
**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
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 will now present to you a report on its work for your deliberation.

Let me begin with a brief review of our major initiatives over the past year.

The 13th NPC and its Standing Committee are serving in the historic period in which the timeframes of the two centenary goals converge. We therefore shoulder both a glorious mission and an enormous responsibility. Over the past year, the Standing Committee has earnestly studied and implemented Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the guiding principles from the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, and in line with plans made at the First Session of the 13th NPC, we have fulfilled our duties in accordance with the law, forged ahead, and got off to a good start.

I. We studied and implemented Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to ensure that a correct political orientation was maintained in NPC work.

The Standing Committee made studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era the foremost political task, in order to thoroughly understand its scientific system, theoretical substance, and practical requirements and use it to equip our minds, guide our initiatives, and advance our work. In organizing study and discussion of the topic, we held seminars with participants from 31 provincial-level people's congresses and relevant departments. We systematically studied General Secretary Xi Jinping's important ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system, launching special research and introducing study requirements in order to deepen our understanding of the major theoretical and practical questions of what kind of people's congress system should be upheld and improved in the new era, and how we should go about upholding and improving this system. Taking local conditions into account, people's congresses at all levels carried out thorough studies and translated what they learned into action by effectively performing their duties and making progress with their

initiatives.

Centered on studying and implementing the Party's basic theories, line, and principles, we successfully organized Standing Committee seminars, holding a total of 10 seminars focused on studying General Secretary Xi Jinping's major remarks on the Constitution, the rule of law, reform and opening up, innovation-driven development, and ecological advancement, as well as the requirements he set forth for the legislative and oversight work of the NPC, thus making the Standing Committee better able to perform all its duties. With a large number of newly elected deputies, the intensity of deputy training has been stepped up. Over 1,300 deputies participated in training, accounting for 59 percent of the total number of new deputies. We organized separate study sessions for leading members of the standing committees of people's congresses at the provincial, municipal, and county levels. A total of 3,200 people participated in these sessions, which essentially covered all people's congresses at these levels.

Through consistent and in-depth theoretical study and strengthening of our minds, we have reinforced the conceptual foundations for upholding the authority and centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, bolstered our confidence and determination in following the socialist path of political advancement with Chinese characteristics, and heightened our sense of responsibility and mission with regard to upholding and improving the people's congress system.

II. We studied, publicized, and implemented the newly revised Constitution to generate new momentum for putting it into practice.

The CPC stands for the lawful and constitutional use of power. Upholding law-based governance and the lawful use of power begins with the Constitution. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the Party Central Committee has featured enforcement of the Constitution prominently in the efforts to comprehensively advance the rule of law. General Secretary Xi Jinping made numerous important remarks on effective enforcement of the Constitution, and on three occasions put forward important instructions on carrying out activities for National Constitution Day. He also took the lead in performing the pledge of allegiance to the Constitution. These acts vigorously promoted the practices of

consciously honoring, studying, observing, upholding, and applying the Constitution throughout society.

Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the lofty task of revising the Constitution was completed at the First Session of the 13th NPC. With this revision, we confirmed the guiding position of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in China's political and social activities, enriched provisions for upholding and strengthening the overall leadership of the CPC, refined the country's fundamental tasks, objectives, and national leadership system enshrined in the Constitution, and established the national supervision system, thereby consolidating the institutional foundation for ensuring that our country enjoys lasting stability. In accordance with the arrangements of the Party Central Committee, the Standing Committee made studying, publicizing, implementing, and enforcing the Constitution a major political task, with particular emphasis placed on studying and informing people about the great significance and major content of the revision of the Constitution. With this task in mind, we organized seminars on thoroughly studying, publicizing, implementing, and enforcing the Constitution, arranged a symposium for the fifth National Constitution Day, set up special press conferences, and held meetings for giving lectures and reports. We also wrote theoretical articles, and encouraged all localities and departments to launch various types of activities for publicizing the Constitution and educating people about it. By doing so, we promoted the constitutional spirit, established the authority of the Constitution, and raised awareness of the Constitution, helping the spirit of the Constitution take root in the hearts of the people and win their sincere faith and support.

The Standing Committee took the lead in implementing the Constitution, and also strengthened oversight over its enforcement. In accordance with the newly revised Constitution, we decided upon the duties of the Constitution and Law Committee, which was newly established through institutional adjustment, and endowed it with additional responsibilities for ensuring and overseeing enforcement of the Constitution and interpreting the Constitution, thus providing enforcement of the Constitution with a stronger organizational backing. We have ensured that all normative documents are kept on record, that all documents on record are reviewed,

and that all errors discovered in these documents are rectified. We have enhanced the inspection of constitutional compliance to ensure that all systems, principles, and rules enshrined in the Constitution are fully implemented. We reviewed 40 administrative regulations, 1,180 local statutes, and 18 judicial interpretations submitted for the record, examined 1,229 suggestions on our review work from citizens and organizations, and urged relevant parties to rescind or correct normative documents that conflicted with the Constitution or the law. By putting diligent effort into organizing pledges of allegiance to the Constitution, we boosted awareness of the Constitution among civil servants, so that they took the lead in becoming loyal supporters, conscious observers, and stalwart defenders of the Constitution.

Over the past year, we have made new progress in studying, publicizing, implementing, and enforcing the Constitution, thereby demonstrating its legal standing, authority, and efficacy. Throughout society, there is deeper awareness that the Constitution fully reflects the people's common will, guarantees their rights, and safeguards their fundamental interests. The Constitution will surely exert a greater role as a fundamental legal guarantee for our efforts to secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and to fully develop a modern socialist China.

III. We strengthened and improved legislative work in the new era to provide legal guarantees for reform, opening up, and stability.

Upholding integration between reform and the rule of law, the Standing Committee drew up its legislative program, held meetings on its legislative work and forums on local legislation, and made timely arrangements for legislative work. We formulated 8 laws, revised 47 laws, and adopted 9 decisions on legal issues and other major issues. These legislative items fell into three main categories according to their functions: first, promoting and ensuring the implementation of major decisions and arrangements through legislation with a focus on the overall work of the Party and the state; second, guaranteeing that major reforms have a legal basis through enacting and revising laws with a focus on comprehensively deepening reform; and third, bringing legislative tasks in key areas to a successful conclusion with a focus on accelerating efforts to establish a socialist rule of law system and build China into a

socialist country governed by the rule of law.

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up. Our experience over these four decades has shown us that the rule of law is integral if we are to effectively perform our work in promoting reform, development, and stability, and that even greater emphasis must be placed on the rule of law as reform and opening up pushes deeper. With a view to advancing reform, opening up, and socialist modernization from this new historical starting point, the Standing Committee accelerated legislation in the economic sector for the purpose of refining the legal system for the socialist market economy. We revised numerous laws so as to promptly resolve the problem of legal provisions not matching up with the practical needs of development. A law-based environment is the best environment for doing business. The draft foreign investment law which we will deliberate at this session is a full reflection of new ideas, approaches, and measures in reform and opening up, and will play an important role in lifting China toward a new stage of high-level opening up in the new era. The Standing Committee has already reviewed the draft twice, and we are confident that through the joint effort of all deputies, we will be able to bring this major legislative task to a successful conclusion. China's E-commerce market is the largest in the world, employing tens of millions of people and involving hundreds of millions of consumers. Enactment of the E-commerce Law represents an extremely important move for promoting the sound development of E-commerce, as well as protecting the legitimate rights and interests of consumers and ensuring fairness in this market. The consensus throughout all sectors of society is that this law will promote the healthy development of E-commerce by providing support, standards, innovative ideas, and guarantees, that it will protect the legitimate rights and interests of consumers, operators of E-commerce platforms, and people who run online businesses, and that it will ensure fair competition and order in the market. Meanwhile, revision of the Law on the Contracting of Rural Land has offered reassurance to contractors and operators of rural land and played a significant role in promoting agricultural and rural development by deepening reform of the rural land system and stabilizing and improving rural land contract relations through legal means. In addition, the Standing Committee formulated the Tax Law on Farmland Used for Nonagricultural Purposes and the Vehicle Purchase Tax Law, and revised

the Company Law, the Civil Aviation Law, the Electric Power Law, the Port Law, and the Law on Corporate Income Tax, thereby facilitating reform and development in these areas.

Implementing the principles from the 19th National Congress of the Party and the Third Plenary Session of the 19th Party Central Committee, the Standing Committee revised laws and produced decisions to improve the laws for state institutions and organizations in accordance with the plan for deepening institutional reform approved at the First Session of the 13th NPC. We made a decision on adjusting the duties of administrative bodies in institutional reform of the State Council, an issue which touched upon legal provisions, and coordinated the revision of 316 articles of 32 laws involved in institutional reform, such as the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law. We also made a decision on the exercise of powers by the China Coast Guard to protect maritime rights and enforce maritime law, and formulated the Regulations on Firefighter Ranks. By doing so, we responded promptly to demands put forward through institutional reform for adjustment of the law, thus providing legal guarantees for the smooth implementation of institutional reform, and ensuring the orderly linkage of reforms and steady continuation of relevant work. We revised the Civil Service Law, incorporated our practice in reforms concerning a salary system for public servants based on both position and rank into the law, and accelerated reform of the civil servant classification system. We revised the Organic Law of the People's Courts, the Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates, and the Criminal Procedure Law, formulated the People's Juror Law and the Law on International Judicial Assistance in Criminal Matters, and put forward decisions on the establishment of the Shanghai Financial Court and on several issues regarding litigation procedures for cases involving patents and other intellectual property rights. These steps consolidated and furthered our achievements in reform of the judicial system. We also revised the Organic Law of Villagers' Committees and the Organic Law of Urban Residents' Committees, thus improving primary-level governance systems.

Putting a people-centered approach into practice, the Standing Committee expedited legislation in the fields of social development and ensuring and improving living standards so as to safeguard the people's rights and interests and enhance

public wellbeing through the rule of law, and advance the settlement of issues of greatest concern to the people through legal means. Compiling the civil code is a major legislative task that was put forward at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. Building on our previous work, the Standing Committee sped up its efforts and drafted the individual books of the civil code, which consists of 1,034 articles in 6 books. We conducted an overall review as well as individual reviews of the draft books on contracts and torts, making solid progress toward the goal of completing the compilation of the civil code by 2020. We revised the Personal Income Tax Law, advanced reform of the taxation system, and improved the tax structure, with about 80 million people already exempted from paying taxes on their salary in accordance with the law. We revised the Social Insurance Law, and implemented the integration of maternity insurance and basic medical insurance for urban workers nationwide. Legislation in the medical and health care sector has a direct bearing on the fundamental interests of the general public. The Standing Committee has already conducted two reviews of the draft law on promoting basic medical and health care. Responding to the problems exposed in the Changsheng vaccine case, the Standing Committee put great emphasis on protecting the people's immediate interests through legal means, and expedited dedicated legislation on vaccine management, with preliminary review of the draft law on vaccine management already completed. Through the establishment of a legal system for vaccine oversight and control covering all stages of the process from R&D and production to distribution and inoculation, we devoted concrete efforts to protecting the lives and health of the public.

Stepping up our efforts to build an ecological civilization, we formulated the Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution, and revised laws including the Environmental Impact Assessment Law and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Noise Pollution, in an effort to improve the system of laws for strict environmental protection. The Law on the Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution provides strong legal guarantees for the campaign to clean up and preserve our soil. Together with the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, it is part of a three-in-one legal network for protecting the environment through multidimensional controls.

The Standing Committee gave priority to safeguarding national security in legislative work. We formulated the Law on the Protection of Heroes and Martyrs, and revised the Anti-Terrorism Law and the National Intelligence Law, promoting the incorporation of core socialist values into legislation. By formulating and enacting the Law on the Protection of Heroes and Martyrs, we have encouraged people to carry forward the great deeds of heroes and martyrs and the spirit of patriotism, strongly opposed historical nihilism, and provided legal guarantees for fighting against acts that would smear and slander heroes and martyrs or distort and desecrate their legacy, and for safeguarding national security and ideological security in particular. This has been met with a positive response from all sectors of society. The formulation of the Law on the Protection of Heroes and Martyrs shows that justice and reason must prevail.

IV. We fulfilled our oversight duties in accordance with the law to better promote economic and social development and aid the advancement of reform tasks.

We exercised oversight in strict accordance with legally prescribed duties, statutory limits of authority, and procedures defined in law. While effectively exercising regular statutory oversight, we focused on deepening supply-side structural reform, aiding the three critical battles against potential risk, poverty, and pollution, resolving hotspot judicial issues pertaining to public wellbeing, and overseeing government budgets and state-owned assets. Over the past year, we heard and deliberated 24 work reports from the State Council, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, inspected the enforcement of 6 laws, and conducted 3 special inquiries and 5 research projects on specific topics. Through these activities, we strived to guarantee effective enforcement of the Constitution and the law while helping the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate improve their work in tangible ways.

The Standing Committee heard and deliberated work reports on national plans, budgets, final accounts, audits, and environmental protection measures, as well as on

special topics such as science and technology, agriculture, education, medical and health care, the marine economy, and the rights and interests of overseas Chinese. The Party Central Committee issued the Opinions on Establishing the System for State Council Reporting to the NPC Standing Committee on the Management of State-owned Assets and the Guidelines on People's Congresses Expanding the Focus of Their Budget Review and Oversight to Cover Expenditure Budgets and Policy, entrusting new oversight duties to people's congresses. The Standing Committee implemented the guiding principles of these documents, carried out research projects on specific topics, and for the first time deliberated the State Council's annual general report on the management of state-owned assets and its special report on the state-owned assets of financial enterprises, thereby adding another level of guarantee to ensure that state-owned assets are used and managed properly. At present, the standing committees of all 31 provincial-level people's congresses have established systems for reporting on the management of state-owned assets. We designated 153 NPC deputies with relevant expertise to participate in budget review, exerted the role of the online budget oversight system in monitoring the entire budgeting process, and worked to expand the focus of budget review and oversight to cover expenditure budgets and policy.

The Standing Committee inspected enforcement of six laws, including the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, the Marine Environment Protection Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, the Law on Protecting against and Mitigating Earthquake Disasters, the Law on the Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, and the Statistics Law. In the process, we identified not only work-related problems, but also defects and shortcomings within laws and regulations, thereby ensuring proper enforcement of the law. The Standing Committee held an additional meeting to hear and deliberate the enforcement inspection report for the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, put forward a resolution on strengthening environmental protection across the board and advancing the fight to prevent and control pollution in accordance with the law, and

released the names of 22 enterprises in which 38 problems were discovered through enforcement inspections, thus helping to drive the critical battle against air pollution deeper. The standing committees of all 31 provincial-level people's congresses have completed the formulation and revision of regulations on air pollution prevention and control, all localities and departments have carried out comprehensive review of their normative documents concerning environmental protection, and standing committees of local-level people's congresses have revised 514 and abolished 83 relevant local regulations. In our inspections of enforcement of the Marine Environment Protection Law, we focused on prominent issues in 11 coastal provinces, such as the placement and management of points where pollutants are discharged into the sea, as well as the prevention and control of pollution from land-based sources. We controlled pollution through legal measures, and defended the blue of our seas and skies through the force of the law, thus winning the approval and support of the public.

The Standing Committee also carried out research projects on specific topics, such as the seventh five-year plan for increasing public knowledge of the law, ethnic minority education, poverty alleviation, rural vitalization, and local government debt in order to promote the resolution of major challenges in economic and social development.

The Standing Committee organized and conducted three special inquiries for deliberation on reports regarding enforcement inspection of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, the work of people's courts to ensure enforcement of rulings, the work of people's procuratorates to strengthen legal oversight on civil litigation and the execution of judgments, and the allocation and use of government funds for medical and health care. Relevant leading officials from the State Council, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate responded in person to inquiries from members of the Standing Committee and NPC deputies regarding issues in related fields that are the subject of widespread public concern. This was the first time that the Standing Committee conducted a special inquiry on the work of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's

Procuratorate.

V. We expanded channels for contact with deputies to support and ensure the law-based performance of their duties.

Only by strengthening contact between the Standing Committee and NPC deputies and between NPC deputies and the general public and understanding the people's thoughts, expectations, and wishes can we truly exercise power and perform our duties in the service of the people.

Through standardization of the system for direct contact with deputies, members of the Standing Committee were able to contact 440 deputies directly. By doing so, we created an express lane for reaching out to the people and soliciting their opinions. During Standing Committee meetings, we held 4 discussions with invited deputies in which 186 NPC deputies participated and submitted suggestions and proposals, with relevant departments working diligently to study and implement them. We expanded the involvement of deputies in the work of the Standing Committee and special committees, inviting them to attend Standing Committee meetings and participate in law enforcement inspections and research projects. In principle, NPC deputies were invited to participate in research projects carried out by members of the Chairperson's Council of the Standing Committee. We organized research projects and inspection tours for 1,850 deputies, including visits of the Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan delegations to Guangdong, Chongqing, Zhejiang, Shaanxi, Hainan, and Qinghai, in order to encourage deputies to engage with local communities, understand the situation on the ground, and get in touch with members of the public more frequently. For the convenience of organizing and carrying out such activities, deputies to this NPC were divided into 272 groups, and engaged in a wide range of activities to perform their duties.

We continued to make the proposals and suggestions of deputies an important basis for setting tasks in legislation and oversight, drafting laws, and promoting improvement of our work. Relevant special committees completed their examination

of all 325 proposals referred to them by the Presidium of the First Session of the 13th NPC. Among these, 9 legislative items addressed in 19 of the proposals have already been reviewed and adopted by the Standing Committee, 4 legislative items addressed in 22 of the proposals have been submitted for review, and 60 legislative items addressed in 143 of the proposals have been included in our five-year legislative program or annual legislative plan. We improved mechanisms for handling deputies' suggestions, with all 7,139 suggestions, criticisms, and comments submitted by deputies already handled, and 76 percent of the problems raised therein either already resolved or currently being addressed. A total of 20 key suggestions drawn from 192 specific suggestions were referred to 36 departments for implementation under the strict oversight of relevant special committees, with vigorous advancement of related work.

As members of the NPC, NPC deputies represent the interests and will of the people, and perform the duties entrusted to them in the Constitution and the law. The Standing Committee attached great importance to improving deputies' conduct and building their capacity for duty performance, supported electoral bodies in strengthening supervision over the duty performance of their deputies in accordance with the law, and promoted the establishment of records on deputies' duty performance, with a view to improving deputies' abilities to engage in the management of state, economic, cultural, and social affairs.

VI. We acted in the service of China's overall diplomatic work to effectively carry out our work on international exchanges.

The NPC's work on international exchanges is a component of China's overall diplomacy. Over the past year, we sent 71 delegations with a total of 660 people on visits to 46 countries, and received 58 delegations with a total of 730 people from 34 countries and 2 multilateral parliamentary organizations. We thus used exchange and cooperation between legislative bodies to effectively serve national strategies and safeguard national interests.

Earnestly implementing the foreign policies of the Party Central Committee, we consolidated and deepened exchanges with the parliamentary bodies of major countries by keeping in contact with the national parliamentary bodies of Russia, the United States, France, and Japan as well as with the European Parliament, and by holding the fourth meeting of the committee for cooperation between China's NPC and the Russian parliament. We strengthened exchanges with the parliamentary bodies of neighboring countries and African countries, held a seminar for members of parliament from developing countries, and enhanced friendly cooperation with the parliamentary bodies of countries along the Belt and Road. We actively participated in meetings of multilateral parliamentary organizations, made concrete efforts to guide the development of emerging multilateral mechanisms such as the speakers' meeting of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, and played a constructive role in the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Speakers' Summit at the G20. China's proposals to build a human community with a shared future, to jointly develop the Belt and Road, and to uphold multilateralism have won widespread recognition. We also clarified our principles and stance to give an NPC voice in response to negative proposals, erroneous statements, and improper actions by some countries' parliaments.

In our international exchanges, we actively promoted implementation of important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders to provide legal support for our cooperation and exchange efforts with other countries. With a firm commitment to the socialist path of political advancement with Chinese characteristics, we informed our counterparts about the advantages and qualities of the people's congress system to boost the international community's understanding and recognition of China's path and model of development as well as our philosophy of governance.

VII. We fully enhanced self-improvement of the Standing Committee in a continued effort to raise our capacity and standards for law-based duty performance.

The Standing Committee stepped up efforts to improve its political and theoretical competence, with a focus on increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of upholding the unity between the leadership of the Party, the position of the people as masters of the country, and law-based governance. Meanwhile, we also strengthened efforts to improve our systems, capacity, and conduct, thereby significantly boosting our sense of duty and ability to perform our duties.

We improved our systems with a focus on applying procedural rules. We acted in strict compliance with legally prescribed procedures for the convening of Standing Committee meetings, invited guests to attend these meetings on the basis of necessity, arranged group and panel deliberations in a reasonable manner, and covered all items set on the agenda at every Standing Committee meeting. We standardized systems for the submission and deliberation of proposals, and defined explicit means through which people's congresses and their standing committees exert their guiding roles in legislative work. We strictly applied the system through which work reports are heard and deliberated at Standing Committee meetings. We improved the work procedure covering the entire process of law enforcement inspections, which includes topic selection, organization, reporting, deliberation, rectification, and feedback. We worked to make special inquiries more standardized and systematic in terms of their participants, forms, content, procedures, and responses, and rendered follow-up oversight more effective.

We improved our capacity so that we became more adept at learning, and focused on comprehensively enhancing our theoretical and practical knowledge related to economics, politics, culture, society, ecological advancement, and Party building. Continuing to implement democratic centralism in a more purposeful manner, we not only guaranteed the democratic rights of Standing Committee members, but also offered guidance on the lawful exercise of these rights, in an effort to truly safeguard the fundamental, long-term, and overall interests of the country and the people.

We improved our conduct by fully implementing the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on conduct and the rules for its implementation. Considering

research to be a basic skill for the performance of our duties, the Standing Committee and special committees carried out more than 260 research projects to make NPC work better conform to practical developments and public demands. We took public complaints lodged either by mail or in person seriously, and made relevant work more systematic and standardized. We put great effort into improving the organization of meetings by imposing strict discipline within meetings and enforcing rigid procedures for requesting leaves of absence, thus keeping the attendance rate of Standing Committee meetings above 98 percent. We improved our work on media and public communications, laying emphasis on publicizing the implementation of the Constitution and the course of development of the people's congress system over the past 40 years of reform and opening up.

We enhanced the work and development of special committees by convening meetings of their leading officials. The special committees fulfilled their duties and exhibited their qualities and strengths as they performed a great amount of effective work related to legislation, oversight, deputies, and international exchanges. We intensified the development of each of the Standing Committee's working bodies to give full play to their role in offering services, coordinating initiatives, and providing guarantees.

We strengthened contacts with local people's congresses, worked in closer coordination with them, and made the work of people's congresses more substantive on the whole, in a joint effort to raise the bar for the work of people's congresses.

Fellow Deputies,

In our work over the past year, we have come to understand that for the work of people's congresses to be carried out effectively in the new era, it is essential that we follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, resolutely uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, resolutely uphold the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership, maintain the

unity between the leadership of the Party, the position of the people as masters of the country, and law-based governance, and ensure that the Party leads the people in effectively governing the country.

—We must always uphold the overall leadership of the Party. The leadership of the Party is the defining feature of the people’s congress system. It has been proven through practice that the better the leadership of the Party is upheld, the more fully the position of the people as masters of the country will be realized, the more smoothly law-based governance will develop, and the more evident the superiority of the people’s congress system will be. Therefore, no matter the time or circumstances, our commitment to upholding the leadership of the Party must not waver. The NPC should lawfully exercise its functions and powers under the leadership of the Party, using legally prescribed procedures to turn the propositions of the Party into the will of the state and the common will of the Chinese people.

—We must always uphold a people-centered approach and safeguard the position of the people as masters of the country. We must respect the principal position of the people, and offer support and guarantees for their exercise of state power through people’s congresses. We must make safeguarding the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people the starting point and ultimate goal of the work of people’s congresses. We must listen to the people, pool their wisdom, respond to their expectations, and turn people’s congresses and their standing committees into representative bodies that maintain close links with the public. By doing so, we will guarantee that the position of the people as masters of the country is concretely and practically demonstrated in China’s political and social activities.

—We must always focus on the big picture as we make plans for the advancement of our work. The work of people’s congresses is an important component of the work of the Party and the state. We should maintain keen focus on fulfilling the objectives set out at the 19th National Congress of the CPC, conform to the new requirements of the new era, follow the new plans of the Central Committee closely, and satisfy the new demands of the people. We must take on the obligations

entrusted to us in the Constitution and the law to better promote reform, opening up, and socialist modernization in the new era, and provide a strong legal guarantee for advancing our great struggle, great project, great cause, and great dream.

—We must always perform our legally prescribed duties, and act in strict accordance with the law. We need to exert the role of people’s congresses in comprehensively advancing the rule of law, resolutely adhere to the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, constantly improve the Chinese socialist system of laws centered on the Constitution, and promote the formation of a well-equipped system of legal standards, an effective system for implementing the rule of law, a rigorous system for overseeing the rule of law, and a strong system for guaranteeing the rule of law. While performing the obligations entrusted to us in the Constitution and the law, we must act within legally prescribed limits and abide by statutory procedures, thereby ensuring that the power given to us by the Party and the people is truly used in the service of the people.

—We must always uphold democratic centralism as our organizational principle and code of conduct. People’s democracy is the lifeblood and most important aspect of socialism. The people’s congress system entails carrying forward democracy, and people’s congresses are the primary platforms for realizing people’s democracy. We must exercise our powers in accordance with procedure and the law, make decisions on issues through collective discussion, guarantee the democratic rights of deputies to people’s congresses and members of standing committees, and properly exercise centralism on the basis of fully promoting democracy. By doing so, we will be able to ensure that all initiatives of people’s congresses embody the propositions of the Party, abide by the spirit of the Constitution, and reflect the will of the people.

Fellow Deputies,

The achievements of this past year have been made under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. They are the result of the diligent work of all NPC deputies, members of the Standing Committee and special committees, and the staff of the NPC administrative bodies; of close

coordination with the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate; of the vigorous support of local people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees; and of the active participation and full trust of all Chinese people. On behalf of the Standing Committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude.

Over the past year, there were also certain deficiencies in our work. These mainly include the following: the quality and efficiency of legislative work need to be further enhanced, methods and mechanisms for oversight work need to be further refined, systems and mechanisms for our link with deputies to people's congresses and with the public need to be implemented more thoroughly and effectively, our work on theoretical research, media, and public communications needs to be improved, and efforts at self-improvement need to be further intensified. We must take these problems seriously, listen to comments and suggestions from all sectors of society with an open mind, and continue to improve our work in all areas.

Major Tasks for This Year

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and is a crucial year for our efforts to finish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and fulfill the first centenary goal. The Standing Committee must hold high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and fully implement the guiding principles from the 19th National Congress of the Party and the second and third plenary sessions of the 19th Party Central Committee. We must maintain firm awareness 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; strengthen confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; resolutely uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in

the Party as a whole, and resolutely uphold the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership; maintain the unity between the leadership of the Party, the position of the people as masters of the country, and law-based governance; focus closely on coordinating efforts to pursue the five-sphere integrated plan¹ and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy;² remain committed to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability; implement the new development philosophy; and devote energy to improving our work on legislation, oversight, deputies, international exchanges, and self-development, in a bid to break new ground for NPC work in the new era.

First, we need to unremittingly advance enforcement of the Constitution and oversight in this regard. The Constitution can only come to life and be authoritative through enforcement. We must implement the constitutional system by improving our laws and legal framework, and ensure the enforcement of the Constitution and the law through proper and effective oversight, thereby exerting the important role of the Constitution in national governance. We need to implement the system of pledging allegiance to the Constitution, ensure that National Constitution Day activities are organized well, promote implementation of the seventh five-year plan on increasing public knowledge of the law, conduct thorough campaigns to publicize the Constitution and educate people about it, and enhance theoretical research on the Constitution. We need to implement systems for overseeing enforcement of the Constitution, refine mechanisms for constitutional compliance inspection, and step up the recording and review of normative documents. We will establish a nationally unified platform for recording and reviewing normative documents, and promote the extension of the information platforms of local people's congresses to autonomous prefectures, autonomous counties, and cities with subsidiary districts.

Second, we need to work diligently to raise the quality and effectiveness of legislative work. We must earnestly implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's new concepts, thoughts, and strategies on comprehensively advancing the rule of law and the Party Central Committee's decisions on legislation. We will promote lawmaking

¹ This refers to a strategy for comprehensive moves to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-governance.

² This refers to a plan to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement.

that is well-conceived, democratic, and law-based, exert the guiding role of the NPC and its Standing Committee in legislative work, and fully implement the five-year legislative program and annual legislative plan of the Standing Committee. We will actively advance legislation in key areas, and coordinate work on enacting, revising, repealing, and interpreting laws. While keeping up quantity, we must put even greater emphasis on quality, ensuring that we follow through with every piece of legislation put forward so that we may provide high-quality development with the backing and support of high-quality legislation. We should strive to ensure that every piece of legislation reflects the will of the people and earns their support, making the public feel that each of our laws is fair and just.

This year, we must move forward with formulating and revising urgently needed laws for deepening market-based reforms and expanding high-standard opening up. We need to expedite legislation in the domains of public wellbeing, national security, intellectual property rights protection, social governance, and ecological advancement, enforce the principle of law-based taxation, and improve relevant laws on state institutions. We will focus our energy on effectively implementing major legislative items identified by the Party Central Committee, which include deliberation on the Civil Code; formulation of Amendment XI to the Criminal Law and the laws on promotion of basic medical and health care, real estate tax, export control, community correction, integrated military-civilian development, guarantee for veterans, and administrative discipline; and revision of the Securities Law, the Law on Officers on Active Service, the Military Service Law, the Law on the People's Armed Police Force, the Organic Law of the NPC, and the NPC procedural rules. We also need to conduct research for the drafting of laws on bio-security, Yangtze River conservation, and the Hainan Free Trade Port to ensure that these legislative tasks are completed on schedule.

Third, we need to make oversight work more targeted and effective. We must push state organs to perform their duties and exercise power in accordance with the law through commitment to keeping the big picture in mind, staying in tune with public wellbeing, focusing on key issues, and abiding by the law. This year, we will inspect enforcement of six laws including the Law on the Prevention and Control of

Water Pollution, the Law on Renewable Energy, the Fisheries Law, the Law on Promoting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the Law on Promoting Employment, and the Higher Education Law. While continuing to promote enforcement of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, we will make inspecting enforcement of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution the main focus, putting in persistent effort, and relying on the law and law-based governance to protect sound natural environments as the most universally beneficial aspect of public wellbeing. We will hear and deliberate relevant work reports and enhance oversight over the management of state-owned assets, relevant criminal trials, and public interest litigation by procuratorates. We will conduct research focused on the fight against poverty, mitigation of financial risks, reform of the supervision system, and enforcement of the supervision law. We will carry out special inquiries on the basis of deliberating reports on enforcement inspection of the Law on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, on enforcement inspection of the Law on Promoting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and on the work of public interest litigation by procuratorates. We have arranged 29 items of oversight work for this year, including 7 for deepening supply-side structural reform and promoting high-quality development, 8 for aiding the three critical battles against potential risk, poverty, and pollution, 5 for ensuring and improving public wellbeing, 5 for the review and oversight of government budgets and financial accounts by people's congresses, and 4 for the oversight over law enforcement and judicial activities.

Fourth, we need to constantly improve mechanisms for deputies to carry out their duties. We will boost the participation of deputies in the work of the Standing Committee by inviting them to attend Standing Committee meetings and participate in law enforcement inspections and research activities, while also refining mechanisms for contacting deputies for budget review. We will maintain mechanisms for discussion with deputies invited to attend Standing Committee meetings, and strengthen direct contacts between deputies and Standing Committee members. We will earnestly handle the suggestions and proposals of deputies, ensure that inspection tours and research activities for deputies are organized well, enhance training of deputies, and strengthen oversight of deputies to make sure that they perform their duties.

Fifth, we need to actively and effectively carry out international exchanges. Focusing closely on China's overall diplomacy, we will deepen friendly exchanges between legislative bodies, coordinate work on bilateral and multilateral exchanges, steadily advance mechanism-based exchanges, enhance communication with our counterparts on multiple levels, and promote development of the Belt and Road and practical cooperation in all fields, thereby exerting the unique role of the NPC in foreign relations.

Sixth, we need to enhance self-improvement of the Standing Committee in all respects. Taking political building as our overarching principle, we will continue to build greater theoretical competence, push forward theoretical research on the people's congress system, and strengthen our ability to resolve problems using ideas and methods based on the rule of law. We will fully enforce the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on conduct and the rules for its implementation, further improve our conduct, and take concrete steps to prevent and overcome bureaucratism and the practice of formalities for formalities' sake. We will maintain a spirit of struggle, boost our ability to work hard and our courage to take on responsibility, and take a clear-cut and determined stand on issues that touch upon key political principles or China's core interests. We will encourage officials to carry out enterprising work, ensure proper management and oversight of officials, and make sure that the NPC is composed of high-caliber officials who are loyal to the Party, clean and honest, and willing to take on responsibility.

Fellow Deputies,

It is of great importance that this year's NPC work be performed well. We must rally more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, scrupulously abide by our duties, and make solid progress in our work, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China with outstanding achievements, and striving toward the goals of finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, capturing great success for socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.