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Lianghui

## Two Sessions 2016 for Nationwide Consultation of China

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To the People's Republic of China, the term *Lianghui* (两会) refers to the two plenary sessions held annually by organizations responsible for making political decisions of the country at a national level, which are the National People's Congress ("NPC") and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference ("CPPCC"). The NPC is the highest organ of legislations, whose primary function is to approve the annual budget and various government reports. On the other hand, the CPPCC serves as an aid for the harmonization of certain national issues that could occur between the Communist Party of China ("CPC"), certain other small parties, the country's business circles, the two special administrative regions: Hong Kong and Macao, Taiwan and other Chinese communities existing abroad. In this manner the 'Two Sessions' represent China's legislative body of greatest range, counting with the participation of thousands of officials, provincial administrators and business leaders, each year.

The main goal of these sessions is to discuss present issues of great interest such as the economic state of the country and yearly targets. Such a comprehensive process is considered an important tool for evaluating government policies in a one-party state where most key decisions are carried out behind closed doors; it provides an opportunity for qualified outsiders to attend and mediate on various aspects of China's policy.

This year, as the National People's Congress concluded its annual session, legislators reached consensus, defined the main missions, and strengthened the confidence on the country's development, according to the declarations of Dejiang Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, in his speech at the closing session. During this year meetings, the NPC deputies were able to discuss and adopt a number of important documents, such as a report regarding the work

of the government, the national plan for economic and social development, and the central budget. In addition, lawmakers ratified reports on the work of the NPC Standing Committee, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

Another important aspect addressed in the Two Sessions was the legislative approval of the five-year plan for social and economic development of the country. It was necessary to address economic issues that have accumulated over decades. These main points have great significance in the eyes of key economic partners of China, who have been following closely the social and economic agenda of the second largest economy in the world.

## REFERENCES

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