengthened Party building in the NPC.

We made comprehensive moves to strengthen the NPC politically, theoretically, organizationally, institutionally, and in terms of conduct and discipline, creating a clean and honest environment that encouraged dedication and hard work.

We launched campaigns to raise awareness of the need to stay true to the Party's founding mission and to encourage the study of Party history, and we thoroughly studied Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We held seminars every year to share our studies and application of General Secretary Xi Jinping's key ideas on upholding and improving the system of people's congresses. We hosted 32 lectures on topics such as Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law and Xi Jinping's thinking on diplomacy.

We formulated and implemented a five-year study plan for the NPC bodies. We trained a large number of high-caliber NPC employees who are politically steadfast, are dedicated to serving the people, respect the rule of law, promote democracy, and work hard with a strong sense of responsibility.

(5) We built closer ties with local people's congresses.

We held a symposium to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of standing committees for local people's congresses at and above the county level. We called meetings for provincial people's congresses to share their

experience in legislative work, and we held a national forum on local legislation each year. We held training sessions on local legislative work to offer guidance to local people's congresses in carrying out collaborative and joint legislation in areas such as regional environmental protection. We held workshops for heads of local people's congresses on the theory on the people's congress system, where officials shared their work experiences.

Local people's congresses assisted us in carrying out inspections into implementation of laws, conducting legislative research, serving and supporting deputies, and performing diplomatic work. They contributed greatly to improving the overall quality of the work of people's congresses.

Over the past five years, we have improved ourselves in all aspects. As a result, the NPC's foundations as a political institution have become more solid, its responsibilities as an institution of state power have been better defined, its operations as a working institution have become more efficient, and its role as a representative institution has become more prominent. We have ensured that the NPC's institutional development remains on the right track, have effectively improved the quality of the NPC's work, and have advanced whole-process people's democracy in an orderly manner.

Fellow Deputies,

The achievements of the 13th NPC and its standing committee have been made under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. They are the result of the diligent and hard work of the NPC deputies, the members of the NPC Standing Committee and special committees, and the staff of the NPC bodies. They are the result of our close collaboration and cooperation with the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and local people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees. And they are the result of the full trust and strong support of the entire Chinese people. On behalf of the 13th NPC Standing Committee, I would like to express our highest respect and sincere gratitude.

Looking back on the past five years, we are also keenly aware that there are still a number of problems and shortcomings in the NPC's work. In some areas, we found it difficult to adapt to the historic transformation unfolding on our journey ahead in the new era against the backdrop of our society's changing principal contradiction. In particular, we need to further improve the quality of our legislative work, as our laws are still not systematic, coordinated, and practicable enough; efforts need to be intensified to make our oversight work more targeted and effective; and we need to continue to

improve our ability to serve deputies and make our deputy-related work more procedure-based and systematic. Going forward, we will need to make real improvements in our work if we are to address these problems and shortcomings.

Fellow Deputies,

Over the past five years, we have gained a deeper understanding of the core content, basic features, and defining requirements of the people's congress system. This covers the following six aspects.

We must uphold the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The Party's leadership is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and we must ensure the full implementation of this principle as written in the Constitution and make sure that the Party always remains the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

We must uphold Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must thoroughly apply General Secretary Xi Jinping's key ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system and guide the work of the NPC to move forward in the right direction.

We must keep to the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics. We must ensure the unity between leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance and guarantee that the Party leads the people in exercising effective law-based governance of the country.

We must uphold the major concept of whole-process people's democracy. We must fully leverage the role of the people's congress system as an important institutional vehicle to advance whole-process people's democracy in China and reflect the people's status as the masters of the country. We must ensure that the people's voice can be heard in every stage of the work of the Party and the country, from decision-making and execution to oversight of implementation.

We must make full use of the role of the people's congress system as an important institutional vehicle for the Party's leadership over organs of state power. We must use statutory procedures to turn the Party's propositions into the will of the state and the collective action of the people.

We must adhere to the nation's fundamental tasks, development path, and goals as written in the Constitution. We must enrich and broaden the work of the people's congresses and keep it up to date and ensure that the Party's theories, lines, principles, and policies are fully implemented.

Recommendations for the Work of the Coming Year

2023 will be the first year in which we fully implement the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress. This year, the general requirements for the NPC Standing Committee's work are as follows.

- Following the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; upholding the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core; applying the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress in full
- Ensuring the unity between leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance; upholding and improving the system of people's congresses
- Adhering to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability; making steady progress in advancing Chinese modernization; fully and faithfully applying the new development philosophy on all fronts
- Exercising, in accordance with the law, the powers of enacting laws, conducting oversight, making decisions, and appointing and removing officials as conferred by the Constitution and the law; improving the work of people's congresses in the new era; making our due contribution to setting the stage for building China into a modern socialist country in all respects

The Council of Chairpersons of the 13th NPC Standing Committee has adopted, in principle, the key points for the work of the Standing Committee and plans for legislation, oversight, and deputy-related work in 2023, making preliminary arrangements for this year's work.

1. Ensuring constitutional implementation and carrying out legislative work

We should improve institutions and procedures for constitutional review, improve the recording and review system for normative documents, and ensure order in the special administrative regions as stipulated in China's Constitution and the Basic Laws. We should uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations, and stand firm in advancing national reunification. Giving full play to the leading legislative role of the NPC, the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC should draw up a plan for the legislative work of the next five years. We

should improve the legal system for the socialist market economy and advance the development of a high-standard socialist market economy. We should work faster to make laws that improve the people's wellbeing, promote scientific and technological, social, and cultural progress, protect the environment, and strengthen security and national defense. We should work to both pursue development and ensure security and provide legal support for Chinese modernization.

2. Enhancing the effectiveness of oversight

We should improve our methods for carrying out oversight and make sure that oversight is conducted in an appropriate, effective, and lawful way. We should focus our oversight on the targets and tasks set at the Party's 20th National Congress and the major decisions and plans made by the Party Central Committee. We should align our oversight with the people's concerns, expectations, and wishes. In hearing and deliberating reports, we should maintain our focus on advancing high-quality development. We should conduct oversight of the major matters approved at this session. We should strengthen examination and oversight of government budgets and final accounts and enhance oversight over state-owned asset management, implementation of laws, supervision, and judicial work.

3. Improving deputy-related work

We should raise the quality and effectiveness of our processing of deputies' proposals and suggestions, strengthen process management and follow-up supervision, and improve our supervision mechanisms for the handling of key suggestions. We should improve the mechanisms for Standing Committee members to get in touch with deputies and the working mechanisms through which special committees and working commissions and committees maintain contact with deputies from relevant fields or with relevant professional knowledge, and we should encourage more deputies to participate in the work of the Standing Committee. We should work to foster closer ties between deputies and the people, improve activities for deputies when the NPC is not in session, and make continued efforts to build working mechanisms and platforms to facilitate communications between deputies and the people. We should step up training of deputies to help them better perform their duties.

4. Engaging in international exchanges

We should spare no efforts in supporting the diplomatic agenda set by the Party and the country and complete the foreign affairs tasks entrusted to the NPC by the Party Central Committee. We should strengthen exchanges between the NPC and parliaments of other countries on multiple levels and in

various ways and areas, in order to lay solid social and legal foundations for advancing bilateral relations. We should take an active part in activities organized by multilateral parliamentary organizations to present China to the world and communicate China's propositions. We should make full use of spokespeople at all levels of the NPC to speak out and stand up for China on issues concerning our core national interests and major matters of principle.

5. Strengthening self-improvement efforts

We should thoroughly study, understand, and apply the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress and enhance our political judgment, understanding, and implementation in line with the overarching principle of strengthening ourselves politically. We should improve our ability to carry out our duties, immerse ourselves in the rule of law, give full play to the roles of special committees and working commissions and committees, and strengthen the capacity of the NPC bodies to provide quality services and support.

Fellow Deputies,

Let us rally more closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core and thoroughly apply Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Let us build firm confidence, unite as one, and forge ahead with resolve. And let us strive in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects and advance national rejuvenation on all fronts.