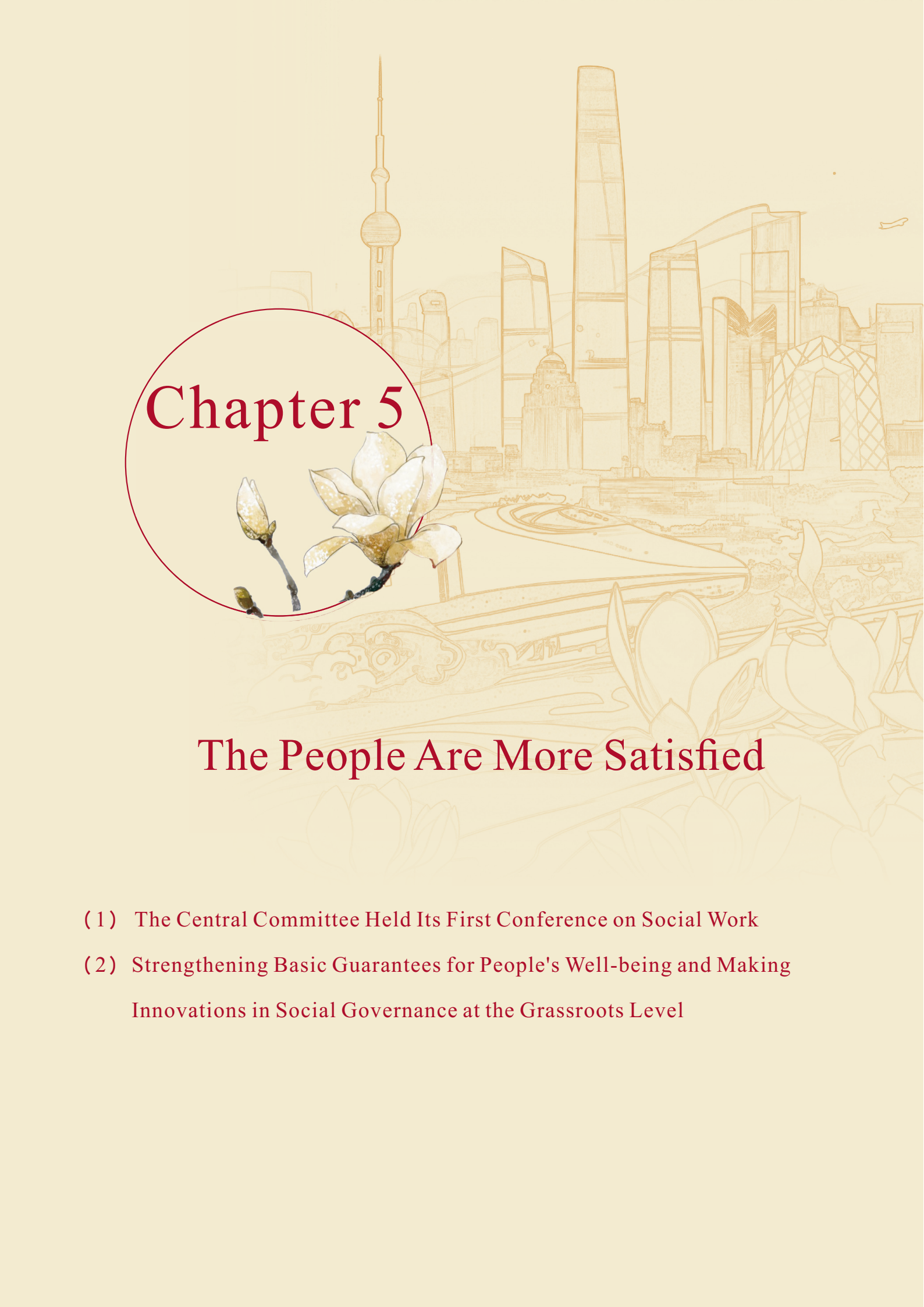




Chapter 5

The People Are More Satisfied

- (1) The Central Committee Held Its First Conference on Social Work
- (2) Strengthening Basic Guarantees for People's Well-being and Making Innovations in Social Governance at the Grassroots Level

(1) The Central Committee Held Its First Conference on Social Work



The first Central Conference on Social Work was held in Beijing from November 5 to 6, 2024. Important instructions of Xi Jinping were delivered at the conference. Cai Qi, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, attended the meeting and delivered a speech.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, recently gave important instructions on social work, pointing out that social work is an important part of the work of the Party and the country, and is related to the Party's long-term governance and the country's long-term stability, as well as social harmony and stability and the people's happiness and well-being. Since the new era, the CPC Central Committee has made a series of major policy decisions and has promoted important achievements in social work. At present, profound changes are taking place in China's social structure. In particular, emerging fields are developing rapidly, a large number of new economic organizations and new social organizations are emerging, and the scale of new employment groups is continuously expanding. Social work is facing new situations and new tasks, and must demonstrate new responsibilities and new achievements. We must follow the guidance of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese

Characteristics for a New Era, fully implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 20th CPC Central Committee, committing to a people-centered approach, follow the Party's mass line for a new era, unswervingly follow the path of socialist social governance with Chinese characteristics, and improve social work systems and mechanisms. We need to concentrate on new economic organizations, social organization, new employment community party building, and continuously enhance the Party's appeal, cohesion and influence in emerging fields; ensure that Party building leads grassroot-level governance and political power building; focus on working to serve the people and promote high-quality development of social work in the new era.

Xi Jinping emphasizes that doing a good job in social work is the common responsibility of the entire Party. Party committees need to carry political responsibility, strengthen organizational leadership and overall coordination to ensure that the decisions of the party central committee on social work are in effect; All localities and relevant departments should take the initiative to act and work in coordination, adhering to the principle that while managing industries, they should also manage Party building, to form a powerful synergy for doing a good job in social work; Social work departments should strengthen

self-construction, strengthen the political responsibility, dare to practice and explore, fulfill duties and responsibilities solidly and make new contributions to comprehensively advancing the building of a strong country and the great cause of national rejuvenation through the Chinese path to modernization.

Cai Qi pointed out in his speech that the important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping are far-sighted, incisive, and profound, and have strong political, ideological, and guiding significance. They have pointed out the direction for doing a good job in social work in the new era. We must study and understand them thoroughly and implement them resolutely.

Cai Qi pointed out that since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, has placed social work in an important position. General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a series of important remarks on why and how to strengthen social work, and put forward a series of new ideas, new viewpoints, and new judgments. The General Secretary's important remarks on social work profoundly clarify the fundamental principles, value orientation, development direction, key tasks, and basic guarantees of social work in the new era, and are an important part of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Cai Qi emphasized that it is necessary to fully implement the spirit of the 20th National

Congress of the Communist Party of China and the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 20th Central Committee, thoroughly study and implement the important discussions and instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping, deeply understand the decisive significance of the “Two Establishments”, resolutely implement the “Two Safeguards”, accurately grasp the overall requirements for doing a good job in social work in the new era, earnestly enhance a sense of responsibility and mission, and strive to create a new situation for social work in the new era. We should give top priority to strengthening the Party building in emerging fields, enhance overall coordination, adhere to classified guidance, and focus on doing a good job in the Party building of new economic organizations, new social organizations and new employment groups, promote the coverage of Party organizations and work, and facilitate the healthy development of emerging fields. We should continue to do a good job in the Party building and reform and development of industry associations and chambers of commerce, strengthen the Party's leading role in grass-roots governance and the construction of grass-roots political power, solve the prominent problem of “a small horse pulling a big cart” in grassroots governance, and promote the empowerment and reduction of burdens for the grassroots in a coordinated manner. We should do a solid job in uniting and serving the people, adhere to and develop the “Fengqiao Experience” in the new era,

promote the legalization of petition work, do a good job in collecting people's suggestions, and develop the cause of volunteer services. Party committees at all levels should strengthen their leadership over social work,

fulfill political responsibilities, improve the working system, build a strong team of social workers, and promote high-quality development of social work with a spirit of reform and innovation.

Sources:

Chinese Government Website | “Xi Jinping Gives Important Instructions on Social Work: Unswervingly Follow The Path of Social Governance under Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Promote High-Quality Development of Social Work in the New Era” (November 6, 2024)

People's Daily | “Unswervingly Take the Path of Social Governance under Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Promote the High-quality Development of Social Work in the New Era” (November 7, 2024)

(2) Strengthening Basic Guarantees for People's Well-being and Making Innovations in Social Governance at the Grassroots Level



At the series of news conferences themed “Promoting High Quality Development ” that the State Council Information Office held on September 23, 2024, a responsible official from the Ministry of Civil Affairs responded to relevant hot issues regarding “Strengthening Basic Guarantees for People's Well-being and Making Innovations in Social Governance at the Grassroots Level”.

· Build a safety net to support people in need. Social assistance is an important institutional arrangement to help people in need, improve their livelihood, and promote harmony. It concerns the basic livelihood of people in need, as well as their food, clothing, and warmth. Lu Zhiyuan, minister of the

Ministry of Civil Affairs, said at the press conference that the Ministry of Civil Affairs takes protecting the basic rights and interests of civil affairs services, especially those of people with special difficulties, as its top priority, and focuses on ensuring the basic needs, supporting the bottom line, preventing risks and promoting development. In recent years, China has established a stratified and classified social assistance system, using big data and other means to strengthen the dynamic monitoring of low-income people and to provide timely warning and assistance.

· Provide targeted aid and accurate rescue. The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the relevant departments strengthen information

sharing, and use data comparison, especially “big data + iron soles”, to promote social assistance to achieve the combination of “people looking for policy” and “policy looking for people”. The Ministry of Civil Affairs also guided local authorities to implement special assistance in areas such as medical care, education, housing and employment in a standardized manner following the principle of “supplementing what is lacking”, and at the same time deployed a national pilot program for service-oriented social assistance, improving the connection mechanism between government assistance and charitable support to better meet the multi-level and differentiated assistance needs of groups with difficulties. Disabled people are a group with special difficulties and require extra care and attention. There are 85 million disabled people in our country, among whom over 38 million hold certificates. The living allowance for persons with disabilities in financial difficulty and the nursing care subsidy for persons with severe disabilities constitute an important specialized welfare system for persons with disabilities. As of August this year, 11.91 million disabled people in difficulty and 16.074 million severely disabled people have benefited from it. Wang Jinhua, director of the Department of Social Affairs of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, introduced that in the next step, they will guide localities to improve the dynamic adjustment mechanism of subsidy standards,

gradually increase the subsidy standards, and reduce the burden on disabled people with living difficulties, severely disabled people and their families; optimize the subsidy application methods and strengthen convenient service measures such as “cross-provincial processing”, “full online processing” and “proactive service”.

· Accelerate the improvement of the elderly care service system. By the end of 2023, the elderly population aged 60 and above in China had reached 297 million. In recent years, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has focused on the elderly care service demands of the people, accelerated the construction of the elderly care service system, initially established the elderly care service system in China, and promoted four transformations in elderly care services. “The first shift is from mainly serving elderly people with special difficulties to serving all elderly people; The second shift is from mainly government supply to diversified supply by the government, the market, and society; The third shift is from mainly institutional elderly care to coordinated home, community, and institutional care; The fourth shift is from bottom-line guarantee and daily care to higher-quality medical and elderly care combined services,” said Lu Zhiyuan. Meal assistance is one of the top service demands for the elderly. Some elderly people, especially those of advanced age, living alone, or those with disabilities, are confronted with the problems of difficulty in

cooking and eating. It is reported that in recent years, positive results have been achieved in elderly meal assistance services in our country.

· Give full play to the role of social organizations and charities. Social organizations are active in grassroots social governance and play an important role. According to reports, the number of social organizations of all kinds in China has reached 883,000. In promoting scientific and technological innovation, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has actively cultivated and developed scientific and technological social organizations. At present, there are about 24,000 social organizations active in the frontline fields of science, technology, and research, of which 530 are registered with the Ministry. In terms of supporting rural revitalization, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has mobilized and guided willing and capable social organizations to carry out paired assistance with 160 national key counties for rural revitalization. Up to now, nearly 30,000 rural revitalization projects have been guided to be implemented by social organizations at all levels and of all types across the country, with an investment of over 35 billion yuan.

In recent years, the public's attention, discussion, and participation in public welfare and charity have been increasing. It is understood that currently there are over 15,000 registered and recognized charitable

organizations across the country. Public welfare and charity have played a significant role in areas such as rural revitalization, science, education, culture, health, ecological protection, and emergency rescue. Since the beginning of this year, various charitable organizations have donated nearly 3 billion yuan in cash and materials to key disaster-stricken provinces. Next, the Ministry of Civil Affairs will focus on implementing the Charity Law, adhering to the principle of “promoting with one hand and supervising with the other”, and promote the high-quality development of public welfare and charity from three aspects: strengthening institutional construction, intensifying charity supervision, and improving guidance and support mechanisms. It is necessary to study and formulate policy documents to promote the high-quality development of the charity sector in the new era and establish systems and rules for public welfare and charity activities; We should also continue to implement the “Sunshine Charity” project and accelerate the establishment of a comprehensive supervision mechanism for the charity industry. It is also necessary to promote modern concepts of public welfare and charity, especially by working with relevant departments to implement various tax incentives and supportive measures, and to continuously innovate and expand channels for public participation in charitable activities.

Source:

China Government Website | Strengthening Basic Guarantees for People's Well-being and Making Innovations in Social Governance at the Grassroots Level--Response to Hot Issues by Relevant Officials of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (September 24, 2024)