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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Joint Communication [AL CHN 10/2020] dated 29 April 2020, has the honour to transmit herewith the reply by the Chinese Government.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

(Translated from Chinese)

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of communication AL CHN 10/2020 of 29 April 2020 from the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Chinese Government would like to respond with the following:

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has taken prevention and control measures of the most comprehensive, strict and thorough nature, and this strategy has achieved excellent results. In its pandemic prevention and control process the Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the protection of the life, health and safety of foreign persons in China. It ensures equal treatment for all foreigners in China and has opposed any practices that differentiate or target specific groups of people. The Chinese Government has always resolutely opposed racial discrimination and has zero tolerance for discriminatory words and actions.

China is still facing a grave situation where it is preventing the disease from arriving from abroad and domestically preventing a resurgence. Guangdong Province, as a large Chinese province open to the world, is facing a particularly serious danger from overseas and thus must take extra prevention and control measures. This is the responsible way to proceed, not only for Chinese people, but for all foreigners in Guangdong, including Africans.

Guangdong Province attaches great importance to treating all confirmed COVID-19 cases of foreign nationals, including those of African nationality. It has made special plans and proper arrangements and it has successfully treated a number of persons of African nationality who had serious cases of COVID-19, and it has ensured the safety of their lives and their health to the utmost extent. In order to protect the health and safety of all Chinese and foreign persons, since 4 April, Guangzhou has implemented enhanced prevention and control measures, including by focusing screening and comprehensive testing on all high-risk groups and by implementing a 14-day health management procedure for all passengers arriving from overseas. Those targeted for testing include not only foreigners, but also Chinese citizens arriving in the country. Among the foreigners entering China there are both African expatriates and citizens of other countries.

To address the concerns of the countries and persons in question, Guangdong Province initially carried out screening and took effective measures, including an insistence on implementing various health management services in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, providing more customized services and health protection guidelines for foreigners, designating special hotels for foreigners requiring medical observation and appropriately reducing and exempting accommodation expenses for people with financial difficulties. It took steps to properly accommodate foreign nationals who were homeless and established an effective communication mechanism with various consulates in Guangzhou, including those of African countries; it reported on prevention and control measures in a timely manner and, one by one, studied and addressed the problems and difficulties reported by foreigners and reported on the situation.

The Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province issued an open letter entitled "All in the same boat, combating the pandemic and building a community of human health" in Chinese, English and French, emphasizing the following: "No place of employment or individual may restrict or refuse access to specific persons, on the basis of their nationality, race, sex or skin colour, to hotels, rental housing or public places such as districts, shopping centres and parks;" "No place of employment or individual may restrict or refuse access to public transit facilities such as the metro, buses or taxis to a group of people on the basis of their nationality, race, sex or skin colour;" "It is prohibited to refuse



the provision of day-to-day services to a group of people, including hairdressing, shopping and restaurant services;" and "No place of employment or individual may treat specific groups of people differently or discriminate against them on the basis of nationality, race, sex or skin colour when they go to medical facilities for treatment."

One after another, a large number of countries have shown understanding of the pandemic prevention measures taken by Guangdong and have approved of the fact that China has taken positive measures to respond to the relevant concerns. It is generally believed that the pandemic prevention measures taken in Guangdong Province are a responsible step for all Chinese and foreign citizens and that foreigners working and living there should cooperate and support them. Alima Gakou, the head of the consular delegation of African countries in Guangzhou and Consul General of Mali in Guangzhou, said, "All the measures show that Guangdong attaches great importance to expatriates from African countries. At present, the consulates of African countries in Guangzhou have established various communication mechanisms with the Guangdong Province and Guangzhou municipal governments so that we can understand the pandemic prevention and control policies in Guangdong in real time and cooperate in combating the pandemic." Teferi Melesse Desta, the Consul General of Ethiopia in Guangzhou, said, "We agree with the scientific pandemic prevention measures adopted by Guangdong and we are glad to see that government departments at all levels have established a series of highly efficient mechanisms and adjusted the relevant measures according to the pandemic's development."

China and Africa are good friends, partners and brethren. The traditional friendship between China and Africa is rock solid and unbreakable. Our African friends have been treated fairly, justly and amicably in China. China is fully supporting Africa in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and is helping Africa to improve its disease prevention and control capability and capacity for sustainable development. China will continue to strengthen cooperation with African countries, working hand in hand to overcome the pandemic, unswervingly promote friendship between China and Africa and build a shared destiny of closer Chinese-African relations.

联合国人权理事会非洲人后裔工作组、健康权问题特别报告员、少数群体问题特别报告员、当代形式种族歧视问题特别报告员、酷刑问题特别报告员 2020 年 4 月 29 日来函[ALCHN 10/2020]收悉。中国政府对来函答复如下：

新冠肺炎疫情暴发以来，中国采取最全面、最严格、最彻底的防控举措，取得重大战略成果。中国政府在疫情防控过程中，一贯高度重视保障外国在华人员的生命健康安全，对所有外国在华人员一视同仁，反对任何针对特定人群的差异性做法。中国政府一贯坚决反对种族歧视，对歧视性言行更是零容忍。

当前，中国“外防输入、内防反弹”形势依然严峻。广东作为中国开放大省面临的境外风险尤其突出，有必要进一步加强防控举措。这样做不仅是对中国人负责，也是对包括非洲人在内的所有在粤外国人负责。广东省高度重视对包括非洲籍人士在内的所有外籍人士确诊病例的救治工作，制定专门方案，作出妥善安置，成功救治了一些非洲籍危重病例，最大限度保障了他们的生命安全和身体健康。为保护所有中外人员健康安全，广州市自 4 月 4 日起采取了升级防控举措，包括对所有高风险人群进行重点排查和全面检测，对所有入境乘客实施 14 天健康管理，检测对象不仅包括入境的外国人，同样包括入境的中国人。其中，入境外国人既有非洲国家侨民，也有其他国家公民。

针对有关国家和人员存在的关切，广东省在第一时间开展梳理排查并采取有力举措，包括坚持按照无差别对待原则

落实各项健康管理服务，提供更多针对外籍人员的个性化服务和健康防护指引，指定专门酒店供需要医学观察的外国人入住，适当减免经济困难人员住宿费用；采取措施妥善安置无家可归的外籍人员；同包括非洲国家在内的各国驻广州总领馆建立有效沟通机制，及时通报防控措施，对外方反映的问题和困难逐一研究落实并通报情况。

广东省外办以中、英、法 3 种语言发布题为《风雨同舟，共战疫情，打造人类卫生健康共同体》的公开信，强调：“任何单位和个人不得因国籍、种族、性别、肤色等原因限制或拒绝特定人群入住旅店、租住房屋以及出入社区、商场、公园等公共场所”“任何单位和个人不得因国籍、种族、性别、肤色等原因限制或拒绝特定人群搭乘地铁、公交车、出租车等公共交通工具；不得拒绝对特定人群提供理发、购物、餐饮等日常生活服务”“任何单位和个人不得因国籍、种族、性别、肤色等原因对特定人群前往医疗机构就医采取区别对待和歧视性做法”。

很多国家纷纷对广东采取的防疫举措予以理解，肯定中方采取积极措施回应有关关切，普遍认为广东省的防疫举措是对所有中国人和外国人负责，在当地工作和生活的外国人都应予以配合和支持。非洲国家驻穗领团团长、马里驻穗总领事艾丽玛·加库表示，“各项措施都显示出广东十分重视非洲国家侨民。目前，非洲各国驻穗领馆已经与广东省、广州市政府建立各种沟通机制，让我们可以实时了解广东的疫情防控政策，合作战疫。”埃塞俄比亚驻穗总领事德斯塔表

示，“我们认同广东采取的科学防疫措施，而且我们很高兴看到，各级政府部门建立了一系列高效的工作机制，并根据疫情发展动态调整有关措施”。

中非是好朋友、好伙伴、好兄弟。中非传统友谊坚如磐石，牢不可破。非洲朋友在中国得到了公平、公正、友好的对待。中国正全力支持非方抗击新冠肺炎疫情，助力非洲提升疾病防控和可持续发展能力。中方将继续同非洲国家加强合作，携手战胜疫情，坚定不移推进中非友好，构建更加紧密的中非命运共同体。