

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

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The official Chinese version of this report will be released by Xinhua News Agency.

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.

Let me begin with a review of our major initiatives since the Third Session of the 13th National People's Congress.

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year in the history of the People's Republic of China. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core responded confidently to risks and challenges of a kind the world has rarely seen and coordinated efforts to advance the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. Through our endeavors to foster opportunities amid crises and open up new vistas in a shifting landscape, we have achieved major strategic successes in our response to Covid-19, secured historic achievements in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and attained a complete victory in the battle against poverty. By enabling the Chinese nation to make another giant stride toward rejuvenation, the Central Committee has delivered impressive results that our people are happy with which will go down in history. This new and substantial progress that has been made in the cause of the Party and the country will certainly spur us forward with greater confidence and resolve on our journey to build a modern socialist country in all respects.

Confronted with a complicated international landscape and the challenging tasks of pursuing reform and development and ensuring stability at home, the NPC Standing Committee, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, continued to follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, thoroughly implemented Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law, and fulfilled its duties and responsibilities. The Standing Committee took active steps to provide legal support for advancing major work plans, addressing major risks and challenges, and protecting national security, and effectively played its role as an organ of state power.

Over the course of the 10 months since the Third Session of the 13th NPC, the Standing Committee has earnestly exercised its powers of enacting laws, conducting oversight, making decisions, and appointing and removing officials. In total, we have formulated 9 laws, revised 13 existing laws, made 8 decisions on legal issues and major issues, and are currently deliberating 23 draft laws. We heard and deliberated 35 reports, inspected the implementation of 1 decision and 6 laws, conducted 2 special inquiries and 6

research projects, and passed 1 resolution. We decided to ratify or enter into 7 treaties with foreign countries. We reviewed and passed 39 bills covering a total of 259 appointments or removals of state department employees.

The most prominent feature of the Standing Committee's work is our focus on the major CPC Central Committee decisions and plans, on the people's expectations for the rule of law in their pursuit of a better life, and on the legal requisites for modernizing China's system and capacity for governance, in an effort to strengthen legislation and legal oversight to ensure that all aspects of our work concentrate more on the central task of economic development and overall national interests and better serve our country and people.

For example, we strengthened the legal framework for wildlife protection. We issued a prompt decision to completely ban the illegal trade and consumption of wild animals, and followed it with inspections on the implementation of this decision and the Wildlife Protection Law, before making revisions to the Wildlife Protection Law.

We worked to establish stronger legal safeguards for public health. We developed a work plan for enacting new laws and revising existing ones in a timely manner, and formed task forces to advance the enactment or revision of 30 pieces of legislation in batches.

We took resolute steps to maintain order as defined in China's Constitution in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Responding to the needs for legislation which have arisen from the developments in the Hong Kong situation, we were swift to enact the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR. We heard and deliberated the State Council's report on revising and improving the electoral system of Hong Kong along with relevant suggestions, and formulated a draft decision on improving Hong Kong's electoral system which has been submitted to this session for your deliberation.

In our efforts to contribute to the battle against poverty, we sped up legislation related to agriculture, rural areas, and rural residents, and both heard and deliberated reports and carried out research projects on poverty reduction.

We were unrelenting in our efforts to step up the battle against pollution. For the last three years, we have carried out inspections to enforce the most important pollution control laws, namely the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution. We

conducted follow-up compliance inspections of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution only a year and a half after it came into force, thus effectively boosting the control of soil pollution.

We used the force of law to push for an improved business environment. We inspected compliance with the Law against Unfair Competition, and put on record and reviewed normative documents for creating a better business environment. We will revise the Anti-Monopoly Law this year.

To provide legal support for a new round of higher-standard opening up to the outside world, we deliberated the draft of a Hainan free trade port law, enacted the Export Control Law in a timely fashion, and revised the Patent Law.

We worked hard to address social governance issues of public concern by formulating the Community Correction Law, passing Amendment XI to the Criminal Law, and revising the Law on the Protection of Minors and the Law on Preventing Juvenile Delinquency as well as other laws.

Through these efforts, we have met the latest requirements set by the CPC Central Committee for the NPC, responded to the new expectations of the people, and provided legal support and safeguards for comprehensively advancing the rule of law in the new era.

First, we strengthened the implementation of the Constitution and oversight of constitutional compliance to safeguard the integrity of the rule of law.

Ensuring the full implementation of the Constitution is the most important task as well as the base for comprehensively advancing law-based governance and developing China into a socialist nation under the rule of law. The Standing Committee earnestly performed its legally prescribed duty of ensuring the implementation of the Constitution and strengthening oversight of constitutional compliance, thus safeguarding the sanctity and authority of the Constitution.

We improved laws relating to the Constitution.

We revised the National Flag Law and the National Emblem Law to help better protect our country's reputation and foster the spirit of patriotism, so that protecting the dignity of the national flag and national emblem becomes a conscious act for all citizens.

We revised the Electoral Law and increased as appropriate the number of deputies to people's congresses at the county and township levels, so as to

consolidate the foundation for the people's congress system.

To meet the targets set for national supervision system reform, we formulated the Law on Administrative Action for Public Employees and deliberated the draft supervisors law.

We revised the NPC Organic Law and the NPC Rules of Procedure for the first time since their promulgation more than 30 years ago, and submitted the draft revisions to this session for your deliberation. When drafting the revisions, we fully implemented the political principle of upholding the leadership of the Party, drew on new experiences and achievements in practicing the people's congress system, and refined the functions and working procedures of the Presidium of the NPC session and Chairperson's Council, with a focus on the NPC's organizational system, working mechanisms, and operating models. These revisions fully reflect the new changes in the NPC's composition and functions following the 2018 reform of Party and state institutions. We are confident that the joint effort of all deputies will ensure the successful revision of these two laws before they become the procedural laws under which the NPC and its Standing Committee perform their duties efficiently and in accordance with the law, as well as the laws which guarantee the unity of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance.

We worked to ensure constitutional order and the rule of law in the HKSAR.

The disturbances that occurred in Hong Kong in 2019 over the proposed revisions to the extradition bill had a severe impact on the rule of law and public order. They also presented a serious challenge to the policy of One Country, Two Systems. After the decision on establishing a sound legal system and implementation mechanism for the HKSAR to safeguard national security was adopted at the Third Session of the 13th NPC, the Standing Committee acted swiftly in holding two consecutive meetings in June last year, at which the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR was deliberated and adopted. A decision was made to add this law to the list of laws in Annex III to the Basic Law of the HKSAR, which shall be applied locally after promulgation by the region. This has filled a long-existing legislative vacuum with regard to national security in Hong Kong.

The adoption of a decision for the sixth Hong Kong Legislative Council to continue to discharge its duties in August 2020, was followed by the Standing Committee's November decision on issues relating to the qualifications for members of Hong Kong Legislative Council. Another decision will be adopted at this session regarding the improvement to the electoral system of

the HKSAR, and to make this package of legal measures more complete, the Standing Committee will make revisions to the relevant law on the basis of that decision.

The NPC will stand firm in safeguarding China's sovereignty, security, and development interests in accordance with the law. We will continue to perform our legally mandated duties and provide legal safeguards for ensuring constitutional order in Hong Kong, countering forces seeking "Hong Kong independence," ensuring that it is those who love our country that administer Hong Kong, and maintaining long-term prosperity and stability in the region.

We promoted the spirit of the Constitution.

According to the decision and plan of the CPC Central Committee and the provisions of the Constitution, the Standing Committee made a decision, which was followed by President Xi Jinping's signing of a presidential order, to award Zhong Nanshan the Medal of the Republic, and award Zhang Boli, Zhang Dingyu, and Chen Wei the national honorary title of People's Hero in order to commend their noble character and outstanding achievements.

We organized six ceremonies for 23 officials to publicly pledge allegiance to the Constitution as they took office in order to guide public servants to raise their awareness of the Constitution, uphold its principles, and fulfill the missions entrusted to them therein.

We organized activities and held a symposium for the seventh National Constitution Day in an effort to foster a positive environment for honoring, studying, observing, upholding, and applying the Constitution throughout society.

We conducted constitutionality reviews and put on record and reviewed normative documents.

We responded to Constitution-related concerns and worked to ensure all laws, regulations, and policies comply with the Constitution both in letter and in spirit. In 2020, we received a total of 1,310 pieces of legislation submitted for recordkeeping and examined them one by one. These included administrative regulations, local statutes, autonomous regulations and locally-specific regulations, regulations for special economic zones, judicial interpretations, and laws of special administrative regions.

We reviewed normative documents and carried out focused overhauls covering epidemic containment, wildlife protection, implementation of the Civil Code, food and drug safety, and the business environment. We

identified 3,372 normative documents in need of revision or repeal, and urged the relevant parties to make prompt corrections.

We successfully carried out reviews upon request and reviews on handover items. Last year, we received a total of 5,146 suggestions for review from citizens and organizations. One by one we examined the 3,378 suggestions which fell within the scope of our review and gave opinions on how to deal with them, and we transferred all other suggestions to relevant agencies. We received 58 local statutes handed over to us for review from relevant departments, of which 27 were forwarded to formulating bodies for revision or abolition.

We worked to encourage local people's congresses to set up a system for hearing reports on the work of putting on record and reviewing normative documents. We improved the institutions and capacity building for reviewing these documents, and officially launched the national database of laws and regulations to provide foundational support for legislative activities and for recording and review of normative documents.

Second, centering on the overall work of the Party and the country, we strengthened legislation in key areas to meet the expectations of our people.

In this new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, in response to the profound and complex changes in the international landscape and the rapid development of the cause of the Party and the country, our legislative work moved into a new stage of accelerated development, marked by a large volume of expedited and higher-standard legislation that covers a wide range of areas.

We strengthened the enactment and revision of public health laws.

Responding to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 and targeting the legal weaknesses exposed in our fight against the epidemic, we focused on developing a better coordinated and interconnected legal system and sped up the enactment and revision of laws to strengthen the rule of law with regard to public health. Up to now we have completed the revision of the Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention along with five other pieces of legislation. By the end of this year, we will have completed a further 11 objectives including revising the Wildlife Protection Law, the Practicing Physicians Law, and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

By improving relevant laws, raising legal awareness, and promoting greater compliance, we worked to ensure that the release of information on Covid-19, the allocation of emergency supplies, the handling of social issues

and disputes, and the maintenance of order in the market were all carried out in accordance with the law, thus using the force of law to protect the health and safety of our people.

We accelerated legislation on national security.

With the world currently undergoing changes of a magnitude not seen in a century, safeguarding national security has never been more urgent. The Standing Committee adopted a holistic approach to national security and accelerated national security legislation in key areas. We formulated the Biosecurity Law and the Export Control Law, revised the Archives Law, and deliberated draft revisions of the Maritime Traffic Safety Law, the draft of a data security law, and the draft of a personal information protection law. As these laws cover economic security, resource security, nuclear security, ecological security, information security, and the protection of overseas interests, they are of critical importance for our country in tackling risks and challenges, and they address major issues of great concern to the public.

In order to implement Xi Jinping's thinking on strengthening the military, and respond to the needs of national defense and military development in the new era, we revised the National Defense Law and the Law on the People's Armed Police Force, formulated the Coast Guard Law and the Veterans Support Law, and deliberated the draft of a law on the protection of the status, rights, and interests of military personnel, along with the draft revisions of the Military Service Law and the Military Facilities Protection Law. This work has provided legal safeguards for both the territorial and military security of our country and the safety of our people.

We carried out legislative work to promote high-quality development and high-standard opening up.

We formulated the Law on Urban Maintenance and Development Tax and the Deed Transfer Tax Law, revised the Patent Law and the Copyright Law, and deliberated the drafts of a rural revitalization promotion law, a stamp duty law, and a Hainan free trade port law. We made decisions on establishing an intellectual property rights court in the Hainan free trade port and a financial court in Beijing. This legislation, covering as it does fiscal and financial affairs, intellectual property protection, agricultural and rural development, and opening up, is designed to provide legal safeguards for promoting a change in the quality, efficiency, and drivers of economic development.

Establishing the Hainan pilot free trade zone and free trade port is a strategic move taken by the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping

at its core, to push for high-standard opening up in the new era. By formulating a free trade port law which embodies Chinese characteristics, complies with international practice, and responds to the call of the times, we aim to establish a legal framework for this new platform, which will promote high-standard opening up by creating a better business environment and strengthening its leading role as a free trade port.

We intensified legislation with regard to social development and governance.

We passed Amendment XI to the Criminal Law, revised the Law on the Protection of Minors, the Law on Preventing Juvenile Delinquency, and the Administrative Penalty Law, and deliberated the drafts of an anti-food waste law, an anti-organized crime law, a legal aid law, and a family education law, along with the draft revisions to the Education Law. In step with developments at home and abroad, these achievements conform to our people's aspiration for a better life, and provide legal support for a dynamic and orderly social environment.

For example, Criminal Law Amendment XI is a revision to the Criminal Law that has drawn the greatest public attention in recent years. The amendment makes additions or revisions to 47 articles, and covers workplace safety, food and drugs, order in the financial sector, the business environment, public health, biosafety and biosecurity, environmental protection, and other areas. It is a direct response to the new developments and issues of great public concern, such as education- and employment-related identity theft, assaults on bus drivers, throwing objects from a height, illegal fund raising, and the age of criminal responsibility.

The draft anti-food waste law carries forward traditional Chinese virtues and calls for socially conscious, healthy, rational, and eco-friendly modes of consumer spending.

With the focus on specific areas and special issues, we conducted legislative work in a more targeted and precise manner. This has developed a new legislative approach and pathway, and shows that our legislative work is becoming more specialized and issue-specific.

We continued to improve ecological and environmental protection laws.

Aiming to put into practice Xi Jinping's thinking on promoting ecological progress, we continued to champion integrated innovation in our ecological and environmental protection laws. The current NPC Standing Committee has formulated or revised 12 laws such as the Yangtze River Protection Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution, and the Law on the

Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste, adopted one resolution, and is currently deliberating the draft wetlands protection law. We put in place the strictest systems and the most rigorous legislation in order to draw an ecological red line to protect our clear waters and green mountains.

The Yangtze River Protection Law was passed in December 2020. As the first specialized law covering the whole river basin, this law fully reflects our commitment to well-coordinated environmental protection and over-development prevention. A full year was spent drafting the law, with three deliberations taking place the following year. The Standing Committee also convened a symposium on its implementation in a timely fashion. All of these steps are designed to advance the protection of this vitally important waterway in accordance with the law for the benefit of our people and future generations, so that the Yangtze Economic Belt becomes a key model for prioritizing ecological conservation and boosting green development, a major channel for facilitating domestic and international economic circulation, and a major force for catalyzing high-quality development.

We worked effectively to implement the Civil Code.

The Civil Code is the first piece of legislation to carry the title of code that has been enacted since the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Code is a fundamental law in the socialist system of laws with Chinese characteristics that serves to build the legal foundation, stabilize expectations, and yield long-term benefits. The Standing Committee made effective preparations for its implementation and pushed for revisions and improvements to supporting laws, regulations, and judicial interpretations. We thoroughly explained the new regulations, concepts, and principles in the Civil Code, and led the way in publicizing, promoting, and ensuring its implementation, so that this law is thoroughly observed throughout society and well received by the people.

Third, we conducted oversight of legal compliance and work performance in accordance with the law, thus providing support through oversight.

At all times, we worked to ensure that our legally prescribed duties were carried out within the statutory limits of authority and through the procedures as defined in law. By exercising appropriate and effective oversight, we advanced full and effective implementation of the Constitution and the law, and ensured law-based exercise of administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory, and procuratorial powers.

We strengthened the examination and oversight of the plans, budgets, and final accounts of the government.

Focusing on the targets and tasks for national economic and social development approved at the Third Session of the 13th NPC, we placed ensuring stability on six fronts and maintaining security in six areas at the top of our agenda.¹ We heard and deliberated a report on the implementation of the plan for national economic and social development, held regular meetings to analyze the state of the economy, and conducted ongoing oversight of economic developments to ensure the full implementation of the Party Central Committee's major decisions and plans, as well as the 2020 plan for national economic and social development adopted by the Third Session.

To comply with the requirement for pursuing a more proactive and impactful fiscal policy, we heard and deliberated the State Council's reports on its final accounts, on the execution of budgets, and on auditing work, and examined and approved the central government's final accounts for 2019. We heard and deliberated the report on the rectification of problems discovered through auditing and conducted special inquiries. We carried out oversight over the rectification process to see that relevant problems were effectively remedied.

We carried out research projects on preferential tax and fee policies and on tax and fee reduction policies for epidemic control, so as to provide legal support to meet local governments' funding requirements as they carried out epidemic control work.

We further advanced the reform for expanding the focus of budget examination and oversight.

We formulated guidelines for strengthening local people's congresses' examination and oversight of local government debt, and pushed for the meticulous and effective implementation of reform measures for expanded budget examination and oversight.

We carried out exhaustive budget examination and exercised budget oversight at all stages, intensifying ex ante oversight, concentrating on interim oversight, and carrying out ex post oversight effectively.

We stepped up oversight to see how effectively policies are implemented and how efficiently funds are used. We established mechanisms for hearing

¹ The six fronts refer to employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and expectations. The six areas refer to job security, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments.

reports on performance-based evaluations of government budgets and for releasing information on the performance of important policies and key funds from relevant departments. We encouraged the establishment of a system for linking performance-based evaluation results to policy improvements and budget allocations.

Combining online monitoring with offline research and analysis, we pressed ahead with phase two of the development of the online budget oversight system with a view to helping NPC deputies to perform their budget examination and oversight duties.

We fulfilled our duty of overseeing the management of state-owned assets.

We adopted the decision on enhancing oversight of state-owned asset management. We carried out our duties effectively, and worked to ensure that our oversight became more targeted, procedure-based, and practical, so as to provide legal safeguards for more effective oversight of state-owned asset management.

We heard and deliberated a comprehensive report on the management of state-owned assets for 2019, along with a special report on the management of state-owned assets held by enterprises for the same year. We launched research initiatives to oversee the management of state-owned assets held by enterprises (excluding financial enterprises), and encouraged the State Council to further reform the state-owned asset oversight system with the focus on capital management, to advance the mixed ownership reform of state-owned enterprises, and to improve the distribution of state capital.

We carried out research dedicated to refining the state-owned asset governance system and advanced online oversight of state-owned assets. Over a period of three years, we essentially achieved our goal of setting up a system for reporting on state-owned asset management at the provincial, city (with subsidiary districts), and county levels.

We heard and deliberated work reports on specific issues.

Focusing on the targets and tasks for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and paying particular attention to the priorities and challenges of economic performance, we heard and deliberated the State Council's reports on scientific and technological innovation, on the reform to introduce a registration-based IPO system, on poverty alleviation, and on the allocation and use of government funds for agriculture and rural areas.

For the first time, we heard and deliberated a National Commission of Supervision report on tracking down corrupt officials hiding abroad and the

recovery of stolen state assets. Our work in this area has not only demonstrated the achievements of reforms to the national supervision system and the improvement in our national governance capacity, but also marked a new step forward in the NPC's exercise of oversight of the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

We strengthened oversight of law enforcement and judicial work.

We heard and deliberated the State Council's report on the efforts of public security organs to standardize law enforcement, in a bid to assist these organs in enforcing the law with a stricter, fairer, more measured, and more procedure-based approach.

In response to the new characteristics of civil cases and new crimes, we heard and deliberated a report from the Supreme People's Court on strengthening the adjudication of civil cases to support sustained and healthy economic and social development in accordance with the law, along with the Supreme People's Court's mid-term report on pilot reforms for streamlining civil litigation procedures. We also heard and deliberated the report from the Supreme People's Procuratorate on applying the system of sentence bargaining in criminal cases. As a result of these efforts, we were able to enhance civil trial quality and efficiency and improving the work performance in the handling of criminal cases, achieved both judicial impartiality and greater efficiency, and coordinated political, legal, and social implications in the handling of cases.

We continued to intensify law enforcement inspections.

In order to coordinate the Covid-19 response with economic and social development, and to meet the demands and expectations of our deputies and the general public, the Standing Committee inspected the implementation of its decision to completely ban the illegal trade and consumption of wild animals, the Wildlife Protection Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution, the Law on Promoting Agricultural Mechanization, the Charity Law, the Law on the Provision of Public Cultural Services, and the Law against Unfair Competition. We also heard and deliberated a report from the State Council on its handling of the Standing Committee report on the inspections of the implementation of the decision to completely ban the illegal trade and consumption of wild animals and the Wildlife Protection Law and on the recommendations of its deliberations. We launched public awareness raising campaigns for the relevant laws to ensure the fulfillment of legal responsibilities in line with specific legal stipulations.

Placing the focus on the campaigns to keep our skies blue, our waters clear, and our land pollution-free, we inspected the implementation of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution in 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively. We carried out field inspections in 78 prefecture-level cities in 22 provinces, held 74 seminars, and conducted unannounced investigations in 170 organizations and projects. Subsequently, a total of 82 problems in 20 categories were identified, and the names of the 143 organizations in which problems were discovered were made public. We continued to conduct law enforcement inspections with regard to environmental protection with the aim of using the force of the law to assist in winning the battle against pollution. Crucially, through these inspections we increased the sense of ecological civilization among the people, fostered widespread awareness on observing environmental protection laws, and channeled the strength of the rule of law into building an even more beautiful China with green mountains, clear waters, and fresh air.

We achieved real progress in research.

Our research initiatives constitute important channels through which the Standing Committee carries out oversight of work performance. Last year, members of the Chairperson's Council, the Standing Committee, special committees, and work committees conducted a total of 232 research projects, leading to the compilation of 307 reports. The Standing Committee launched research projects focusing on major issues pertaining to the development of the 14th Five-Year Plan, the implementation of its resolution on environmental protection, the initiative to cherish food and oppose waste, the reform of the social insurance system and the implementation of the Social Insurance Law, initiatives to foster ethnic unity and progress, and the management and reform of government investment funds.

For instance, special committees and work committees spent more than four months conducting the research project regarding the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan. As a result of meticulous organization, 22 reports were produced on the basis of acquiring a thorough understanding of the following: issues concerning ethnic groups; national security; finance and the economy; education, science, culture, and public health; overseas Chinese affairs; environmental protection; agriculture, rural areas, and rural residents; and social security.

We worked through multiple channels to ensure the application of our research results, so that these research reports not only serve the NPC in its

mission to carry out oversight and enact and revise laws, but they are also referred to by central Party and government departments in their decision making processes and in carrying out their duties.

Fourth, we upheld the principal position of deputies and supported and assisted them in the law-based performance of their duties.

Keeping our duty to serve deputies firmly in mind, we fully implemented the 35 measures to strengthen and enhance our work related to NPC deputies that emphasized close contact between the Standing Committee and deputies and between deputies and the public, so as to further raise the standard of this work.

We earnestly handled proposals and suggestions made by deputies.

We deliberated all 506 of the proposals that were referred to us by the Presidium of the Third Session of the 13th NPC. Among these, 22 legislative items addressed in 118 of the proposals were deliberated and adopted, or are currently under deliberation, and 58 legislative items addressed in 168 of the proposals have been included in our five-year legislative program or annual legislative plan.

A total of 9,180 suggestions made by deputies were referred to 194 organizations for handling, with feedback given to deputies. Approximately 71.28 percent of the issues raised in these suggestions were either solved or addressed with plans to resolve them over time. Issues drawn from 181 suggestions that cover nine areas were selected as key suggestions and handled under the oversight of special committees. This helped to resolve a number of difficult and key issues of broad public concern.

More than 400 suggestions which were raised when the NPC was not in session were handed over to 98 organizations for examination and handling. We ensured that every suggestion was dealt with as swiftly as possible with feedback.

We improved the mechanism for coordinating the handling of proposals and suggestions raised by our deputies, facilitated the resolution of issues of the greatest concern, and pushed forward the translation of proposals and suggestions into policies and measures that promote development, improve public wellbeing, and bring tangible benefits to the people.

We maintained close contact with deputies.

Members of the Standing Committee got in touch with 439 deputies and listened carefully to their views and suggestions through such channels as

forums, visits, phone calls, emails, WeChat, and investigations. We encouraged deputies to fully engage in the work of the Standing Committee, saw non-voting deputy attendance at the Standing Committee meetings reach 175, and held two discussions with invited deputies.

Special committees explored ways to set up a mechanism for establishing direct contact with deputies in specific fields. This led to over 500 instances of deputies participating in law enforcement inspections, research projects, plan and budget examinations and oversight, and in the oversight of state-owned asset management.

On the basis of implementing the mechanism for soliciting comments of deputies on the drafts of important laws, we adopted the suggestions of 214 deputies on improving the long-term mechanism for tobacco control among minors as part of broader revisions to the Law on the Protection of Minors. We opened six additional legislative outreach offices and five more outreach offices for the examination and oversight of local government budgets. This has created a direct channel for hearing the views of deputies and the general public.

We fostered close ties between deputies and the people.

In recent years, the diversity in the channels and topics of the communication between our deputies and the people has become a real highlight of our deputies' work. Deputies heard and conveyed opinions and suggestions from the public through multiple channels such as visits, forums, work reports to the organizations which elected them, and by participating in deputy group activities. This has enabled them to fully play their role as a bridge between the Party and government and the people.

Under the unified arrangements of the Standing Committee, we organized inspection tours and research projects with the total number of opportunities for participation reaching around 1,800. These activities proved fruitful. NPC deputies attended activities organized by their liaison offices, and actively helped to address problems of immediate concern to the people, including those relating to employment, education, healthcare, housing, elderly care, food safety, and environmental protection. In doing so deputies played an active role in reflecting public concerns and solving the difficult issues which impact people's wellbeing.

We improved deputies' ability to perform their duties.

We established a NPC online school, as a new study channel for NPC deputies and local people's congresses at all levels. The school features

learning materials tailored to people's congresses on such topics as the history of the NPC, fundamentals of deputy duty, and deputy profiles. We made our training courses more targeted and effective. Up to now, these courses have received 830,000 views. We held three online video study sessions and two sessions which were conducted both online and offline for deputies and heads of local people's congresses, with a total attendance of 11,000.

Having earnestly participated in study and training programs, deputies working at the community level have been able to enhance their theoretical competence, strengthen their political commitment, deepen their understanding of laws and policies, and enrich their professional knowledge. They have become more purposeful and active in their efforts to engage with, represent, and serve the people. While maintaining close ties with members of the public and getting to know the situation on the ground, deputies took active steps to identify and report on the most common and prominent problems, and to facilitate their resolution through legal and institutional means along with policy measures.

We improved the handling of public complaints.

We formulated procedures for handling public complaints conveyed by NPC deputies, and forwarded 141 letters from deputies so that they could be followed up by the relevant departments. We set up an online platform to receive and process public complaints. In just over a year, the platform has been used to deal with 24,000 complaints. We developed new channels for democratic legislation, meticulously studied and analyzed issues of great concern which people had raised in their complaints, and ensured that their concerns were addressed in the enactment of relevant laws or revisions to existing laws.

Fifth, we effectively leveraged the NPC's function and role in foreign relations in the service of the country's overall diplomatic work.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way in which foreign relations are conducted. However, it has not stopped the NPC from carrying out international exchanges. With the focus on our main task of implementing the consensus reached at the head-of-state level, we developed new ways of conducting foreign affairs. We held 46 bilateral events at various levels via video link, attended 26 video conferences, made 15 phone calls, carried out 27 offline foreign affairs activities, and exchanged nearly 600 diplomatic letters.

We stepped up friendly bilateral exchanges.

A great strength of the NPC's diplomatic work is its broad coverage and

flexible methods. It has established 130 friendship groups with other countries and mechanisms for regular exchanges with the parliaments of 22 countries and the European Parliament, in addition to maintaining ties and contact with the parliamentary bodies of nearly 190 countries and regions.

We held the sixth meeting of the China-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the 11th meeting of the China-France Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. We also conducted exchanges with the State Great Hural of Mongolia through a regular exchange mechanism.

We had video conferences with parliamentary leaders from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Germany, Kenya, and other countries, thereby enhancing exchanges and mutual learning regarding legislative experiences, providing legal support for practical cooperation with these nations, and playing our role as a legislative institution in building stronger international relations.

Following the adoption of the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR, on behalf of the NPC, heads of bilateral friendship groups sent 106 letters to the parliaments of 93 countries and the European Parliament to share relevant information and clarify China's stance, thereby helping to win broad understanding and support.

We promoted multilateral exchanges and cooperation.

With the focus on the joint efforts to pursue the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), we enhanced policy communication and legislative exchanges with the parliamentary bodies of countries along the BRI routes.

We attended the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, the Sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum, and other video conferences. We participated in multilateral assemblies such as the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. At these events, we worked to incorporate propositions for such initiatives as building a human community with a shared future, adopting a people-centered approach, and standing united in the fight against Covid-19 into multilateral conference documents. Through these efforts we steadfastly upheld multilateralism, along with the international system with the UN at its heart and an international order based on international law.

We worked to increase the international community's understanding of China's path and systems.

We took active steps to share information about Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, on what China has achieved in development, and on what China has done for the world. We proactively introduced Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law, along with the system of people's congresses and our legislative work. We shared with the international community China's position on putting our people and human life above all else in the fight against Covid-19, and our country's experience and practices in this fight.

We worked harder on the English version of the websites of people's congresses and made a success of the English edition of the NPC's magazine, thereby publicizing the strengths and achievements of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics.

We stood firm in protecting our national interests.

We fully leveraged the role of spokesperson mechanisms in the NPC Standing Committee, the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, clarifying China's stand on issues pertaining to Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and our response to Covid-19. The people's congresses are the congresses of the people. Whatever the circumstances may be, and whenever the Party, our nation, or our people need us, we will step up to the front lines of any legal, political, or diplomatic struggle, without the slightest hesitation, to carry out our political responsibilities.

Six, we worked to strengthen the Standing Committee's capacity to perform its functions through constant self-improvement.

The Standing Committee must improve itself in all respects so that it will become even more politically reliable and better able to honor the rule of law, to promote democracy, to serve the people, and to function efficiently. Self-improvement will also allow the Committee to become a working body which can perform all the functions conferred upon it by the Constitution and the law, as well as a representative body in close contact with the people. To this end, we made improvements in the following areas.

We improved ourselves theoretically and politically.

We consolidated and built on the achievements of our educational campaign to raise awareness of the need to stay true to the Party's founding mission, organized thorough study of the third volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, and held seven group study sessions for the leading Party members group of the Standing Committee and six Standing Committee

lectures.

We promptly communicated and studied important speeches made by General Secretary Xi Jinping and the guiding principles from the meetings and documents of the central leadership. We convened a seminar to exchange our experience in studying General Secretary Xi Jinping's important ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system. We held the 26th national forum on local legislation, thoroughly studied Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law, and set an example on how to study and promote public awareness about the Constitution and the law, as well as other information necessary for performing our duties. All these study activities helped to further enhance the political strengths of members of the Standing Committee, along with their ability to think and act in accordance with the law as they carry out their work.

We refined the Standing Committee's operating mechanisms.

After reviewing the successful experience and practices of the Third Session of the 13th NPC and adapting to the need for routine epidemic control, we formulated specific measures to improve the organization and conduct of regular NPC meetings and other important meetings.

We made appropriate arrangements for Chairperson's Council and Standing Committee meetings to ensure that every meeting, every bill, and every item of work was handled in compliance with the law. In striving to make our meetings more efficient and effective, we refined our agendas, reduced the time meetings took, streamlined procedures, and maximized the effectiveness of our deliberations. The average attendance rate at the eight Standing Committee meetings exceeded 97 percent, with guest attendance above 95 percent.

In keeping with the principle of democratic centralism, we worked to ensure that Standing Committee members could fully exercise their democratic rights, and that the Party's propositions and the people's will would be better embodied in the laws and resolutions adopted by the NPC.

We gave full play to the role of special committees.

We revised the rules for CPC branch groups of NPC special committees in order to standardize and institutionalize their operation. Over the past few months, special committees have held a total of 152 meetings and have effectively and efficiently drafted laws, conducted oversight, and followed up proposals and suggestions from deputies. They led work to draft 13 laws and submitted them for deliberation in accordance with the law. They were

involved in the early stages of the drafting of laws by other state organs, and strengthened supervision and guidance throughout the whole process. They assisted the Standing Committee in putting on record and reviewing normative documents. They conducted law enforcement inspections along with research on selected topics, and exercised follow-up oversight to scrutinize the handling of the deliberation recommendations issued by the Standing Committee.

We made greater efforts to develop the administrative bodies of the NPC.

We carried out a week-long publicity campaign to build good conduct and political integrity, continued to carry out internal inspections within the administrative bodies, and reviewed and improved 137 relevant systems. In doing so, we consolidated what we had already achieved with regard to strengthening the Party and raising work efficiency in the NPC administrative bodies.

We rigorously implemented the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving work conduct as well as the detailed rules for its implementation. We moved ahead with the campaign to address conduct-related problems in the NPC administrative bodies, and took firm action to eradicate bureaucratism and the practice of formality for formality's sake.

The latest round of inspections conducted by a central discipline inspection team and the ensuing rectification of problems which were discovered provided the NPC administrative bodies with an opportunity to better play their role as advisors and service-providers. They therefore moved closer to their goal of becoming exemplary departments which are trusted by the Party Central Committee and that meet the expectations of the people.

We engaged in a coordinated effort to raise public awareness about the NPC.

We earnestly studied, interpreted, and publicized the system of people's congresses, provided full and accurate coverage of the NPC's meetings and its legislative and oversight work, and organized the Deputies' Brief and Ministers' Brief press briefings in the Great Hall of the People during the Third Session. By providing greater publicity for deputies who went the extra mile in combating the epidemic, in alleviating poverty, and in promoting ethnic solidarity, we were able to tell the stories of our country, the NPC, and its deputies.

Fellow Deputies,

We owe each and every one of our achievements to the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, and the sound guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Our achievements are also the result of the diligent, hard work of all our NPC deputies, the NPC Standing Committee and special committee members, and the staff of the NPC administrative bodies. They are the fruits of the close cooperation and strong support of 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. They are the result of the active participation and full trust of all Chinese people. On behalf of the Standing Committee, I would like to express our highest respect and sincere gratitude to all of them.

There are still areas in need of improvement in the work of the Standing Committee. The quality of legislation needs to be raised further, the means of legislation needs to be diversified, and legislation in certain areas has been slow to respond to new requirements of the new era. Oversight needs to be more effective, and oversight methods and mechanisms need to be constantly improved through innovation. We need to raise our awareness of the importance of serving NPC deputies, improve our ability to do so, and provide better conditions for the performance of their duties.

To address these problems, we in the Standing Committee will listen to suggestions and advice from deputies and all sectors of society with an open mind, and constantly strengthen and improve our work, so that we can better perform the functions conferred upon us by the Constitution and the law.

Fellow Deputies,

The central conference on comprehensively promoting the rule of law established the guiding position of Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law. General Secretary Xi Jinping has given important speeches and provided important instructions for the work of people's congresses on many occasions, charting the course it should take and providing the principles for upholding and improving the system of people's congresses.

The rapid development of the cause of the Party and the country has enriched the practice of the people's congress system. The dynamic work conducted by people's congresses illustrates the clear strengths and great vitality of China's socialist democracy and also the system of people's congresses itself.

As we embark on a new journey toward modernization, we must fully

leverage the role of the people's congress system as China's foundational political system and uphold the unity of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance. We must ensure that under this system our nation's destiny remains firmly in the hands of the people.

Fellow Deputies,

I now wish to discuss our main tasks for the coming year.

The year 2021 is the first year we implement the 14th Five-Year Plan and embark on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country. Marking as it does the centenary of the Communist Party of China, this year will bring with it even brighter prospects for national rejuvenation.

China faces profound and intricate changes in its development environment, both at present and in the near future. Instability and uncertainty are mounting noticeably in the international landscape, and we will face many difficulties and challenges on the road ahead. However, with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to guide us, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core to lead us, the marked strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics to draw upon, and the mighty force of 1.4 billion hardworking, united Chinese people to rely on, we will undoubtedly achieve new successes in reform, opening up, and socialist modernization.

As China enters a new stage of development, it is imperative that we have a stronger sense of mission, responsibility, and urgency, and that we are courageous in taking on responsibility, capable of fulfilling our duties, and purposeful in our determination to accomplish the new tasks and meet fresh requirements in our work for our new journey in the new era.

The general requirements for the work of the Standing Committee are as follows:

- follow the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, take Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era as our guide, and thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law and his important ideas on upholding and improving the system of people's congresses,
- implement all guiding principles from the Party's 19th National Congress and from the 19th Party Central Committee's second

through fifth plenary sessions,

- uphold the unity of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance,
- ground our efforts in the new development stage, put into practice our new development philosophy, and create a new pattern of development,
- plan the NPC's work around the 14th Five-Year Plan and the long-range objectives through the year 2035, and exercise statutory powers to enact laws, conduct oversight, make decisions, and appoint and remove officials in accordance with the law, and
- ensure that the NPC fully plays its role as we endeavor to build a modern socialist country in all respects.

First, we will work to ensure greater observance of the Constitution and enhance constitutionality reviews to safeguard the Constitution's sanctity and authority.

To ensure the observance of the Constitution, we will see that all procedures and mechanisms for interpreting the Constitution are well implemented, and actively respond to concerns regarding constitutional issues. We will move faster to enact and revise Constitution-related laws, draft a supervisors law, and revise the Rules of Procedure for the NPC Standing Committee, the Organic Law of the State Council, and the Organic Law of the Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments.

We will enhance oversight to ensure the observance of the Constitution, and earnestly carry out the tasks of reviewing constitutionality and putting on record and reviewing normative documents in order to protect the integrity of our country's rule of law. We will continue to promote public awareness of the Constitution, and organize pledges of allegiance to the Constitution and activities for the National Constitution Day.

We will uphold and improve the systems for One Country, Two Systems, safeguard constitutional order in the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao as stipulated in China's Constitution and the respective basic laws of the two regions, and work to ensure that the practice of One Country, Two Systems is firmly upheld over the long term.

We will use legal means to uphold the one-China principle and oppose "Taiwan independence," and strengthen the shared understanding on safeguarding the one-China framework. We will regulate and protect

relations between people across the Taiwan Strait and enhance cooperation and exchanges between the two sides in accordance with the law to advance peaceful reunification of our country.

Second, we will strengthen legislative work in key areas and continue to improve the quality and efficiency of legislation.

We will continue to apply systems thinking, and enact, revise, repeal, interpret, and codify laws in a coordinated way, with high priority given to urgently needed ones. We will give full play to the leading role of the NPC and its Standing Committee in legislative work and speed up improvements to the Chinese socialist system of laws.

We will push ahead with legislative work in national security, scientific and technological innovation, public health, biosafety and biosecurity, ecological conservation, risk management, and laws concerning external affairs and other key areas, with a view to improving the laws which are urgently needed for national governance and those which are essential for satisfying the people's growing need for a better life.

In our annual legislative plan, we have made preliminary arrangements for the deliberation of 45 legislative items, with close to 20 additional items in reserve.

We will continue with the work plan for enacting and revising laws to strengthen the legal safeguards for public health. We will formulate a law on responding to public health emergencies and revise the Wildlife Protection Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law, and the Practicing Physicians Law.

As part of our efforts to coordinate development and security, we will take steps to strengthen the legal system to safeguard national security. We will formulate a food security law, an anti-organized crime law, a land border law, a data security law, and a law on the protection of the status, rights, and interests of military personnel. We will revise the Emergency Response Law, the Maritime Traffic Safety Law, the Workplace Safety Law, the Military Service Law, and the Military Facilities Protection Law.

To develop a modern economic system and stimulate scientific and technological innovation, we will formulate a rural revitalization promotion law, a Hainan free trade port law, a futures law, and a stamp duty law. We will revise the Anti-Monopoly Law, the Law on Scientific and Technological Progress, the Company Law, the Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, the Audit Law, the Law on the Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, and the Animal

Husbandry Law.

In a bid to make the urgently needed improvements to the legal systems for people's wellbeing, education and culture, social governance, environmental protection, and green and low-carbon development, we will formulate an anti-food waste law, a law for the promotion of the cultural industry, a family education law, a preschool education law, a personal information protection law, a social assistance law, a legal aid law, a law for the protection of wetlands, and a law on activities and environmental protection in Antarctica. We will revise the Sports Law, the Education Law, the Vocational Education Law, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, the Public Security Administrative Penalty Law, the Law on Administrative Review, and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Noise Pollution. We will speed up legislative work on the protection of the Yellow River. We will waste no time in researching laws and regulations relating to new technologies and applications such as those in the areas of the digital economy, internet finance, artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing, so as to ensure that the law both promotes and protects the healthy development of new business forms and models.

We will accelerate legislation relating to external affairs. We will upgrade our legal tool kit for meeting challenges and guarding against risks in order to oppose foreign sanctions, interference, and long-arm jurisdiction. This way, we will develop a more complete system of laws and regulations relating to external affairs.

We must enrich our approach to legislative work in order to adapt to the new developments and requirements for legislation. We need to continue to handle both substantial legislation and shorter, more efficient, and high-impact legislation. We should work to formulate codes for sectors where conditions are ripe, while advancing our legislative work in a more targeted and precise manner in response to practical needs, thereby ensuring that our legislation becomes more targeted, applicable, and practical.

Third, we will strengthen oversight to ensure that state departments fulfill their duties in accordance with the law.

Focusing on the central work of the Party and the government, we will conduct oversight to pursue high-quality development, to advance supply-side structural reform as our main task, and to draw momentum from reform and innovation, in order to achieve our fundamental goal of meeting the people's ever-growing need for a better life. We will help to ensure stability on the six fronts and maintain security in the six areas, thereby

playing our role in successfully accomplishing the targets and tasks for advancing reform and development and ensuring stability.

According to our oversight work plan, we have made preliminary arrangements for 29 oversight items. In order to advance the reform for expanding the focus of budget examination and oversight and to effectively conduct oversight of state-owned asset management, we will hear and deliberate work reports on the implementation of the plan for national economic and social development, the execution of budgets, final accounts, auditing, the rectification of problems discovered through auditing, the management of state-owned assets, and our progress in meeting environmental protection targets. We will revise the decision to strengthen examination and oversight of central government budgets along with the decision to strengthen oversight over economic work.

We will conduct effective oversight of work in specific areas, with the focus on the central task of economic development and the need to serve the overall interests of our country. We will hear and deliberate 10 special reports on the following topics: accelerating the development of a new system for agricultural operations; environmental protection in the Yangtze River basin; ecological conservation in Xiongan New Area and Baiyangdian Lake; the development of a modern integrated transportation system; the allocation and use of government funds for transportation; teacher training; the protection of cultural heritage; the implementation of the resolution on the seventh five-year initiative to raise public awareness of the law; lawsuits involving intellectual property rights; and investigations into lawsuits and appeals conducted by people's procuratorates. We will adopt a resolution on the eighth five-year initiative to raise public awareness of the law.

Putting equal emphasis on legislation and law enforcement, we will inspect the implementation of the Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, the Animal Husbandry Law, the Law on Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Fire Prevention Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste, and the Notarization Law, to ensure that legally prescribed duties and legal responsibilities are strictly carried out.

We will conduct two special inquiries after we have heard and deliberated the report on the development of a modern integrated transportation system and the inspection report on the implementation of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste.

We will carry out research on the management and reform of government

subsidies, leveraging the key role of overseas Chinese in the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative, economic and social development among ethnic groups with smaller populations, the development of a nature reserve system, local legislation in cities with subsidiary districts, and extending supervisory oversight over all public employees. We will further improve our working mechanisms and methods for exercising oversight to make it even more effective.

Fourth, we will take solid steps to strengthen work related to NPC deputies to give full play to their role.

We will fully implement the system for members of the Standing Committee to get in touch with NPC deputies, and improve the mechanism for ensuring that special committees and work committees keep in contact with deputies in order to build closer and more effective working relationships with them.

Relying on deputies to carry out the NPC's work, we will boost the participation of deputies in the legislation, oversight, and international exchanges of the Standing Committee, special committees, and work committees. We will improve the handling of proposals and suggestions made by deputies.

We will support deputies in maintaining close ties with the people. We will enrich the ways deputies carry out group activities, and encourage them to participate in activities organized by their local liaison offices and outreach offices.

We will improve services for deputies and continue to develop digital platforms to aid them in the performance of their duties. We will strengthen the NPC online school and improve the mechanism for the systematic training of deputies. We will support electoral bodies in their work to supervise in accordance with the law the performance of deputies they elected and work to standardize records regarding deputy performance. We will bring the newly revised Electoral Law into force and make sure that elections of new people's congresses at the county and township levels nationwide are successful.

Fifth, we will deepen and expand exchanges and cooperation at all levels and across all fields in an effort to strengthen the NPC's work on foreign affairs.

In line with the overall diplomatic plan of our nation, we will perform our duties and make coordinated plans for foreign exchanges while continuing to

implement long-term epidemic control. We will organize diplomatic activities for members of the Chairperson's Council, and carry out diplomatic exchanges at multiple levels and through multiple channels. We will augment mechanism-based exchanges, as well as exchanges conducted by special committees, friendship groups, and working bodies of the Standing Committee, and actively participate in exchanges under multilateral mechanisms for parliamentary bodies. We will promptly voice our views on major issues and matters involving China's core interests, and share information on China's path, system, policies, concepts, and propositions with the international community.

Sixth, we will intensify our self-improvement efforts in order to lay a solid theoretical, political, and organizational foundation for the effective performance of our duties.

We will see that the leading Party members group of the Standing Committee sets a good example with its group study sessions. We will continue to organize Standing Committee lectures, and thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Xi Jinping's thinking on the rule of law, and Xi Jinping's important ideas on upholding and improving the system of people's congresses. We will carry out Party history study activities in earnest.

We will intensify theoretical research on the people's congress system and on China's socialist legal science. We will study the Standing Committee's operating mechanisms in depth, and strictly implement the procedural rules of the NPC and its Standing Committee, as well as the rules and regulations for Standing Committee, Chairperson's Council, and special committee meetings.

In order to maximize the role of special committees, we will see that these committees earnestly research, deliberate, and draft relevant bills, and we will support their members in extensive participation in legislation, oversight, external affairs, and work related to deputies. We will better leverage the role of the working bodies of the Standing Committee and improve the capacity of NPC administrative bodies to provide advice and services.

We will fully execute the eight-point decision on improving work conduct and the detailed rules for its implementation as we persevere in our efforts to improve conduct. We will improve the online system for receiving and processing public complaints. We will intensify our media and public communications work and provide full and in-depth coverage of the development of the people's congress system, as well as of progress and latest

achievements in the NPC's work. We will conduct more exchanges with local people's congresses and maintain close collaboration with them in order to create a greater synergy in our work.

Fellow Deputies,

On our new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, we will rally even more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. We will strengthen our consciousness 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 will stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We will uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and uphold the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership. We will fulfill the responsibilities conferred upon us by the Constitution and the law, and successfully perform the duties entrusted by the Party and the people. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China with outstanding accomplishments, and continue to work tirelessly to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.