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ANALYSIS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN CHINA AND DIRECTIONS OF REGULATION

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The labor force participation rate of young people (aged 15–24) has continued to decline. Between 1999 and 2019, despite the global youth population increasing from 1 billion to 1.3 billion, the total number of young people engaged in the labour force (those who are either employed or unemployed) decreased from 568 million to 497 million. While this trend reflects growing enrolment in secondary and tertiary education, resulting in a better-skilled workforce in many countries, it also highlights the substantial numbers of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), a large majority of whom are young women. Although the global youth unemployment rate is 13.6 per cent, there is considerable regional variation, from under 9 per cent in Northern America and sub-Saharan Africa to 30 per cent in Northern Africa. Unemployment is more prevalent among young women in most sub regions [1,3].

Significantly, young people are three times as likely as adults (25 years and older) to be unemployed. Although this is partly because their limited work experience counts against them when they are applying for entry-level jobs, there are also major structural barriers preventing young people from entering the labor market.

The Republic of China is not exception in the problems of youth unemployment. In 2020, the estimated ILO youth unemployment rate in China was at 10.52 per cent. The unemployment rate for those aged 16 to 24 was 13.1 % as of February of 2021, far above the national urban jobless rate of 5.5 %. In any case, the rates are much higher than the general population, which hovers above 4 per cent. The policy review has shown that China has recognized the scale of the problems facing its young people, and has been taking a proactive stance in the policy arena. In some areas the policy gaps are few – there are, for example, a large range of ALMPs concerning graduate unemployment. Therefore, the problem here is more one of implementing those policy measures and ensuring that implementation takes places on a scale large enough to reach the enormous number of

unemployed graduates. There are policy gaps concerning young migrant workers and the rural poor. Some of the measures in place are not broad enough to reach the many millions of young people disaffected by insecure work, poor working conditions and the weak enforcement of labour rights.

Possible measures to address youth unemployment include: tackling graduate unemployment; strengthening statistical compilation on youth employment; support for young migrants; opening educational opportunities for the rural poor; overcoming supply-side biases in the education and training system; opening up dialogue platforms for youth; strengthening the rights of young people at work [2].

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THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LABOR MARKET DISCRIMINATION IN CHINA

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Discrimination in the labor market is the unequal opportunities in the labor market of a group of workers who are singled out on a specific basis and have identical productivity with other workers (group discrimination), or the unequal opportunities of individual workers in comparison with workers who have similar characteristics of the quality of the labor force (individual discrimination).

In modern time, it is easy to face discrimination in the labor market. It can be distinguished as unequal treatment of employees by employers, the state, and society. Discrimination can also be expressed in employment, selection, training, or remuneration.

In China, discrimination in the labor market has never been analyzed before, because, under socialism, inequality simply could not exist. Although abroad, such inequality has long been the object of careful research by scientists.

To reduce discrimination in the Chinese labor market, a number of the following measures were proposed: conducting an inventory of existing laws and regulations for the presence of discriminatory provisions and gaps; introduction of sanctions for enterprises engaged in illegal activities; publication of a comprehensive anti-discrimination act; preparation and distribution of social advertising, thematic publications and programs in