



In Their Own Words:

**The Decision of the Chinese Communist Party Central
Committee on Major Issues Concerning Upholding and
Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese
Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of
China's System and Capacity for Governance**

People's Publishing House, November 2019

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China Aerospace Studies Institute

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In Their Own Words

The “In Their Own Words” series is dedicated to translations of Chinese documents in order to help non-Mandarin speaking audiences access and understand Chinese thinking. CASI would like to thank all of those involved in this effort, especially the CASI team at BluePath Labs.

In the “In Their Own Words” series, CASI and its collaborators aim to provide Chinese texts that illustrate thoughtful, clearly articulated, authoritative foreign perspectives on approaches to warfare at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

The translation and publication does not constitute approval by any U.S. Government organization of the contents, inferences, findings, or conclusions contained therein. Publication is solely for the exchange of information and stimulation of ideas.

Translators’ Notes

This translation of the original text aims to accurately capture the technical meanings, in both English and Chinese. This will ensure that the reader will not inadvertently draw the wrong substantive understanding based on inaccurate translations.

The Decision of the Chinese Communist Party Central
Committee on Major Issues Concerning Upholding and
Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics
and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and
Capacity for Governance

People's Publishing House, November 2019

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¹ Note: the Chinese term here (依法) most directly means "according to law," but along with another term (法治) is often translated (by the Communist Party) as "rule of law"; however, it should be noted that this usage of "rule of law" differs from the standard Western interpretations of the phrase and often more closely resembles "rule by law" in meaning.

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Xi Jinping

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The Decision of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee on Major Issues Concerning Upholding and Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and Capacity for Governance

(Adopted on October 31, 2019 at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party)

In order to implement the spirit of the Nineteenth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, the Fourth Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has duly studied major issues regarding upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, and has rendered the following decision.

I. The Major Significance and Overall Requirements of Upholding and Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and Capacity for Governance

The system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a scientific system formed by the Party and the people over a long period of implementation and exploration. All work and activities involved in our country's national governance have been carried out in accordance with the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, while our country's system of national governance and governance capabilities are a centralized embodiment of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and its execution capabilities.

The Chinese Communist Party since its establishment has provided the people with unified leadership, maintained the integration of the basic principles of Marxism with specific actual conditions facing China, achieved victory in China's revolution, deeply summarized the positive and negative experiences at home and abroad, continued to explore ways to implement policies, continued to implement reform and innovation, established and perfected a socialist system, formed and developed party leadership and various systems for the economy, politics, culture, society, ecological civilization, military affairs, foreign affairs, etc. The CCP has strengthened and perfected national governance and attained historical achievements. Starting from the Party's 18th National People's Congress, our Party's has led the people in the comprehensive planning and promotion of the "Five in One" overall layout (for economic construction, political construction, cultural construction, social construction, and the construction of an ecological civilization), along with the coordination and promotion of the "Four Comprehensives" strategy (comprehensively establishing a modern, socialist nation, comprehensively deepening reforms, comprehensively governing the country according to law, and comprehensively making the Party subject to strict governance), promoted the further improvement of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and the significant improvement of the modernization level of China's system and capacity for governance, and provided strong guarantees for political stability,

economic development, cultural prosperity, ethnic unity, the people's happiness, social tranquility, and national (re)unification.

In the seventy years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, our Party has led the people to create the miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability rarely witnessed in today's world. The Chinese nation has made great strides from standing up on their own two feet to achieving prosperity and national strength. Practice has proven that the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and [China's] system of national governance are guided by Marxism, rooted in China's land, have a deep foundation in Chinese culture, and have won the deep support of the people. It is a system and form of governance with strong vitality and tremendous superior advantages. It is a system and form of governance which can continuously promote the progress and development of a great power with a population of almost 1.4 billion people, to ensure that the Chinese nation, with a history of over five thousand years of civilization, achieves the "Two Centenary" goals (to comprehensively establish a moderately prosperous society by the hundred-year anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, build a powerful modern socialist nation by the hundred-year anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China) and achieve the great rejuvenation (of our country).

China's state system and national governance system possess many outstanding advantages, primary among them being: the outstanding advantage of upholding the Party's centralized and unified leadership, upholding the Party's scientific theories, maintaining political stability, and ensuring China's continuous progress in a socialist direction; the outstanding advantages of upholding support for the people as masters of the country, developing people's democracy, maintaining close ties with the masses, and closely relying on the people to promote national development; the outstanding advantages of upholding comprehensive national governance according to law, construction of a socialist country governed by law, conscientious guarantees of social fairness, justice, and the rights of the people; the outstanding advantages of upholding comprehensive economic construction nationwide, motivating people from all sectors of society, and concentrating efforts to achieve big and key projects; the outstanding advantages of upholding equality between all ethnic groups, forging a sense of community among the Chinese people, unifying people to work hard together, and cooperating to develop a prosperous society; the outstanding advantages of upholding the dominant role of public ownership coexisting with joint economic development with multiple types of ownership, and allocation to each according to his contribution, , organic integration of the socialist system and market economy, and continuous emancipation and development of social productivity; the outstanding advantages of upholding the sharing of ideals and beliefs, values, and morals; promoting China's outstanding traditional culture, revolutionary culture, and advanced socialist culture, promoting close unity in the thoughts and minds of all the people; upholding a people-centered philosophy of development, continuously providing guarantees for and

improving people's livelihood, increasing people's well-being and following the path of shared prosperity; the outstanding advantages of upholding reforms and innovation, keeping up with the times, being adept at self-improvement self-development leading to a vibrant and dynamic society; the outstanding advantages of upholding persons who are both virtuous and talented; appointing capable people to fill positions; assembling talented individuals from all over the country to make good use of them and cultivating and training even more outstanding persons of exceptional talent; the outstanding advantages of upholding the Party's leadership of the military, ensuring the absolute loyalty of the people's armed forces to the Party and to the people, and vigorously safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests; the outstanding advantages of upholding "One Country, Two Systems", maintaining the long term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, and promote the peaceful (re)unification of the Motherland; the outstanding advantages of upholding the integration of independence and autonomy with opening to the outside world, actively participating in world governance, and continuous contribution to the building of a (global) community of shared future. These outstanding advantages form the foundation for our confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The world today is passing through profound changes not seen in a century. Our nation finds itself in a critical period for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As we adjust to contemporary trends, adapt to major contradictory changes in our society, oversee our great struggle, great undertaking, great enterprise and great dream, continue to satisfy the people's new expectations for a beautiful life, and surmount various risks and challenges encountered on the road to progress, we must make an even greater effort to uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance.

We must uphold the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important theory of the "Three Representative Concepts" (that the Chinese Communist Party consistently represents China in its requirements for the development of advanced production capabilities, the direction in which China's advanced culture progresses, and basic benefits for the vast majority of China's people), the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must strengthen the "Four Consciousnesses" (political consciousness, overall consciousness, core consciousness, and alignment consciousness), commit ourselves to the "Four Matters of Confidence" (confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics), achieve the "Two Safeguards" (resolutely safeguarding General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core of the Party Center, the person holding the core position throughout all the Party, and resolutely safeguarding the authority and centralized unified leadership of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party), uphold the Party's leadership,

the people as masters of the country, and organic unification of governance according to law. We must uphold the emancipation of thought and seeking the truth from facts. We must uphold reform and innovation. We must prioritize upholding and improving fundamental, basic and important systems that underpin the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must focus on solidifying foundations, leveraging strengths, compensating for deficiencies, tackle areas of weakness, creating complete, scientifically standardized, and effective institutions, strengthening institutional governance, governance according to law, comprehensive governance, and governance at the source, better improve the efficiency and effectiveness of governance by taking advantage of China's institutional strengths, and to provide powerful safeguards for achieving the “Two Centenary” goals and realizing the “Chinese Dream”² of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The overall objective of upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance is, by the one hundred-year anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, to achieve distinct results in making various institutions more mature, and more defined; by 2035 various institutions will undergo further improvement to fundamentally achieve the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. By the hundred-year anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, we will comprehensively achieve the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, to enable the further consolidation of a socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and to give full expression to its superior advantages.

II. Upholding and Improving the Systems and Institutions for the Party's Leadership; Strengthen Scientific Governance, Democratic Governance, and Governance According to Law

The leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is the most basic feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the greatest advantage of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, with the Party as the highest power of political leadership. The Party's leadership of all - Party, government, military, society, and education, , north, south, east, and west – must be upheld. The authority of the Party Center must be resolutely safeguarded, Party leadership which oversees the overall situation and coordinates various parties is to be improved, to implement the leadership of the Party in every domain, every aspect, and every sector of national governance.

² Note: While the exact meaning (and translation) of the Chinese term used here (中国梦) is somewhat ambiguous, the Communist Party uses the “Chinese Dream” (possibly carrying a more plural connotation, as in Chinese people's dream, a la the American Dream) while in meaning “China Dream” (with a more singular connotation more befitting of this goal the singular institution of the Party has put forth for the country) may be more accurate.

- (I) Establish a system that ensures Party member's commitment to the Party's original aspiration and founding mission. Ensure that all members of the Party follow Party rules and regulations, and assiduously adhere to the characteristics and objectives of the Party. Uphold the utilization of communism's lofty ideals and the shared ideals of socialism with Chinese characteristics to bind together all of the members of the Party and unite the people. Utilize Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to arm all members of the Party, educate the people, and guide (our) work. Solidify the ideological basis of rule by the Party. Take the ongoing remembrance of our original aspiration and the constant remembrance of our mission as perpetual topics for study to strengthen Party building, and as lifelong topics to be studied by all members of the Party and all cadres. Form a mechanism which exerts long-term effectiveness, to persevere in the unremitting cultivation of the political character of Party members and cadres to make them loyal, clean (incorruptible) and responsible. Comprehensively implement fundamental Party theory, the fundamental Party line, and fundamental Party strategy. Continue to promote innovation in Party theory, innovative practices, and institutional innovation, to enable all our work to adjust to contemporary trends, comply with the laws of development, achieve the aspirations of the people, and ensure that the Party is always at the forefront of the times, and win the heartfelt support of the people.
- (II) Perfect various institutions to resolutely safeguard the authority and the centralized unified leadership of the Party Center. Promote among the whole Party the enhancing of the "Four Consciousnesses", strengthening of the "Four Matters of Confidence", and achieving of the "Two Safeguards". Consciously, in our ideology, politics and actions, maintain a high degree of consistency with the Party Center with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core. Resolutely implement safeguarding General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core of the Party Center and the entire Party's core position (in society). Improve the system under which the Party Center leads major work. Strengthen the Party Center's functional role in decision-making, reviewing issues and coordinating agencies. Perfect the mechanism for implementing promotion of the Party Center's major policies. Strictly enforce a reporting system for requesting instruction from the Party Center, to ensure exact compliance. Improve and safeguard the Party's centralized and unified organizational system; form a powerful, tight-knit system with connections from top to bottom among the Party's central organizations, local organizations, and grassroots organizations; and realize full coverage of the Party's organizations and the Party's work.
- (III) Improve the system of comprehensive leadership by the Party. Perfect the institutions under which the Party leads the National People's Congress, the government, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress (CPPCC), supervisory authorities, judicial authorities, procuratorial agencies, armed

forces, people's organizations, enterprise and business units, autonomous grass roots group organizations, and social organizations. Improve institutions for the work of Party committees (Party leadership groups) at various levels, to ensure that the Party plays a leadership role in these organizations. Perfect specific institutions under which the Party leads various businesses. Implement Party leadership in the overall planning and promotion of the "Five in One" overall layout, and coordinate the promotion of the "Four Comprehensives" strategy. Perfect the functional system of Party and national organizations. Implement Party leadership throughout all functions performed by all Party and national organizations. Promote coordinated action by all parties and enhance joint efforts.

- (IV) Improve various institutions which govern for the people and rely on the people. Uphold the principles of establishing the Party for the public, governing for the people, and maintaining a flesh and blood connection between the Party and the people. Implement respect for public opinion, gathering the people's collective wisdom, uniting the people's strengths, and improving the people's livelihood in all Party work involving the governance of the nation. Consolidate the foundation of Party rule based on class. The foundation of Party rule should be deeply rooted in the masses. By perfecting the system, ensure that the people hold the dominant position in national governance. Strive to guard against the risk of losing touch with the masses. Thoroughly implement the Party's policy of cultivating and broadening support among the masses. Perfect the institutions that enable Party members and cadres to maintain contact with the masses. Create mechanisms for working among the masses in the Internet Age. Continuously work on behalf of the masses, trust the masses, rely on the masses, lead the masses, go deep among the masses, and go deep into the grassroots. Improve the system for group work to establish extensive contact with the masses and to serve them. Lead people's organizations to strengthen their political, advanced, and mass characteristics. Closely unite these respective groups to rally around the Party.
- (V) Enhance the system for improving the ability of the Party to rule and leadership standards. Uphold democratic centralism. Perfect the relevant systems for developing democracy within the Party and implementing correct centralization. Strengthen the Party's ability to control direction of development, plan the overall situation, set policies, and promote reforms. Improve policy mechanisms, and enhance investigation and research of major policies, scientific argumentation, and risk assessment. Strengthen policy execution, evaluation, and oversight. Perfect the Party's leadership methods and approaches to governance. Strengthen political ability and organizational power among Party organizations at all levels. Perfect an incentive mechanism for being responsible. Among cadres in leadership at every level, promote the

enhancement of learning skills, political leadership skills, reform and innovation capabilities, scientific development capabilities, lawful governance capabilities, skills for working with the masses, skills for expediting implementation, and managing risks, to promote our will to struggle, and strengthen our ability to struggle.

Perfect a comprehensive system of strict governance of the Party. Uphold Party management of the Party, comprehensively implement strict governance of the Party, strengthen our awareness of hazards, and continuously promote self-revolution within the Party, to perpetually maintain the advanced and pure nature of the Party. Thoroughly implement overall requirements for building the Party in the new era. Deepen reforms of the system for building the Party. Uphold governance of the Party according to rules and regulations. Establish robust institutional mechanisms for comprehensively promoting various aspects of Party building, led by building the political construction of the Party. Uphold the line followed by the Party in its organization in the new era. Improve the system for administering cadres in the entire Party and appointing capable people to fill positions. Cause political life within the Party to adhere to certain norms. Strictly enforce political discipline and political rules and regulations. Develop a dynamic, healthy political culture within the Party. Comprehensively purify the political ecology of the Party. Perfect and implement a system of strict Party governance and accountability. Resolutely struggle against all problems which affect the advanced nature of the Party and weaken the purity of the Party. Vigorously rectify formalism and bureaucracy; continuously strengthen the Party's ingenuity, cohesiveness, and fighting power; ensure that the Party continuously serves as the nucleus of resolute leadership of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

III. Upholding and Improving Systems and Institutions That Ensure the People are the Masters of the Country; Develop Socialist Democracy

Our nation is led by the working class, a socialist country under a people's democratic dictatorship founded on the alliance of workers and peasants, and all power of the state belong to the people. The dominant position of the people must be upheld, and the road of political development of socialism with Chinese characteristics must be resolutely followed without deviation. Improve the democratic system and enrich the forms of democracy. Democratic channels must be broadened. Democratic elections, democratic discussions, democratic policies, democratic administration, and democratic oversight must be implemented according to law. Enable all aspects of systems and national governance to better reflect the will of the people, safeguard the rights and interests of the people, and stimulate the people's creativity. Ensure that the people administer national matters, administer economic and cultural undertakings, and administer social affairs through various channels and forms according to law.

- (I) Uphold and perfect the fundamental political system of People's Congresses. The agencies through which the people exercise state power are the National People's Congress and the People's Congress at various local levels. Support and guarantee the people's exercise of state power through People's Congresses. Guarantee that the People's Congresses at all levels are formed through democratic election, report to the people, and are subject to oversight by the people. Ensure that stage organs at all levels are formed by, report to, and are subject to oversight by the (National) People's Congress. Support and ensure the exercise of duties by the National People's Congress and its standing committee according to law. Improve the system for oversight by the people's congresses of "one government, one commission, and two organs" (i.e. the people's governments, supervisory commissions, people's courts and people's procuratorates). Strengthen close contact between (National) People's Congress deputies and the people. Improve the liaison mechanism for (National People's) Congress deputies, to enhance the role of such deputies. Improve the (National) People's Congress' organization system, election system, and rules of procedure. Perfect institutions for argumentation, evaluation, appraisal, and hearing. Suitably increase the number of grassroots representatives to the (National) People's Congress. Strengthen the building of local People's Congresses and their standing committees.
- (II) Uphold and improve the system of CCP-led multi-party cooperation and political consultation. Implement a policy of long-term coexistence, mutual oversight, and mutual good faith, under which all parties share both honor and disgrace. Strengthen construction of the socialist political party system with Chinese characteristics. Improve mutual oversight, especially the CCP consciously subjecting itself to oversight (by other political parties). Implement dedicated oversight and other mechanisms for the implementation of major policy decisions and plans. Perfect a system of central committees of democratic parties directly making recommendations to the Central Committee of the CCP. Perfect the methods of supporting democratic parties and non-aligned individuals in performing their functions, to display the advantages of China's new type of political party system. Utilize the effectiveness of the CPPCC as a political organization and form of democracy. Enhance the standards of political consultation, democratic oversight, and participation in and discussion of politics, and better build consensus. Perfect the system for a CPPCC consultative organization and enrich the forms of consultation. Improve rules and regulations governing consultation. Optimize the settings of different sectors (of society which are represented in the CPPCC). Improve procedural mechanisms for developing democracy and promoting unity, so that recommendations for governance and consensus building exert a bidirectional impact on one another.

Uphold the unique advantage of socialist consultative democracy. Oversee and promote consultation of political parties, the (National) People's Congress, government, the CPPCC, people's organizations, the grassroots level, and social organizations. Build a system for democratic consultation incorporating reasonable procedures and complete segments. Perfect a system to carry out consultation prior to and during the implementation of policy decisions. Broaden and enrich the institutional practice of discussion of issues in a friendly manner, and discussion by the public of issues which affect the public.

- (III) Consolidate and develop the broadest possible patriotic united front. Persist in (building) a united front with extensive participation of all political parties. Uphold consistency, and unity of diversity. Perfect a policy which protects the rights and interests of allies. Duly carry out work related to nationalities and work related to religion. Improve the system for non-Party representative contingent construction. Unify the strengths of our compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, and our compatriots who are overseas Chinese. Seek the greatest common factor. Draw the biggest concentric circle. Promote harmonious relationships among political parties, ethnic groups, religious groups, social classes, and Chinese people at home and overseas.
- (IV) Uphold and improve the system of regional ethnic autonomy. Resolutely without deviation follow the correct road for the resolution of ethnic issues with Chinese characteristics. Uphold the equality of all nationalities. Uphold the shared unified struggle of all nationalities, and the development of shared prosperity, to guarantee the exercise of rights of autonomy in autonomous ethnic areas according to law. Guarantee the lawful rights and interests of ethnic minorities. Consolidate and develop socialist relations among nationalities based on equality, unity, mutual assistance, and harmony. Uphold the continuous development of publicity and education of Marxist national, ethnic, cultural, and historical outlooks. Secure the foundation of the communal ideology of the Chinese national community. Comprehensively, at a deep level, and sustainably carry out the creation of unity and progress among nationalities, strengthening communication, exchange and mixing among all nationalities. Support and assist accelerated development in ethnic areas. Continuously raise the standard of living of all nationalities.
- (V) Improve the dynamic system of community-level self-governance. Improve community-level self-governance mechanisms under the leadership of grassroots party organizations. Widely implement self-management, self-service, self-education, and self-supervision among the masses in the governance of urban and rural communities, grassroots public affairs, and public welfare undertakings. Expand channels through which the people can express their opinions and make recommendations. Focus on promoting

systematization, standardization, and proceduralization of direct democracy at the grassroots level. Fully rely on the working class to improve the democratic administrative system for enterprise and business work units based on Workers' Congresses. Explore effective methods for enabling enterprise employees to participate in management. Guarantee employees' right to know, right to participate, right of expression, and supervisory power. Safeguard the lawful rights and interests of employees.

IV. Upholding and Improving the System of Socialist Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics; Enhancing the Party's Capacity to Rule and Govern According to Law

Constructing a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and constructing a socialist country governed by law are internal requirements for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. The road for socialism with Chinese characteristics governed by law must be resolutely followed without deviation. Comprehensively promote national governance according to law. Uphold the common advancement of national governance according to law, rule according to law and administration according to law. Uphold the integrated building of a nation ruled by law, government ruled by law, and a society ruled by law. Accelerate the formation of a comprehensive system of laws and regulations, an efficient law enforcement system, a stringent system for supervising the rule of law and a powerful system of guarantees under the rule of law. Accelerate the formation of a comprehensive legal system within the Party. Comprehensively promote sound legislation, strict law enforcement, impartial administration of justice, and observance of the law by all. Promote the building of a China governed by law.

- (I) Improve institutional mechanisms with guarantees for comprehensive implementation of the Constitution. National governance according to law must first uphold governance according to the Constitution. Rule according to law must first uphold rule according to the Constitution. Strengthen implementation and oversight of the Constitution, implement procedural mechanisms for interpreting the Constitution, and promote reviews of the constitutionality (of laws and regulations). Strengthen filing and review systems and the building of capabilities. According to law, repeal and rectify normative documents which contravene the Constitution and the law. Uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and the law. Improve mechanisms to guarantee the equality of every person under the law. Safeguard the unity, sanctity and authority of the national legal system. All actions which contravene the Constitution and the law must be prosecuted.

- (II) Perfect legislative institutional mechanisms. Uphold scientific legislation, democratic legislation, and legislation according to law. Perfect legislative work patterns under the leadership of Party committees, led by the (National) People's Congress, with government support and broad participation. Simultaneously enact, amend, abolish, and interpret laws, to continuously enhance the quality and efficiency of legislation. Perfect the socialist system of laws with Chinese characteristics, with constitutional law as its nucleus. Strengthen legislation in important sectors. Accelerate construction of a Chinese legal system applicable extra-jurisdictionally. Guarantee good governance through good laws.
- (III) Improve the system which guarantees social equity, justice, and rule of law. Uphold construction of legal institutions which are for the people and rely on the people. Strengthen guarantees for protection of human rights under the law. Guarantee the people's enjoyment of extensive rights and freedoms according to law and shoulder obligations which must be thoroughly carried out. Lead all the people to become loyal advocates of socialist rule of law, to consciously abide by the law and resolutely defend the law. Uphold compliance with the law, strict enforcement of the law, and prosecution of violations of the law. Strictly regulate impartiality and civility in enforcement of the law. Regulate the right of discretion in enforcement of the law. Increase the strength of enforcement in important areas which involve the vital interests of the masses. Deepen comprehensive reform of the judicial system. Perfect the trial system and the procuratorial system. Comprehensively implement a judicial responsibility system. Perfect a system for attorneys. Strengthen oversight of judicial activities. Ensure impartiality, high efficiency, and authority in the administration of justice. Make every effort to let the people feel that impartiality and justice have been served in the adjudication of each case.
- (IV) Strengthen oversight over the implementation of the law. Guarantee that administrative authority, supervisory authority, judicial authority, and review authority are properly exercised according to law; provide assurances of practical guarantees for the lawful rights and interests of citizens, legal persons, and other organizations. Resolutely eliminate interference in law enforcement and judicial activities. Expand the scope of public interest litigation. Intensify punishment of serious violations of the law. Implement a system of punitive compensation and stringent prosecution of criminal accountability. Intensify the work of enabling all people to understand the law. Strengthen all people's awareness of the rule of law. Perfect a system of public legal services. Consolidate the support of the masses for national governance according to law. Party and national organizations at every level and leading cadres must take the lead in respecting the law, studying the law, abiding by the law, and applying

the law. Improve the ability to use rule of law thinking and methods to deepen reform, promote development, resolve contradictions, maintain stability and cope with risks.

V. Upholding and Improving the Government Administration System Under Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and Building a System of Governance with Clearly Defined Responsibilities and Administration According to Law

The administration of the state is shouldered with the important responsibility of promoting economic and social development, managing social affairs, and serving the people, in accordance with policy decisions and plans made by the Party and the state. We must insist that all administrative agencies serve the people, answer to the people, and are supervised by the people. We must innovate forms of administration, enhance administrative efficacy, and build a service-oriented government to the satisfaction of the people.

- (I) Perfect a state administrative system. Emphasize p. Optimize the system for administrative policy decision-making, administrative execution, administrative organization, and administrative oversight with the focus of promoting optimization and coordination, and efficiency of state institution functions. Improve mechanisms for interdepartmental coordination; guard against policies issued by multiple departments, and policy effects which cancel each other out. Deepen reform of the administrative enforcement law system, and to the greatest extent possible reduce administrative enforcement matters. Further the integration of administrative law enforcement teams. Continue to explore implementing interdomain and interdepartmental comprehensive enforcement. Promote the shift of law enforcement focus downwards (delegation of enforcement responsibilities to subordinate departments). Raise the standard of administrative law enforcement capabilities. Implement a job responsibility system and a system of accountability for administrative enforcement. Create new administrative management and service methods. Accelerate the promotion of the construction of a nationwide, uniform, government services platform; improve the strong administrative enforcement system. Enhance government execution and credibility.
- (II) Optimize the government accountability system. Perfect government adjustments to the economy, oversight of markets, management of society, public services, ecological and environmental protection, and other such functions. Implement a system listing government powers and responsibilities. Clarify relationships between the government and the market, and the government and society. Further promote the streamlining of administration, the delegation of power, and optimization of services. Further reform the administrative review and approval system. Improve the business environment. Activate the vitality inherent in various markets. Improve the system of macro-controls focusing on a strategy for national

development which primarily utilizes fiscal policy and currency policy, in conjunction with employment, industry, investment, consumer, and regional policy. Perfect a national strategy for major development and systems for planning mid-term and long-term economic and social development. Perfect a budgetary system which has scientific standards, transparent regulations, and powerful restrictions. Build a modern central bank system. Perfect the mechanism for base currency circulation. Improve the system for benchmark interest rates and marketized interest rates. Enact stringent measures for regulation of markets, regulation of quality, and regulation of safety. Strengthen the punishment of violations. Perfect a public services system. Promote uniformity and accessibility of public services. Establish robust rules for a system under which the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence, and other technologies are utilized to engage in administrative management. Promote the construction of a digital government. Strengthen the orderly sharing of data. Protect personal information according to law.

- (III) Optimize the structure of government organizations. Promote the legal codification of organizations, functions, powers, procedures, and responsibilities. Cause government agency setups to become more scientific, with more optimized functions, and greater coordination of powers and responsibilities. Stringently administer the composition and management of organizations. Formulate overall plans for utilization of administrative management resources. Conserve administrative costs. Optimize the organization of administrative divisions. Increase the combined load-carrying and resource allocation optimization capabilities of central cities and urban agglomerates. Implement flat management. Form highly efficient organizational institutions.
- (IV) Improve institutional mechanisms to fully exploit the respective dynamics of the central government and local governments. Coordinate the powers and responsibilities of the central government and local governments. Strengthen central government management of macro affairs. Safeguard the unity of the rule of law, of government decrees, and of markets. Appropriately strengthen the authority of the central government with respect to protection of intellectual property rights, old-age insurance, and interregional ecological and environmental protection. Reduce and regulate powers shared by the central government and local governments. Give more autonomy to local governments and support local innovation in the development of work. In accordance with the principle of consistent power and responsibility, regulate the institutions of vertical management and tiered local management. Optimize the division of authority and fiscal power among government organizations. Establish a fiscal relationship between the central government and local governments with clearly delineated powers and responsibilities, financial resource allocation, and balance between regions. Form a system with stable government authority at all levels of government, with mutually adjusted expenditure responsibilities and financial resources.

Construct a work system from the central government down to the local level, which clearly delineates powers and responsibilities, operates smoothly, and is dynamic.

VI. Maintaining and Improving the Basic Socialist Economic System; Promote High Quality Economic Development

Jointly develop an economy primarily based on public ownership, but also having multiple types of ownership, primarily based on the principle of “to each according to his contribution”, but also coexisting with multiple forms of allocation, with a socialist market economy and other basic socialist economic systems, embodying the superior advantages of the socialist system while also adapting to social production development standards during China’s initial phase of socialism: this is a great creation of the Party and the people. The basic socialist economic system must be upheld, while giving full play to the decisive role of the market in allocating resources. More effectively utilize the government’s role to comprehensively implement the concept of new development. Uphold a course of action focusing on supply-side structural reforms. Accelerate the construction of a modern economic system.

- (I) Unwaveringly consolidate and develop the public sector of the economy. Unwaveringly encourage, support, and guide the development of the non-public sector of the economy. Explore multiple ways of achieving public ownership. Promote the optimization of state-owned economic arrangements and structural adjustments. Develop a mixed-ownership economy. Strengthen the state-owned economy’s competitiveness, creative power, controlling power, influence, and resistance to risks. Strengthen, enlarge, and optimize state-owned capital. Deepen the reform of state-owned enterprises. Perfect a system for modern enterprises with Chinese characteristics. Form a state-owned assets regulation system which focuses on capital regulation. Effectively utilize the role of state-owned capital investments and operating company functions. Improve the legal environment which supports the private sector and development of foreign-invested enterprises. Perfect the construction of a government policy institution for close and clean relations between government and business. Improve the system supporting development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. Promote healthy development of the non-public sector of the economy, and the healthy growth of individuals participating in the non-sector. Create a market environment in which entities with various types of ownership can equally utilize resource elements according to law, for open, fair, and just participation in competition, receiving equal protection under the law. Deepen reform of the rural collective property rights system, develop the rural collective economy, and perfect a system for basic rural management.

- (II) Support the main principle of “to each according to his contribution”, but also coexisting with multiple forms of allocation. Support the principle of “more pay for more work”, with an emphasis on protecting income earned from labor. Increase labor compensation for workers, especially for frontline workers. Increase the proportion of remuneration for labor when such remuneration is distributed for the first time. Improve mechanisms for market assessments of contributions made by labor, capital, land, intellectual property, technology, management, data, and other such elements of production, and for determining compensation based on such contributions. Improve mechanisms for redistribution adjustments primarily involving taxation, social security, transfer payments, etc. Strengthen regulation of taxes. Perfect the direct tax system and gradually increase its proportion. Perfect relevant institutions and government policies. Reasonably adjust distribution relationships among urban and rural areas, regions, and different groups. Place importance on the role played by third allocations. Develop charities and other social welfare institutions. Encourage the attainment of wealth through hard work. Protect lawful income. Increase the income of low-income individuals. Increase the number of persons with mid-range incomes. Adjust excessively high incomes. Eliminate and regulate hidden income. Eradicate illegal income.
- (III) Accelerate the perfection of the socialist market economy system. Construct a high-standard market system. Perfect a system of fair competition. Comprehensively implement a market access negative list system. Reform the system under which production licenses are issued. Improve the system governing bankruptcy. Strengthen the fundamental position of competition policies and implement a fair competition review system. Strengthen and improve the enforcement of laws which combat monopolies and unfair competition. Improve the system for safeguarding property rights based on the principle of impartiality. Establish a system of punitive compensation for infringement of intellectual property rights. Strengthen the protection of enterprise business secrets. Promote the construction of a system for the factor market, with factor prices determined by the market, autonomous and orderly circulation, and highly efficient, impartial allocation. Strengthen the protection of consumer rights and interests. Explore the construction of a system for class actions. Strengthen the construction of a basic system for capital markets. Improve the modern financial system that is highly adaptive, competitive, and inclusive, to effectively guard against and resolve financial risk. Optimize basic databases for economic governance. Improve institutional mechanisms for promoting the development of advanced manufacturing and revitalizing the real economy. Implement the rural revitalization strategy. Perfect institutions and government policies which prioritize development of agriculture and rural areas and safeguard national food security. Improve institutional mechanisms for integrated development of urban and rural areas. Establish new mechanisms for

regional coordinated development. Form regional economic layouts with outstanding main functions, complementary advantages, and high-quality development.

- (IV) Perfect institutional mechanisms for scientific and technological innovation. Promote the spirit of science and the spirit of craftsmanship. Accelerate the building of a nation focused on innovation. Strengthen national strategic strengths in science and technology. Improve the system of national laboratories. Establish a new type of national system for mastering key core technologies under socialist market economic conditions. Increase investment in basic research. Improve institutional mechanisms to encourage and support basic research and original innovation. Establish a system of technological innovation which focuses on enterprises, is oriented towards the market, and deeply integrates production, education and research. Support the innovation and integration among large, medium-size and small enterprises, and various types of entities. Innovate and promote mechanisms for the transformation of scientific and technological achievements (into industrial/product applications). Actively develop new driving forces. Strengthen the development of leading standards. Increase basic capabilities for industries and the modernization level of industry chains. Perfect mechanisms for discovering, cultivating, and motivating scientific and technological talent. Improve management systems and policy systems for science and technology, in keeping with the laws of scientific research. Improve the system of scientific and technological evaluation. Improve the system for ethical governance of science and technology.
- (V) Establish a new system for an open economy with an even higher level. Implement comprehensive opening (to the world) on a larger scale, with a wider domain and at a deeper level. Promote greater opening of the manufacturing industry, service industry, and agriculture. Protect the lawful rights and interests of foreign investments. Promote fair competition among domestic and foreign-invested enterprises. Further the diversification of foreign trade. Steadily promote the internationalization of the Renminbi. Improve the administrative system based on pre-establishment national treatment to foreign investment, with a negative list. Promote institutional openness of rules, regulations, administration, and standards. Improve the system of policies and services which promotes foreign investment. Accelerate the construction of pilot free trade zones, free trade ports, and other leading areas open to foreign investment and trade. Promote the establishment of mechanisms for coordinating international macroeconomic policies. Improve systems for foreign investment national security reviews, anti-monopoly reviews, national technical safety list management, and unreliable entity lists. Perfect a system of foreign-related economic and trade laws and regulations.

VII. Maintaining and Improving a System for Prosperous Development of an Advanced Socialist Culture; Consolidate an Ideological Foundation Shared by All People in Unity and Struggle

Developing an advanced socialist culture and broadly uniting the spiritual power of the people are deep supports for modernizing of China's system and capacity for governance. We must have unwavering cultural self-confidence, and firmly adhere to progressing forward in the direction of an advanced socialist culture. We must focus on the tasks and missions of keeping a firm conviction, winning the people's support, cultivating new generations of people, advancing culture, and presenting a positive image. We must persist in serving the people and serving socialism. We must persist in letting “a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend”. We must persist in creative transformation and creative development, to inspire all our people to be culturally innovative, to better build the Chinese spirit, Chinese values, and Chinese power.

- (I) Uphold the fundamental system that ensures Marxism as the leading ideological guidance. Comprehensively implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Improve the work system which utilizes the Party's innovative theory to arm all Party members and educate the people. Perfect the system for learning at all levels which includes learning centers for the study of theory under a Party committee (party organization) group. Construct and duly utilize platforms for learning on the Internet. Further implement research and (ideological) construction projects on Marxist theory. Upholding Marxism as the guide, comprehensively implement the construction of ideological theory, philosophical social science research, education, and teaching. Strengthen and improve ideological and political education at schools. Establish institutional mechanisms for educating people which are inclusive of all and all courses with a full range of educational programs. Implement a responsibility system for ideological work. Pay attention to differentiating between issues regarding political principles, issues of understanding and thinking, and issues regarding academic perspective. Take a clear-cut stand on opposing and resisting various erroneous viewpoints.
- (II) Uphold the construction of a system based on a culture guided by core socialist values. Promote the normalization and systemization of education which promotes ideals and beliefs. Promote our national spirit and the spirit of the times. Strengthen education in the history of the CCP, the history of the People's Republic of China, and the history of reform and opening-up (to the world). Strengthen education in patriotism, collectivism, and socialism. Implement projects for building civic morality. Promote the construction of centers for implementing civilization in a new era. Uphold the integration of

national governance according to law and national governance based on virtue. Perfect a system of laws and government policies which upholds core socialist values. Integrate the requirements for core socialist values with the construction of governance under the law and social governance, embodied in national education, the creation of a spiritual civilization and a complete process for creation and production of cultural products. Promote programs promoting the inheritance and development of China's fine traditional culture. Perfect collective management mechanisms for educating youth in ideals and beliefs. Improve the system for voluntary service. Perfect a long-term mechanism for building integrity. Improve the credit system covering all citizens. Strengthen punishment of parties who default on their credit.

- (III) Improve the system to safeguard the people's cultural rights and interests. Uphold work orientation centered on the people. Perfect a mechanism which provides guidance and incentives for the creation, production, and dissemination of cultural products. Promote even more fine quality cultural products which are liked by the masses. Perfect a system of public cultural services in urban and rural areas. Optimize allocation of urban and rural cultural resources. Promote mechanisms to expand the scope covered by and increase the effectiveness of grassroots cultural projects which benefit the people. Improve mechanisms to support development of cultural events for the masses. Encourage forces in society to participate in the construction of a public cultural services system.

- (IV) Perfect the working mechanism for public opinion guidance that upholds the correct orientation. Uphold the principle of Party management of the media; uphold unity, stability, and encouragement, attaching importance to positive publicity,³ propagating the main theme, and promoting positive energy. Construct a layout for mainstream public opinion, with integration of online and offline content, and linkage of internal and external publicity. Establish a all-media communications system based on content building, supported by advanced technology, and safeguarded by innovative management. Improve and innovate positive publicity. Perfect a system for oversight of public opinion, and improve mechanisms for guiding public opinion on major issues under public discussion and on sudden incidents. Establish a robust system for comprehensive integrated governance of the Internet. Strengthen and innovate the building of Internet content. Implement principal responsibilities for management of information by Internet enterprises. Comprehensively enhance network governance capabilities. Create a clean cyberspace.

³ Note: The Chinese word used for “publicity” here (宣传) can also mean “propaganda,” a term that was previously used in official Party translations of this word but has been dropped in the 21st century in favor of the more benign-sounding “publicity.”

- (V) Establish and improve institutional mechanisms for creation and production of culture that prioritize social interests, while unifying social and economic interests. Deepen the reform of the cultural system. Accelerate the perfection of the cultural management system and production and operating mechanisms that follow rules for compliance with the development of advanced socialist culture, embody the requirements of a socialist market economy, and are conducive to motivating cultural innovation and cultural creativity. Improve systems for the modern cultural industry and its market. Perfect government policies for a cultural economy guided by high quality development. Perfect a system for the performance of social responsibilities by cultural enterprises. Improve the system for guiding the healthy development of trends in new cultural industries. Perfect institutional mechanisms for integrated development of culture and tourism. Strengthen guidance in literary and artistic creation. Perfect work mechanisms for advocating aesthetic taste, style, and responsibility, to resist vulgarity, debasement, and catering to coarse values.

VIII. Maintaining and Enhancing Social Welfare Systems for Urban and Rural Residents; Satisfy the People's Growing Needs for a Better Life

Increasing the people's well-being and comprehensively improving people's lives are the essential requirements for our Party's establishment of the Party for the public interest and govern for the people. The state system of basic public services, including access to childcare, education, employment, medical services, elderly care, housing, and social welfare assistance must be improved. Our utmost efforts must be made, and we must assess our capabilities and act accordingly. We must focus on strengthening inclusive, fundamental, thorough construction to support people's lives, to guarantee the basic livelihood of the masses. We must innovate means for providing public services. We must encourage and support social forces to set up public welfare institutions. We must satisfy the multi-level, diversified requirements of the people, and enable the results of reform and development to benefit all the people in more ways and with greater impartiality.

- (I) Improve mechanisms which are conducive to promoting fuller, more high-quality employment. Uphold employment as the root of the people's livelihood. Implement government policies which prioritize employment. Create even more jobs. Improve the system for public employment services and for lifelong job skills training. Perfect a system to support employment of key groups of people. Establish employment mechanisms which promote entrepreneurial ventures to drive employment, with multiple channels for flexible employment. Carry out basic assistance to persons who experience difficulties in finding employment. Resolutely guard against and rectify employment discrimination. Create an environment for an impartial employment system. Improve mechanisms for coordinating labor relations. Create harmonious labor relations,

promote access to decent work and comprehensive development among the great masses of working people.

- (II) Create an educational system which offers all people lifelong learning. Fully implement the Party's educational policies. Uphold the prioritized development of education, with a focus on duly offering education which satisfies the people. Perfect institutional mechanisms for cultivating virtue and morality in people. Deepen comprehensive reforms in the educational sector. Strengthen the building of morality among teachers. Cultivate the comprehensive development of morality, intellect, athleticism, beauty, and hard work persons to build socialism and carry on the socialist tradition. Promote the integrated development of compulsory education in urban and rural areas. Improve mechanisms for safeguarding preschool education, special education, and universal high school education. Perfect mechanisms for the planning, coordination, and development of vocational education, higher education, and continuing education. Support and regulate private education and cooperation in operating schools. Create institutions for guiding and serving family education in urban and rural areas. Utilize the advantages of learning online and artificial intelligence, innovative education and learning methods, to accelerate development of a system of education which addresses the needs of every individual, is suited to every person, and is more open and flexible. Establish a learning society (a society focused on learning).

- (III) Perfect a social welfare system which covers all members of society. Uphold the principle of making every effort to provide social welfare to all those who should receive it, improve sustainable, basic pension and medical insurance schemes that cover both urban and rural residents, and steadily increase social welfare levels. Accelerate the establishment of a system for a nationwide overall plan for basic old age insurance. Accelerate implementation of transfer and continuance of social welfare benefits, a system for settling medical bills incurred at locations outside one's native area, standardizing management of social welfare funds, and developing commercial insurance. Implement overall planning to perfect institutions for social assistance, social welfare, charitable institutions, and preferential treatment arrangements. Improve the system to arrange work for veterans and support system. Uphold and perfect institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality and comprehensive development of women's potential. Perfect a system of services to care for children, women and old people left behind in rural areas. Improve the system to aid and support persons with disabilities. Resolutely achieve victory in the challenging battle to lift people out of poverty and consolidate the achievements of this battle. Establish long-term, effective mechanisms for resolving relative poverty. Accelerate the establishment of a housing system with multiple sources of

supply, multiple channels of support, and options for both renting and purchasing of properties.

- (IV) Strengthen institutions and safeguards for increasing the people's level of health. Uphold monitoring of a person's total life cycle, and total process of health. Perfect a national health policy. Enable the great masses of people to enjoy fair, accessible, comprehensive, and continuous health services. Deepen reform of the medical and health care system; improve the basic medical and health care system. Improve the standards of public health services, medical services, medical assurances, and pharmaceutical products supply safeguards. Accelerate reform of the modern hospital management system. Uphold a focus on grassroots, centering on prevention, integration of prevention and treatment, and utilization of both Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Western medical treatment. Strengthen public health prevention and control of epidemics and major contagious diseases. Improve the system of medical insurance and assistance systems for major diseases. Optimize family planning policies and enhance the quality of the population. Actively face the challenge of an aging population. Accelerate the establishment of a system of services for the elderly which combines the coordination of residential community organizations and integrated health care. Focus on strengthening the physical constitution of the people. Improve systemic measures to promote the health of all the people.

IX. Maintaining and Improving a Jointly Established, Jointly Governed, and Jointly Shared Social Governance System to Maintain Social Stability, and Safeguard National Security

Social governance is an important aspect of national governance. We must strengthen and innovate social governance, and improve a social governance system led by Party committees, and implemented by the government, with democratic consultation, social collaboration, public participation, lawful guarantees, and supported by science and technology. We must build a community of social governance in which everyone assumes responsibility, and everyone is conscientious in the assumption of their responsibility to the fullest extent, a community enjoyed by all, to ensure that people live in peace and are contented with their livelihood, and that society is stable and orderly, to build a peaceful China with even higher standards.

- (I) Perfect effective mechanisms for correctly handling internal contradictions among the people under new conditions. Uphold and develop the “Fengqiao experience” in the new era (the “Fengqiao experience” refers to Fengqiao Town in Zhuji, Zhejiang Province, where in the early 1960's the “experience” was born, which involved mobilizing the masses in the struggle against class enemies). Open and regulate channels for the masses to express their demands,

coordinate interests, and provide safeguards for their rights and interests. Perfect the petitions system. Perfect a work system linking people's mediation, administrative mediation, and judicial mediation. Improve the system of social psychological services and the mechanism for crisis intervention. Perfect an integrated mechanism for multifaceted prevention, mediation and resolution of social conflicts and disputes. Strive to resolve disputes at the grassroots level.

- (II) Perfect a crime (public security) prevention and control system. Uphold integration of experts and groups, group prevention, and group governance. Increase the standard of three-dimensional, lawful, specialized, and intelligent public security. Form a work mechanism for joint governance of problems, linkage of work, and coordinated creation of safe conditions. Increase various risk capabilities such as those related to forecasting, early-warning, and prevention. Strengthen the integrity, synergy and precision of prevention and control measures for administering public security.
- (III) Improve public safety institutions and mechanisms. Perfect and implement a responsibility and management system for production safety. Establish a system for troubleshooting hidden public safety hazards and a prevention and control system for administering safety. Create an emergency management system with unified command and reserves of specialized and regular staff, capable of quick response and effective coordination at different levels. Optimize the construction of a national emergency management capabilities system. Increase disaster prevention, disaster reduction, and disaster relief capabilities. Strengthen and improve the system for oversight of food and pharmaceutical safety. Guarantee the physical health and physical safety of the people.
- (IV) Build a new model of community-level governance. Perfect institutionalized channels for the participation of the masses in grassroots social governance. Improve the system of grassroots social governance in urban and rural areas integrating autonomy, rule of law, and rule by virtue, under the leadership of Party organizations. Improve mechanisms for community management and services. Promote grid management and services. Utilize the role of group organizations and social organizations. Utilize the self-regulating functions of industry associations and business associations. Achieve positive interaction between political governance, social regulation, and residents' autonomy. Consolidate the foundation of grassroots social governance. Accelerate and promote the modernization of social governance in urban areas. Cause the center of gravity of social governance and services to shift downward to the grassroots level. Push more resources down to the grassroots level, to better provide services which are precise and refined. Emphasize the important role played by the family, family education, and family values in grassroots social

governance. Strengthen governance of border areas, promote prosperity and wealth among border residents.

- (V) Perfect the national security system. Pursue a holistic approach to national security, and make overall plans for development and security. Uphold the organic unity of people's security, political security, and the supremacy of national interests. Improve the national security system, with the security of the people as its objective, political security as its root, and economic security as its foundation, with military, science and technology, cultural and social security as its safeguards. Strengthen national security capabilities. Perfect a system of national security leadership, which is centralized, unified, highly effective, and authoritative. Improve the national security legal system. Strengthen the construction of a national security people's line of defense. Strengthen national security awareness among all the people. Establish robust mechanisms for national security risk research and assessment, prevention and control coordination, and prevention and resolution of risks. Increase the ability to guard against and withstand national security risks. Maintain a high level of vigilance, and resolutely guard against and crack down on infiltration, destruction, overthrow of the state, and separatist activities by hostile forces.

X. Maintaining and Improving a System for an Ecological Civilization; Promote the Harmonious Co-existence of Human Beings and Nature

The construction of an ecological civilization is a thousand-year plan related to the Chinese nation's sustainable development. We must implement the idea that "emerald waters and verdant mountains are mountains of gold and mountains of silver" (i.e. invaluable resources; famous comment made by Xi Jinping on August 15, 2005 during an inspection tour of Anji County, Huzhou Municipality, Zhejiang Province). We must uphold resource conservation and environmental protection as basic national policies. We must uphold a policy based on prioritizing conservation and (environmental) protection, with special priority for restoration of the natural environment. We must resolutely follow a path of civilized development, with development of production, rich living conditions, and a favorable ecological environment, to build a beautiful China.

- (I) Implement a system for the most stringent ecological and environmental protection. Uphold the harmonious co-existence of human beings and nature. Steadfastly maintain respect for nature, compliance with nature, and protection of nature. Improve the ecological and environmental protection system under which prevention is undertaken at the source, procedures are controlled, compensation is made for damages, and accountability is enforced. Accelerate the establishment of a robust nationwide overall planning and coordination management control system for land and (open) space planning and use. Plan, demarcate and implement ecological protection red lines, permanent basic farmland, boundaries for town

development, and other such boundaries in management and control of (open) spaces, along with various protective boundaries of waters, to perfect a system of functional zoning. Perfect a system of laws and policy guidance for environmentally friendly production and consumption. Develop environmentally friendly financing. Promote market-oriented environmentally friendly technological innovation. More consciously promote environmentally friendly, low carbon development. Construct a system of oversight of fixed pollution sources centered on a pollution permit system. Perfect the regional linkage mechanism for pollution prevention and control, and the land and sea coordination ecological and environmental governance system. Strengthen prevention and treatment of environmental pollution in agriculture and rural areas. Perfect the system of laws and law enforcement judicial system for ecological and environmental protection.

- (II) Comprehensively establish a system for utilization of resources. Promote legalization, regulation, standardization, and informatization of the unified registration of natural resources. Improve the system of natural resource property rights. Implement a system of compensation for use of resources. Implement a system of total management and comprehensive conservation of resources. Improve the system of policies for conservation and intensive recycling of resources. Popularize a system of waste sorting and resource utilization (recycling). Promote the energy revolution. Construct a clean, low carbon, safe, high efficiency energy system. Improve the system for development and protection of marine resources. Accelerate the establishment of a system for unified investigation, assessment, and monitoring of natural resources. Improve the system for oversight of natural resources.
- (III) Improve the system for ecological conservation and restoration. Implement overall planning of holistic protection and restoration of mountains, waterways, forests, fields, lakes, and grasslands. Strengthen the protection of natural ecosystems in forests, grasslands, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans, etc. Strengthen protection and sustainable use of important ecosystems. Construct a system of natural reserves primarily based on national parks. Improve the national park system. Strengthen the ecological protection and systematic administration of the Yangtze River, Yellow River, and other such great rivers. Develop large scale activities for the greening of national land. Accelerate integrated treatment of soil erosion, desertification, and rocky desertification. Protect biodiversity and fortify ecological safety barriers. Other than for major national projects, comprehensively prohibit reclamation of land from the sea.
- (IV) Implement a strict accountability system for ecological and environmental protection. Establish a system for evaluating the construction objectives of an ecological civilization. Strengthen the management of binding indicators for environmental protection, control of natural resources, energy conservation and

emissions reduction. Strictly implement corporate responsibilities and government regulatory responsibilities. Develop audits of natural resources under the administration of leading cadres at the time they leave office. Promote integrated administrative law enforcement of the protection of ecosystems. Implement a system for oversight of ecological and environmental protection under the central government. Improve the system for monitoring and assessment of the ecology and the environment. Perfect a system for public interest litigation on ecological and environmental matters. Implement mechanisms for ecological compensation, and a system of compensation for ecological and environmental damage. Implement a lifetime accountability system for ecological and environmental damage.

XI. Upholding and Improving the System for the Party's Absolute Leadership Over the People's Armed Forces and Ensuring the People's Armed Forces Faithfully Carry Out Their Missions in the New Era

The people's armed forces are a staunch cornerstone of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces is the foundation upon which the people's armed forces has been built and is the soul of (building) a strong military. We must consolidate and institute the guiding position of Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military in the construction of national defense and the military. Consolidate and further deepen the achievements of reforms in national defense and the military. Build a system of socialist military policies and institutions with Chinese characteristics. Comprehensively promote the modernization of national defense and the military. Ensure that the Party's objective of strengthening the military is achieved in the new era. Comprehensively build the people's armed forces into a topnotch world class army. Always maintain the character, purpose, and true color of the people's armed forces.

- (I) Uphold the supreme leadership and command authority of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party over the people's armed forces. The responsibility system of the Chairman implemented by the Central Military Commission (CMC) is the fundamental means of achieving absolute leadership of the people's armed forces. Uphold the unified leadership and command of armed forces nationwide by the Chairman of the CMC. Perfect and thoroughly implement institutional mechanisms under the system for overall command by the Chairman of the CMC. Strictly implement various institutional regulations under the responsibility system of the Chairman. Implement strict and impartial political discipline and political rules. Resolutely safeguard the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the authority of the CMC to ensure that government decrees and military commands are carried out smoothly.
- (II) Improve the system for building the Party in the people's armed forces. Comprehensively implement various requirements for building a politically

conscious military. Highlight the cultivation of military spirit, promote our outstanding tradition, pass on red (communist) genes, and resolutely reject such erroneous political viewpoints as “removal of the Party from and depoliticization of the military” and “nationalization of the military” (outside the authority of the CCP). Uphold the Party committee system, the political committee system, and the political organ system. Uphold the director division of labor and responsibility system under the unified collective leadership of the Party committee. Uphold the building of Party branches at the company level. Perfect organizational systems for Party leadership of the military. Build strong, powerful Party organizations and high-quality, specialized teams of cadres. Ensure that the gun is forever held in the hands of reliable persons who are loyal to the Party.

- (III) Implement the Party’s absolute leadership over the people’s armed forces in every sector throughout the whole process of building the military. Implement the military strategic guideline for a new era. Uphold fundamental standards of combat capabilities. Establish a robust system of policies on use of military force based on joint peace and wartime integration. Build a military strategy system for the new era. Strengthen the joint operations command system and capacity building. Adjust and perfect strategic systems. Improve the actual-combat military training system. Effectively shape situations, control crises, contain wars, and win wars. Uphold using war to lead construction, while undertaking construction to prepare for war. Establish and improve a military force-building policy (and) system which focuses on combat, incentivizing innovation, and military-civil fusion. Implement an overall plan for building active and reserve forces of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), People’s Armed Police, and militia. Implement an overall plan of systematic arrangements for various military personnel. Deepen reform of the officer professionalization system, civilian personnel system, and military service system. Promote the formation of a model for generating modern combat capabilities. Construct a system of modern military forces. Build a robust system of policies for managing military affairs which is accurate and efficient, is comprehensively regulated, and has rigid constraints. Strengthen CMC strategic management functions. Strengthen the building of military rule of law with Chinese characteristics. Enhance the operational efficiency of military systems. Accelerate steps for further development of military-civil fusion. Build an integrated national strategy system and capabilities. Perfect a system for innovation in national defense science and technology, and for building weapons and equipment. Deepen reform of the national defense mobilization system. Strengthen national defense education among all the people. Improve the working mechanism of the Party, the government, the military, the police, and the people, working together to strengthen of border defense. Perfect

(military-civilian) double support work, and military-civilian joint construction mechanisms. Strengthen military-political and military-civilian unity.

XII. Upholding and Improving the System of “One Country, Two Systems”; Promote the Peaceful (Re)unification of the Motherland

“One Country, Two Systems” is an important system under which the Party is leading the people to achieve the peaceful (re)unification of the Motherland. It is a mighty unprecedented undertaking of socialism with Chinese characteristics. “One Country” as the precondition and foundation for implementing “Two Systems” must be upheld. “Two Systems” is subordinate to and derived from “One Country”, while being integrated within “One Country”. Implement governance of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR) and Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) in strict accordance with the Constitution of the PRC and Basic Laws. Resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests. Safeguard the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. In no way tolerate any actions which challenge the bottom line with respect to “One Country, Two Systems”, and in no way tolerate any acts of secession.

- (I) Comprehensively and correctly implement the policies of “One Country, Two Systems”, “the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong”, and “the People of Macao administer Macao” and a high degree of autonomy. Uphold the governance of Hong Kong and Macao according to law. Safeguard constitutional order as defined by the Constitution and Basic Laws. Integrate upholding the principle of “One Country” and respecting differences under “Two Systems”, safeguarding the Central Government’s right of total governance with respect to Special Administrative Regions, ensuring a high degree of autonomy for Special Administrative Regions, utilizing the strong backing role of the Motherland, and increasing the competitiveness of Special Administrative Regions. Perfect the implementation of relevant institutional mechanisms by Special Administrative Regions in conjunction with the Constitution and Basic Laws. Uphold “Governance of Hong Kong by the People of Hong Kong” and “Governance of Macao by the People of Macao” based on patriotism. Increase governance capabilities and standards for Special Administrative Regions according to law.
- (II) Improve the system for the Central Government to exercise the right of total governance of Special Administrative Regions in accordance with the Constitution and Basic Laws. Perfect the system and mechanisms for the Central Government’s appointment and dismissal of senior officials and principal officers of Special Administrative Regions, the system for the interpretation of the Basic Laws by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and the exercise of various powers invested in the Central Government under the Constitution and Basic Laws according to law. Establish

and improve the system of laws and enforcement mechanisms for Special Administrative Regions to safeguard national security. Support the strengthening of law enforcement powers in Special Administrative Regions. Improve the system for holding the Chief Executives of the Special Administrative Regions accountable to the Central Government. Support governance according to law by the Chief Executives and governments of Special Administrative Regions. Perfect the mechanism for integrating of Hong Kong and Macao into the overall national development, complementing their advantages with mainland China, and developing in coordination. Promote the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Support economic development and improvement of people's livelihood in Hong Kong and Macao. Focus on resolving deep-seated contradictions and issues which affect social stability and long-term development. Strengthen education on the Constitution and Basic Laws, education on national conditions, education on Chinese history, and education on Chinese culture, among society in Hong Kong and Macao, especially among government officials and youth. Strengthen national consciousness and a spirit of patriotism among our compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao. Resolutely guard against and stop outside forces from interfering in the affairs of Hong Kong and Macao and engaging in activities to divide, overthrow, infiltrate, or destroy. Ensure the long-term peace and stability of Hong Kong and Macao.

- (III) Resolutely promote the process of peaceful (re)unification of the Motherland. Resolution of the Taiwan issue, and achievement of the complete (re)unification of the Motherland is the joint aspiration of all Chinese sons and daughters and the fundamental interest of the Chinese nation. Promote cross-Taiwan strait (mainland China and Taiwan) institutional arrangements for peaceful development. Perfect institutional arrangements and policy measures for the promotion of exchange and cooperation between both sides of the Taiwan strait (mainland China and Taiwan), deepen integration and development of both sides of the Taiwan strait (mainland China and Taiwan), and ensure the well-being of our compatriots in Taiwan. Unite the great masses of our compatriots in Taiwan to jointly oppose "Taiwan independence" and promote (re)unification. On the premise of ensuring national sovereignty, security, and development interests, after peaceful (re)unification, the social system and way of life of our compatriots in Taiwan shall be fully respected, and their private property, religious beliefs and lawful rights and interests shall be fully safeguarded.

XIII. Upholding and Improving an Independent and Autonomous Foreign Policy of Peace; Promote the Construction of a Community with a Shared Future

A peaceful international environment and satisfactory external conditions are necessary to promote the undertakings of the Party and the nation. We must have an overall plan to deal with the domestic and international situation, holding high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win relationships. We must resolutely without deviation safeguard our national sovereignty, security, and development interests; resolutely without deviation safeguard world peace and promote common development.

- (I) Improve institutional mechanisms for Party leadership of foreign affairs work. Uphold power over foreign policy under the Central Committee of the CCP. Strengthen the construction of the theory of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Comprehensively implement foreign policy and strategic deployment under the Central Committee of the CCP. Further promote the construction of foreign affairs-related institutions and mechanisms. Institute an overall plan for coordinating the Party, National People's Congress, government, Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress (CPPCC), military, local (governments), and people's organizations in their foreign exchanges. Strengthen Party oversight of the overall situation, and harmonization of respective parties in the overall coordination of work which deals with foreign entities. Strengthen foreign affairs-related work regarding the rule of law. Establish a legal system governing foreign affairs-related work. Strengthen research on and application of international law. Enhance standards for the rule of law in foreign affairs-related work.
- (II) Perfect comprehensive arrangements for foreign affairs. Resolutely without deviation follow the road of peaceful development. Uphold comprehensive development of friendly cooperation with all countries, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Uphold equal treatment of all countries, large and small, strong and weak, rich and poor. Promote the building of a new form of international relations based on mutual respect, impartiality and justice, and win-win cooperation. Actively develop partnerships worldwide. Safeguard global strategic stability. Oppose all forms of hegemony and power politics. Uphold the resolution of international conflicts, hot spots, and difficult problems through dialogue, discussion, and peaceful means. Oppose the arbitrary use of military force, or threats to resort to use of military force. Uphold the pursuit of national defense policy which is defensive. Never seek hegemony. Never engage in expansionist actions. Always act as a resolute force for safeguarding world peace.
- (III) Promote the establishment of an open system for win-win cooperation. Uphold a mutually win-win strategy of opening-up. Promote high quality development in the construction of "One Belt, One Road". Safeguard and perfect the system of multilateral trade. Promote liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment. Promote construction of a network of high standard free trade zones

which are globally oriented. Support the enhancement of the vast number of developing countries' independent development capabilities. Push for the resolution of imbalances in global development, the digital divide, and other such issues. Promote the construction of an open world economy. Improve the system of safeguards to ensure the security of China's opening to the world. Construct an early warning and prevention system to protect overseas interests and guard against risks. Perfect working mechanisms for consular protection. Safeguard the safety and legitimate rights and interests of our compatriots overseas. Ensure the safety of major projects and personnel and organizations.

- (IV) Actively participate in reform and construction of the global governance system. Hold high the banner of building a community with a shared future. Uphold a vision of global governance based on joint discussion, joint construction, and shared benefits. Advocate multilateralism and democratization of international relations. Promote the transformation of mechanisms for governance of the global economy. Promote development of international cooperation in dealing with climate change, based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, impartiality, and respective capabilities. Safeguard the United Nations' core position in global governance. Support the institutionalization of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, the Group of Twenty (G20), and other such platforms. Promote the building of international governance systems which are more impartial and rational.

XIV. Maintaining and Improving Party and State Oversight Systems; Strengthen Restrictions on and Oversight over the Exercise of Power

The Party and state oversight system is an important systemic safeguard for achieving self-purification, self-perfection, self-renewal, and self-enhancement over the long term under the governance of the Party. We must improve the system of oversight under the unified leadership of the Party, which has comprehensive coverage, is authoritative, and highly efficient. We must increase stringency, synergy, and effectiveness of supervising, to form powerful operating mechanisms under which decisions are scientifically rendered, with resolute execution and strong supervision, to ensure that the powers conferred by the Party and the people are consistently utilized in the interest of the people's happiness.

- (I) Improve the supervision system of the Party and the state. Perfect a system of oversight inside the Party. Implement responsibility for oversight of Party organizations at all levels. Safeguard the right of Party members to exercise oversight. Focus on strengthening oversight of high-ranking cadres and major leading cadres at all levels. Perfect the system of internal oversight of leadership teams. Solve the problem of "singlehanded control" of oversight functions, and oversight by peers. Strengthen political oversight. Strengthen oversight and inspection of Party theory and Party line and policy, and implementation of

major policy decisions and plans. Perfect the system of reform of patrol inspections and rectifications and supervision and implementation situation reporting system. Deepen reform of the disciplinary inspection (and supervision) system. Strengthen the leadership of superior commissions for discipline inspection with respect to subordinate commissions for discipline inspection. Promote standardization and lawful implementation of discipline inspection work. Perfect institutional mechanisms for stationing oversight personnel. Promote coordination of disciplinary inspection, oversight and supervision, stationing oversight personnel, and inspection. Improve the system for oversight of the National People's Congress, democratic oversight, administrative oversight, judicial oversight, oversight of the masses, and oversight of public opinion. Develop the functional roles of auditing supervision and statistical supervision. Promote organic interconnection and mutual coordination among various types of oversight, guided by oversight inside the Party.

- (II) Perfect the power allocation and operation restriction mechanism(s). Uphold power and responsibility in accordance with the law. Improve the system for division of authority governing different affairs, division of power according to job position, delegation of authority according to level, and scheduled job rotation. Clearly define boundaries of power, standardize work procedures, and strengthen restrictions on power. Uphold transparent power and responsibility. Promote openness in exercising power. Perfect an open system with respect to Party affairs, government affairs, judicial and various other sectors. Establish a feedback mechanism under which the exercise of power can be checked and traced. Uphold the unity of power and responsibility. Keep an eye on the exercise of power at every phase. Perfect effective mechanisms for discovering problems, resolving deviations, and precise accountability. Reduce space for power rent-setting and power rent-seeking.
- (III) Construct a body of systems and mechanisms such that officials do not dare, are not able, and do not want to be corrupt. Advance the struggle to combat corruption resolutely without deviation. Resolutely investigate and handle corruption cases in which political and economic issues are intertwined. Resolutely sever interest chains involving “hunters” and those willing to be “hunted”. Resolute eliminate relationship networks which involve power-for-money transactions. Deepen treatment of both symptoms and root causes. Promote reform of oversight mechanisms and construction of systems for important sectors such as oversight of reviews and approvals, law enforcement and justice, engineering and construction, development of resources, finance and credit, transactions involving public resources, and public fiscal expenditures. Promote the advancement of national legislation to combat corruption. Promote international cooperation in combating corruption.

Strengthen education in the areas of ideology and morality, Party discipline, and national laws. Consolidate and develop an overwhelming victory in the struggle to combat corruption.

XV. Strengthening Party Leadership Over the Process of Upholding and Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and Capacity for Governance

Upholding and improving system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance is a major strategic task for the whole Party. This task must be carried out under the unified leadership of the Central Committee of the CCP, with scientific planning, meticulous organization, integration of near and far, and overall promotion, to ensure that all objectives and tasks determined at this plenary session are comprehensively implemented.

The vitality of a system derives from its implementation. Party committees and government agencies at all levels, along with cadres in leadership positions at all levels must conscientiously strengthen their system awareness, and take the lead in safeguarding institutional authority, acting as models of systemic implementation, leading the whole Party and all of society in consciously respecting the system, strictly executing the system, and resolutely safeguarding the system. Improve authoritative, efficient mechanisms for implementation. Strengthen oversight of the implementation of systems. Resolutely put an end to the phenomenon of selective implementation, working around, and devaluation.

Strengthen research, dissemination, and education on institutional theory. Guide the whole Party and all of society in fully recognizing the intrinsic qualities and superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. Strengthen confidence in the system. Educate and guide the great masses of cadres and the masses in recognizing that the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and system of national governance has evolved over a long period of practice and testing, has not come easily, and must be cherished all the more. Perfect and develop China's national institutions and system of governance. We must uphold acting in accordance with our national situation and actual conditions. We must firmly grasp our historical conditions which have formed over a long period of time, and understand the road which the Party and the people have traveled in building our country's national institutions and national governance, along with the experience they have accumulated and the principles they have formed. We cannot emulate and copy institutional models from other countries. We cannot take the old road of isolation and rigidity, nor can we change our nature and abandon our system. We must resolutely without deviation take the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Make enhancing governance capabilities an important task in building teams of cadres in the new era. Through strengthening ideological tempering, political experiencing, practical training, and professional training, promote performance of duties, exercise of powers, and carrying out work by the great masses of cadres in strict accordance with the system,. Enhance and promote various work capabilities and standards with respect to the “Five in One” overall layout and the “Four Comprehensives” strategy. Uphold the principle of the Party managing cadres. Duly implement standards for cadres. Establish the correct orientation when employing people. System implementation governance capabilities will be taken as important criteria in the selection, appointment, and evaluation of cadres. Respect knowledge and respect talent. Accelerate talent system(s) and policy innovation. Support various talented individuals contributing wisdom and strength in advancing the modernization of China’s system and capacity for governance.

Promote comprehensive deepening of reforms. We must maintain the stability and continuity of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the system of national governance, and also move quickly to formulate systems urgently needed for the modernization of China’s system and capacity for governance, and systems necessary to satisfy the people’s new expectations for a better life. We must promote the uninterrupted self-perfection and development of the system for socialism with Chinese characteristics, to perpetuate its vitality.

The whole Party, the whole nation, and people from all ethnic groups must more closely unite under the Party Center with Xi Jinping as its core. We must be resolute in our confidence, maintain constant strength, advance dauntlessly, break new ground and innovate; and work hard to uphold and improve system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, promote the modernization of China’s system and capacity for governance, achieve the objectives of the “Two Centenary” goals, and achieve the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

An Explanation Concerning the Decision of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee on Major Issues Concerning Upholding and Improving the System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and Capacity for Governance

Xi Jinping

I have been entrusted by the Politburo of the CCP Central Committee to provide the National People’s Congress with an explanation of the Decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on Major Issues Concerning Upholding and Improving a System of Socialism

with Chinese Characteristics and Advancing the Modernization of China's System and Capacity for Governance.

I. The Background and Considerations Involved in Drafting the Decision

We have just celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seventy years, New China's historical achievements fully attest to the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics as the fundamental guarantee for the development and progress of contemporary China. From the overall and long term perspective of the development of the Party and our national undertaking, the decision of the Politburo of the CCP Central Committee at this session of the Central Committee to conduct a special study on issues concerning upholding and improving a system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, has primarily taken into account the following several considerations:

Firstly, this is an important task in achieving “The Two Centenary” Goals.

Establishing a modern socialist nation and achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the grand objective that our Party is diligently and tirelessly working to achieve. Since its establishment, our Party has unified and led the people in a constant struggle to advance towards this objective. With the gradual deepening of reform and opening up (to the outside world), our Party has developed a progressively deeper understanding of the construction of institutions. In 1980, Comrade Deng Xiaoping in summing up the lessons of the “Cultural Revolution” pointed out that “Issues regarding systems of leadership and systems of organization have even more to do with fundamental quality, comprehensiveness, stability, and long-term viability.” “If systems (institutions) are good, they can prevent bad people from running amok. If systems (institutions) are not good, they can prevent good people from fully doing good deeds, which may even cause them to go in the opposite direction.” In 1992, Comrade Deng Xiaoping in a speech during his southern tour of China said “I’m afraid it may take another thirty years for us to form a complete system which is more mature and more finalized in various aspects.” The 14th Session of the Party’s National People’s Congress pointed out that, “In the 1990’s we must initially establish a new economic system, and achieve the objectives of the second step in our development of a moderately prosperous society. After another twenty years of hard work, by the time of the hundred-year anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, we will have formed a complete system which is more mature and more finalized in various aspects.” The 15th, 16th, and 17th sessions of the National People’s Congress all proposed clear requirements for construction of systems (institutions).

Since the 18th session of the Party’s National People’s Congress, our Party has further highlighted system construction, with an emphasis on “comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society, which requires that greater political courage and wisdom; we must not lose the opportunity to deepen reforms in important areas, and resolutely eliminate all malpractices in thinking, concepts, systems and mechanisms which pose obstacles to scientific development. We must construct institutional systems which are complete, with scientific standards, and efficient operations, to enable various systems to become more mature and more finalized.” The 3rd Plenary

Session of the 18th Central Committee for the first time raised the important proposition of “advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance”, and set “perfecting and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance ” as the overall objective of comprehensive, deep reforms. The 5th Plenary Session of the 18th National People’s Congress further emphasized that “the maturation and finalization of various systems and great progress in the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, with basic formation of fundamental systems in various sectors” were to be realized during the 13th Five-Year Plan.

The Party at the 19th National People’s Congress made strategic arrangements for building China into a strong nation with a rich, powerful, democratic, civilized, harmonious, beautiful, modern, socialist society by the middle of this century. Among these arrangements, the objectives for construction of systems and construction of governance capabilities are “to further perfect various systems, and basically achieve the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance” by 2035 and by the middle of this century “to achieve the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance”. The 2nd and 3rd Plenary Sessions of the 19th Central Committee respectively made strategic arrangements for amending the Constitution and deepening the reform of Party and national organizations, taking important new steps in the construction of systems (institutions) and construction of governance capabilities. The 3rd Plenary Session of the Party’s 19th Central Committee pointed out that “Our Party must better lead the people in our great struggle, to construct great projects, advance great undertakings, and achieve our great dream. We must accelerate the advancement of the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. We must strive to form a more mature, more finalized system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. These are important tasks which our Party faces.” At the present time, it is necessary for our Party to conduct a systematic assessment of upholding and perfecting a system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, and propose a direction and work requirements for moving forward in perfecting and developing such systems in step with the times.

Secondly, this is a fundamental requirement for pushing forward in the new era of reforms and opening to the world.

Over the course of more than 40 years of reforms and opening to the outside world, the Party’s 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee was an epoch-marking event which heralded the beginning of a new era in the history of construction of reforms and opening, and the modernization of socialism. The Party’s 3rd Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee was also an epoch-marking event, initiating a new era of comprehensive deepening of reforms and reforms in the advancement of the overall design of the system, creating a new phase in China’s reforms and opening to the world. The 3rd Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee rolled out 336 major reforms. After striving for over five years, the results of such reforms can be seen in important areas and key phases, with basic formation of fundamental systems in important areas, to build a solid foundation for advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. We can also see that certain reform measures are awaiting completion, while implementation of certain other measures requires a relatively long period of time. We have

gnawed down quite a few hard bones, and there are still quite a few hard bones left for us to gnaw. We have overcome quite a few difficulties and there are still quite a few difficulties which we must overcome. We absolutely cannot stop our pace and absolutely cannot think of stopping to take a breath or resting our feet. At this general assembly celebrating 40 years of reform and opening-up (to the outside world), I want to emphasize that we must “Uphold our direction without changing course, follow our road without deviation, and maintain our intensity without reduction, to promote more stable, more far-reaching reforms and opening to the world in the new era.” This demands that we start from a strategy of comprehensively constructing a modern socialist nation, to further deploy comprehensive deepening of reforms.

Compared to the past, the new era of reform and opening-up (to the outside world) has many new connotations and many new characteristics, of which one important feature is an even greater stress on construction of systems. Reforms face even more institutional issues at a deep level, with greater requirements for top-level design of reforms, greater demand for reforms which are systematic, integrated, and synergistic, and correspondingly the task of establishing rules and regulations and building a system is heavier. The scheme to comprehensively deepen reforms in the new era must primarily revolve around upholding and improving system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. We must deeply grasp China's development requirements and the trend of the times, to give greater prominence to the construction of systems and the construction of governance capabilities. We must continue deepening reforms of various aspects of systems and mechanisms in all areas. We must advance the further maturation and finalization of systems in all aspects and advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance.

Thirdly, this is a powerful safeguard for meeting challenges posed by risks and for winning initiatives.

A person in ancient times once said, “If the powers under heaven are not thriving then they are in decline. If governance under heaven is not progressing, then it is retreating.” [Quoted from “Master Donglai's Extensive Discussions (of the Zuo Commentaries), the Conference at Kuiqiu ” (东莱博议, 葵邱之会) by Lu Zuqian (吕祖谦) (1137-1181) of the Song Dynasty (宋代)]. Currently, the world is experiencing profound changes unseen in a century. The international situation is complex with a multiplicity of changes. We are faced with unprecedented difficulty with respect to various tasks in connection with reform, development and stability, domestic government, foreign policy, national defense, governance of the party, governance of the nation, and governance of the military. The severity of the risks and challenges we are facing is unprecedented. Some of these risks and challenges come from inside China, while some of them come from international sources; some of them come from economic and social areas, while some of them come from the world of nature. We must win the arduous battle to prevent and resolve major risks. We must uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, while advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. We must utilize the formidable power of our institutions to deal with the impact of risks and challenges.

Based on the above considerations, the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CCP, and the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CCP, on February 28

and March 29 of this year, successively convened meetings, at which it was decided that the Party's 4th Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee would conduct a special study on the issue of upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, and the decision was made to establish a group to draft a document and carry out the work of drafting the document under the leadership of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CCP.

II. The Drafting Process

On April 3 of this year, the group organized to draft the document ("Document Drafting Group") convened its first plenary session, and the work of drafting the document officially began. On April 7, the Central Committee of the CCP issued a notice requesting opinions and recommendations from various regions and departments with respect to the issues discussed at the plenary session. Various sources provided a total of 109 opinions with feedback. Everyone provided quite a few valuable opinions and recommendations on the great achievements and historical experience in upholding and improving the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, major principles and fundamental systems that must be maintained, basic systems and important systems, major issues and important tasks faced, and important measures that need to be taken, etc.

Everyone believes that at this time as we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Party's 4th Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee studying of upholding and improve the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance, and rendering decisions thereon, embody the far-reaching, long-term visionary strategy of the Central Committee of the CCP and a strong sense of historical responsibility. This has great and far-reaching significance with respect to achieving a decisive victory in comprehensively establishing a moderately prosperous society, comprehensively establishing a modern socialist nation, consolidating the Party's ruling position, and ensuring that the Party and the nation enjoy long term peace and stability.

Since the establishment of the Document Drafting Group six months ago, we have conscientiously researched relevant important documents, systematically summarized China's revolution, construction, the evolution of systems undergoing reform, and innovative systems. This has been done with a special focus on in-depth summary of major theoretical achievements, practical achievements, and systemic achievements of the Central Committee of the CCP since the Party's 18th National People's Congress, in leading the whole Party and all the people in upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. We have organized and digested various opinions and recommendations given as feedback, have launched research on specific issues, and have repeatedly discussed amendments to the Draft of the Decision.

Based on a decision rendered by the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CCP, in early September, we decided to circulate the Draft for Opinions (the "Draft") among certain members of the Party to solicit their opinions, including soliciting opinions from certain senior comrades in

the Party. All of them conscientiously organized to study and discuss the Draft, with various regions and departments providing feedback in a total of 118 opinions. On September 25, I presided over and convened a symposium of persons from outside the Party, and personally listened to opinions from the central committees of various democratic parties, persons in charge of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and nonpartisan individuals. Comrades in attendance at the meeting submitted ten statements.

The Document Drafting Group carefully organized all the opinions and recommendations it had received. After collecting and compiling them, we found that a total of 1,948 amendment opinions had been submitted by various parties, which after eliminating redundant opinions amounted to 1,755, of which 380 concerned issues regarding principles, with 1,375 specific opinions on amendments.

The feedback received in the opinions we solicited indicated that all parties fully endorsed the Draft for Opinions. Everyone agreed that the Draft correctly grasped the direction and principles for the development of China's national institutions and national system of governance, highlighted the upholding and perfection of a system of leadership under the Party, and grasped key and fundamental issues with respect to national governance. The Draft emphasized justice and impartiality while promoting innovation, and advancement, to manifest self-confidence in our system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Draft highlighted system integration, collaboration, and efficiency, while embodying strong problem-oriented approaches and clear-cut practices. The Draft addressed the major political questions of "What should be upheld and consolidated, and what should be perfected and developed?" and elucidated the necessity of resolutely upholding important systems and principles. It also deployed major tasks and actions for promoting system construction. It upheld the interconnection of fundamental systems, basic systems and important systems, overall planning of top-level design, connections at different levels, and overall planning of system reform and system operation. It embodied a summation of history with an orientation towards the future, maintained unity of efforts in conjunction with reform and innovation, and integrated problem-oriented and goal-oriented approaches. It will definitely produce an outstanding and far reaching impact on promoting further maturation and finalization of systems in every aspect and better transforming the advantages of our system into national governance effectiveness.

During the solicitation of opinions, various parties submitted good opinions and recommendations, primarily in several areas as follows. The first recommendation was to increase content on comprehensive deepening of reforms and comprehensive national governance according to law when summing up the manifest advantages of China's state system and system of national governance. The second recommendation was to highlight the improvement of a system of science and technology, to bring the leading role of innovation in science and technology into full play. Third was a recommendation to place more emphasis on safeguarding food safety, rural revitalization, prioritizing development of agriculture and rural communities, and other such important institutional arrangements. Fourth was a recommendation to place more emphasis on utilizing artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet, Big Data and other such modern information technology methods to enhance governance capability and governance modernization standards.

Fifth was a recommendation to focus on upholding the principle of Party management of cadres, and perfect the cadre management system, motivating cadres to assume accountability and conscientiously implement measures, while cultivating their fighting spirit and their ability to struggle. Sixth was a recommendation to strengthen theoretical research, propagation, and education with respect to China's state system and system of national governance. Seventh was a recommendation to thoroughly implement the spirit of this plenary session in close conjunction with advancing the work of carrying out various reforms laid out by the Central Committee of the Party since the 18th National People's Congress, and form an overall deployment and work mechanism of integrated promotion and integrated implementation.

The Central Committee of the CCP tasked the Document Drafting Group with conscientiously studying and taking into consideration the opinions and recommendations of various parties. The Document Drafting Group analyzed each of the opinions and recommendations submitted by various parties, making every effort to utilize those that could be utilized. After repeated study and consideration, additions, revisions, and condensations of text were made in 283 places in the Draft, covering 436 opinions and recommendations from various parties.

During the drafting of the Decision, the Standing Committee of the Central Committee's Politburo convened three sessions, and the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CCP convened two sessions to deliberate the Draft, to form the Draft of the Decision submitted to this plenary session for deliberation.

III. Basic Framework of the Draft of the Decision

The overall consideration in the Draft of the Decision was to closely focus on the issues of “upholding and improving system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance”, commencing from the strategic objectives and great tasks established by the Party's 19th National Congress, focusing on upholding and consolidating a system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, ensuring the long-term governance of the Party, and the long-term peace and stability of the nation. The Draft focused on perfecting and developing a system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, comprehensively constructing a modern, socialist nation, and fully bringing into play the superiority of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. It comprehensively summarized the achievements, accumulated experience, and principles formed by the Party in leading the people to construct China's state system, and national governance; focused on upholding and perfecting fundamental systems, basic systems, and important systems that support the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics; deploy major institutions reforms that need to be deepened and on key tasks which need to be carried forward.

The Draft of the Decision is composed of fifteen parts divided into three major sections. The first section is the first part which is a general discussion, which primarily expounds on historical achievements in the development of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the system of national governance, and their outstanding advantages. The Draft puts forward the great significance and overall requirements of upholding and improving system of socialism with

Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance in the new era. The second section is a discussion based on the above which focuses on upholding and perfecting fundamental systems, basic systems, and important systems that support the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. This second section is arranged in thirteen parts which clarify fundamental points that must be upheld and consolidated under each system, along with the direction to be taken in perfecting and developing these systems, made arrangements of the (relevant) work. The third section is the fifteenth part and concluding remarks, which primarily discusses requirements for strengthening Party leadership in upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance.

I hope that our comrades will deeply grasp the spirit of the Central Committee of the CCP and engage in discussions closely centered on the questions of “What should be upheld and consolidated?” and “What should be perfected?”, to raise constructive opinions and recommendations on amending the Decision, so that we may enjoy success together in duly convening this National People’s Congress.