



## TWO SESSIONS

# Constitution update wins NPC approval

Revision includes Xi Jinping Thought and reform of supervisory system

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The National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, adopted a landmark amendment to the country's Constitution by secret ballot on March 11, enshrining Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era into the fundamental law.

The adoption of the first amendment to the Constitution in 14 years won the almost unanimous support of lawmakers, with 2,958 in favor, two against and three abstentions.

The amendment lists supervisory commissions as new State organs.

China's commitment to the path of peace and development, mutual benefits, win-win cooperation, opening-up and building a community with a shared future for mankind were written into the Constitution.

The national legislature wrote into the Constitution that "the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics".

That new sentence reflects the fundamental, comprehensive and contemporary nature of the Party's leader-

ship, said Shen Chunyao, chairman of the Commission for Legislative Affairs of the NPC Standing Committee.

The Party's leadership was included in the first article of the Constitution, as the Party exercises overall leadership in all areas of endeavor in every part of the country, Shen said at a news conference.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the latest achievement in adapting Marxism to a Chinese context and encapsulates the practical experience and collective wisdom of the Party and the people, Shen said. The inclusion of Xi Jinping Thought and the Scientific Outlook on Development ensures that the country's guiding theories will advance with the times, Shen added.

Zheng Shuna, vice-chairwoman of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, said the amendment, for the first time elaborating on the supervisory commissions, is part of the top-level design as the country deepens the reform of its supervisory system.

The reform's goal is to integrate resources and manpower for anti-corruption, boost the Party's leader-

ship in the fight against graft and establish a unified, efficient supervisory system for the country, Zheng told the media.

Also adopted was a change in the tenure of the president and vice-president.

Lawmakers at the ongoing annual session agreed that the constitutional revision accords with the aspirations of the CPC and the people.

The revision is of historic significance for ensuring the prosperity and lasting security of both the Party and the country, according to lawmakers.

The draft amendment was submitted to the first session of the 13th NPC for deliberation on March 5.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said during a panel discussion with a group of NPC deputies on March 7 that revising parts of the Constitution represents a major decision by the Central Committee from the overall strategic height of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

While the reform and opening-up drive, which began 40 years ago, has made amazing progress, it brought major changes to the country's Constitution. The People's Republic of



A deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) casts her ballot on proposed amendments to the country's Constitution at the third plenary meeting of the ongoing 13th NPC in Beijing on March 11. RAO AIMIN / XINHUA

China adopted its first Constitution in 1954. The current Constitution was adopted in 1982 and then amended in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004.

From 1988 to 1999, amendments included the reform of land-use rights, legal status for the private economy, the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, replacing the phrase "planned

economy" with "socialist market economy", and incorporation of Deng Xiaoping Theory.

The most recent previous amendment, in 2004, protected private property and human rights and gave the Theory of Three Represents constitutional authority.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

## Supervision reform statute goes to NPC

Measure enhancing Party leadership in anti-corruption campaigns will bring all public officers under scrutiny

By CHINA DAILY and XINHUA

Legislators on March 13 began reviewing a much anticipated draft law on national supervision which aims to set up centralized, efficient oversight of the country's anti-corruption campaign.



Li Jianguo

The new measure, an essential part of the reform of supervisory institutions, is expected to serve as a fundamental and guiding law against corruption and for State supervision, said Li Jianguo, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's

Congress, as he introduced the bill to the 13th NPC on the morning of March 13.

It aims to enhance the leadership of the Communist Party of China in anti-corruption campaigns and will bring all public officers under scrutiny, he said.

New supervisory commissions will be established at the national, provincial, city and county levels.

Tasked to handle job-related crimes, they will independently exercise supervisory power, and not be subject to interference from the government, social organizations or individuals.

The commissions are to oversee State functionaries, investigate corruption cases such as bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power, impose

administrative penalties on corrupt officials, and hand over criminal cases to prosecutors, according to the draft law.

"In the face of a tough and complicated situation, our existing supervisory institutions were clearly unable to meet the demands of the battle against corruption and the campaign to clean up the Party," Li said.

Under the old system, the Party's disciplinary network oversaw all Party members, and administrative agencies governed civil servants, which left a considerable number of State functionaries unsupervised. That included management at State-owned enterprises and workers at public schools and medical institutes.

Supervisory powers also were

divided among three agencies, with Party agencies regulating Party members according to Party rules, administrative agencies watching civil servants according to administrative laws, and procuratorates prosecuting State functionaries suspected of corruption using criminal law.

"The agencies, with their power divided and overlapping, did not function in harmony," Li said, adding that procuratorates, which not only investigate but also prosecute, were not under effective supervision.

With reform, supervision, corruption control and prevention divisions of the government and procuratorates merged, pooling anti-graft resources.

The draft law incorporates practices used in the pilot reform of supervisory systems that began in Beijing and North China's Shanxi and East China's Zhejiang provinces in December 2016, Li said. That model was expanded nationwide in November 2017.

Part of the pilot reform was a new detention system tested as a replacement for *shuanggui*, an intraparty disciplinary practice in which a Party member under investigation must cooperate with questioning at a set time and place.

"Replacing *shuanggui* with rigorously regulated detention will help settle a long-lingering legal problem," Li said. "This shows our resolve and confidence to have fully law-based governance."