



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-sixth session

22 February–19 March 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Various Measures and Targeted Strategy-Enlightenment of Poverty-Alleviation in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Before the peaceful liberation of the Tibet Autonomous Region, China in the last century, the Tibetan society had been in the long-term isolation and had stagnated. The Tibet Autonomous Region, China was peacefully liberated in 1951. Since then, the central government's development policy for the Tibet Autonomous Region, China has always followed the development concept of people first, developed Tibet's social and economic undertakings in an all-round way, and carried out a lot of assistance to the poor.

I. Poverty situation in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Before the peaceful liberation, the Tibet Autonomous Region, China was generally in extreme poverty. In 1951, the number of beggars in the capital city Lhasa accounted for one-tenth of the urban population. When the Tibet Autonomous Region, China was liberated, the broad masses of the people have become the masters of the country, and the people's lives have greatly improved. Even the beggars on the streets of Lhasa have been well settled and allocated housing, and some have been given jobs after training. In addition to vigorously assisting special poor groups, the Tibet Autonomous Region, China insists on adapting measures to local conditions, vigorously and comprehensively developing production, and its poverty situation has been improved overall.

Due to the weak foundation of Tibet's development, some factors that lead to poverty among the people in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China still exist. In addition to its average altitude of more than 4,000 meters, remote location, severe natural conditions, etc., the Tibet Autonomous Region, China has many leading causes for poverty, resulting in deep poverty in some areas. In 2012, there was the uneven distribution of water resources in a county in northern Tibet Autonomous Region, China that we were visiting. This made it difficult for the villagers to raise animals or engage in production, and so made it hard for the local people to escape poverty. Other factors that cause poverty have included disability and illness, lack of labor, natural disasters, lack of knowledge and skills, so on. The Tibet Autonomous Region, China was stuck in poverty, and identified as the only province with a wide range of poverty-stricken areas in China in 2010. To this end, the State has promoted poverty reduction in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China in terms of policies, systems, project arrangements and financial inputs to accommodate different stages of development. The size of Tibet's the poor population has continued to decline, and the problem of overall poverty has been gradually solved. Poverty was concentrated in some resource-poor areas and among those who are the hardest to help out of poverty.

Although the poverty population in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China decreased under the same standard in vertical comparison, the poverty rate in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China was almost the highest in China at that time. By the end of 2015, all 74 counties and districts in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China were poverty-stricken counties at the national level, with 590,000 registered poor population, and a poverty incidence rate of 25.32%. Faced with the important task of lifting all people out of poverty in 2020, the Tibet Autonomous Region is under great pressure.

II. Poverty-alleviation policies and measures

Facing the complicated factors causing poverty and a clear timetable for reaching the target in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, a multi-dimensional and targeted strategy of poverty reduction has been implemented in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China.

First, the central government has not only continued to invest a large amount of funds in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, but since 2012, it has given priority to the livelihoods of the people and the community at large. The Tibet Autonomous Region, China is still the province with the highest central government transfer payment per capita in China.

Second, the positive role of aid in Tibet's poverty reduction is a manifestation of the superiority of the socialist system. By summing up and absorbing the experience of previous assistance work, the system of National Aid Program for Tibet was basically established in 1994. Since then, this system has been constantly adjusted and improved. In particular, during the poverty alleviation campaign in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, 80 percent of the funds provided by 18 provinces, cities and 17 large State-owned enterprises went to rural areas, giving full play to the institutional advantages of solidarity, mutual assistance and common development. In recent years, the support of talents and knowledge, such as organized medical and educational aid to the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, has effectively alleviated the problem of the low level of human capital underlying the causes of poverty in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China.

Third, the Tibet Autonomous Region, China has formulated and implemented targeted measures, which include relocation, industrial development, ecological compensation, education and training, medical assistance, employment transfer, social assistance and so on.

Since 2016, the Tibet Autonomous Region, China has invested a total of 39.89 billion yuan to implement nearly 3,000 industrial projects, driving 40% of the poor out of poverty and benefiting more than 840,000 people. Nearly 1,000 resettlement areas for relocation of poor families have been built in towns with good production and living conditions, and 266,000 people have been relocated. In order to improve the labor skills of the poor, 176,300 laborers from poor rural families have received training arranged by the government and enterprises in the past four years. 340,500 person-times were transferred from traditional agriculture and animal husbandry production to engage in other industries with higher benefits, when they obtained skills and the better market environment creates more job chances. The basic requirements and core criteria for poverty alleviation are assuring the rural poor population that they have enough to eat and to wear and guaranteeing them access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing by 2020. The social security system with ever-increasing standards has helped 110,000 poor people to achieve the poverty alleviation.

Here is an example of the relocation policy. The deep poverty areas in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China are mainly located at extremely high altitudes and ecologically fragile areas. In August 2017, our research group conducted a survey in Shuanghu County at an altitude of 5,000 meters. We found that the knee joints of some local people became deformed and swollen due to the high altitude and cold temperatures, even a few sick people were unable to work. The government arranged the relocation of sick people and their family according to their wishes. In the winter of the same year our research group followed up by investigating a resettlement village in Dangxiong County, Lhasa, which is less than 4000 meters above sea level. The health of the herdsmen moved from Shuanghu County has improved significantly. It is easier for young people in the resettlement villages to find jobs, and the overall income level of people who have been relocated has improved. In the resettlement villages near towns relocated people also enjoy better public services such as education and health care.

III. Achievements and significance of poverty alleviation in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Even though China still faces uneven development among its provinces and cities, "no one will be left behind on the road out of poverty" is a promise the State has made to all its people. After 8 years of targeted poverty alleviation, the Tibet Autonomous Region, China announced at the end of year 2019 that with all people registered as living in poverty.

In 74 counties had been lifted out of poverty. Therefore, absolute poverty has been eliminated in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China. In 2019, the per capita disposable income of urban and rural residents in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China increased by 12.8 percent over the same period the year before, higher than the 8.1 percent growth rate of Tibet's gross domestic product. The basic working and living conditions in poor areas have been significantly improved. The economic vitality and capacity for self-development

have been markedly enhanced. The equalization of public services in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China has also obviously improved.

In order to further consolidate the results of poverty alleviation, all assistance policies will not only be implemented in 2020, but also maintained for four to five years. Establish an increasingly perfect anti-poverty mechanism, consolidate policy support for the poor, and stimulate the endogenous motivation of the poor, so that all people in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China along with the people in the rest of the country will step into a “xiaokang society”, a moderately prosperous society in all respects, linking up with the country’s rural revitalization strategy to achieve the common prosperity of urban and rural society.

Tibet’s experiences in poverty alleviation have also been recognized by the international community. As a frontier ethnic region, these experiences will give the enlightenment to some countries or regions in solving the problem of poverty in its ethnic areas.
