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## REGULATORY OVERVIEW

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### Regulations on Foreign Investment

The Foreign Investment Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外商投資法》) adopted by the National People's Congress on March 15, 2019 and its Implementing Regulation (《中華人民共和國外商投資法實施條例》) adopted by the State Council on December 26, 2019 became effective on January 1, 2020. Pursuant to the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC, China will grant national treatment to foreign invested entities, except for those foreign invested entities that operate in industries that fall within “restricted” or “prohibited” categories as prescribed in the “negative list” to be released or approved by the State Council.

The MOFCOM and the NDRC jointly promulgated the Special Administrative Measures for Entrance of Foreign Investment (Negative List) (2021 Version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)(2021年版)》), or the Negative List, on December 27, 2021, which became effective on January 1, 2022. The Negative List stipulates that any PRC domestic enterprise engaging in prohibited industries under the Negative List shall obtain the consent of the relevant competent PRC authorities for overseas listing, and the foreign investors shall not participate in the operation and management of such enterprise, and the shareholding percentage of the foreign investors in such enterprise shall be subject to the relevant administrative provisions of the PRC domestic securities investment by foreign investors.

In December 2020, the NDRC and MOFCOM promulgated the Measures for the Security Review of Foreign Investment (《外商投資安全審查辦法》), which came into effect on January 18, 2021. Pursuant to such measures, the NDRC establishes a working mechanism office, or the Working Mechanism Office, in charge of the security review of foreign investment, which is led by the NDRC and the MOFCOM. Such measures also define foreign investment as direct or indirect investment by foreign investors in the PRC, including (i) investment in new onshore projects or establishment of wholly foreign owned onshore enterprises or joint ventures with foreign investors; (ii) acquiring equity or asset of onshore companies by merger and acquisition; and (iii) onshore investment by and through any other means. Foreign investment in certain key areas with national security concerns, such as important cultural products and services, important information technology and internet products and services, key technologies and others which results in the acquisition of de facto control of the invested companies, shall be filed with the Working Mechanism Office before such investment is carried out. What may constitute “onshore investment by and through any other means” or “de facto control” is not clearly defined under such measures, and could be broadly interpreted. It is likely that control through contractual arrangement be regarded as de facto control based on provisions applied to security review of foreign investment in such measures. Failure to make such filing may subject such foreign investor to rectification within a prescribed period, and the foreign investor will be negatively recorded in the relevant national credit information system, which would then subject such investor to joint punishment as provided by relevant rules. If such investor fails to or refuses to undertake such rectification, it would be ordered to dispose of the equity or asset and to take any other necessary measures so as to restore to the status before the implementation of the investment and to erase the impact to national security.

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### Regulations on Value-Added Telecommunication Services and Internet Content Services

#### *Licenses for Value-Added Telecommunications Services*

The Telecommunications Regulations of the PRC (《中華人民共和國電信條例》), or the Telecom Regulations, promulgated on September 25, 2000 by the State Council and most recently amended on February 6, 2016, provide a regulatory framework for telecommunications services providers in the PRC. As required by the Telecom Regulations, a commercial telecommunications services provider in the PRC shall obtain an operating license from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, or the MIIT, or its counterparts at provincial level prior to its commencement of operations.

The Telecom Regulations categorize all telecommunication businesses in the PRC as either basic or value-added. The Catalog of Telecommunications Business (《電信業務分類目錄》), or the Telecom Catalog, issued as an attachment to the Telecom Regulations and most recently updated on June 6, 2019, further categorizes value-added telecommunication services into two classes: class I value-added telecommunication services and class II value-added telecommunication services. Information services provided via cable networks, mobile networks, or internet fall within class II value-added telecommunications services.

Pursuant to the Measures on Telecommunications Business Operating Licenses (《電信業務經營許可管理辦法》), or the Telecom License Measures, promulgated by the MIIT on March 1, 2009 and last amended on July 3, 2017, any approved telecommunications services provider shall conduct its business in accordance with the specifications in its license for value-added telecommunications services, or VATS License. The Telecom License Measures further prescribes types of VATS Licenses required for operation of different value-added telecommunications services together with qualifications and procedures for obtaining such VATS Licenses.

Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務管理辦法》), promulgated on September 25, 2000 and amended on January 8, 2011 by the State Council, commercial internet information services providers, which means providers of information or services to internet users with charge, shall obtain a VATS License with the business scope of internet information services, namely the Internet Content Provider License or the ICP License, from competent regulatory authorities before providing any commercial internet content services within the PRC.

Based on the Notice regarding the Strengthening of Ongoing and Post Administration of Foreign Investment Telecommunication Enterprises (《工業和信息化部關於加強外商投資電信企業事中事後監管的通知》) issued by the MIIT in October 2020, the MIIT no longer issues Examination Letters for Foreign Investment in Telecommunication Business. Foreign-invested enterprises would need to submit relevant foreign investment materials to MIIT for the establishment or change of telecommunication operating permits.

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### **Restrictions on Foreign Direct Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Services**

Foreign direct investment in telecommunications companies in China is governed by the Provisions on the Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises (2016 Revision) (《外商投資電信企業管理規定(2016年修訂)》), which was promulgated on December 11, 2001 and amended on September 10, 2008 and February 6, 2016 by the State Council. The regulations require that foreign-invested value-added telecommunications enterprises in China to be established as Sino-foreign equity joint ventures and, with a few exceptions, the foreign investors may acquire up to 50% of the equity interests in such joint ventures. In addition, the major foreign investor, as defined therein, is required to demonstrate a good track record and experience in operating value-added telecommunications businesses. Moreover, foreign investors that meet these requirements must obtain approvals from the MIIT and the MOFCOM, or their authorized local counterparts, which retain considerable discretion in granting such approvals. On March 29, 2022, the Decision of the State Council on Revising and Repealing Certain Administrative Regulations (《國務院關於修改和廢止部分行政法規的決定》), which took effect on May 1, 2022, was promulgated to amend certain provisions of regulations including the Provisions on the Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises (2016 Revision), the requirement for major foreign investor to demonstrate a good track record and experience in operating value-added telecommunications businesses was deleted. However, as this promulgation is relatively new and no detailed guidance or implementation measure has been issued, uncertainty still remains as to how it should be interpreted and implemented.

On July 13, 2006, the Ministry of Information Industry (currently known as the MIIT), or the MII, released the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Foreign Investment in the Operation of Value-added Telecommunications Business (《信息產業部關於加強外商投資經營增值電信業務管理的通知》), or the MII Circular. The MII Circular prohibits domestic telecommunications enterprises from leasing, transferring or selling telecommunications business operation licenses to foreign investors in any form, or providing any resources, sites or facilities to any foreign investor for their illegal operation of telecommunications business in China. Furthermore, under the MII Circular, the internet domain names and registered trademarks used by a value-added telecommunications services operator shall be legally owned by that operator (or its shareholders). If a license holder fails to comply with the requirements in the MII Circular and fails to cure such non-compliance within a time limit as required by the competent authority, the MII or its local counterparts have the discretion to take measures against such license holders, including revoking their VATS Licenses.

### **Regulations on Transmitting Audio-Video Programs through the Internet**

On December 20, 2007, the MII and the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, or the SARFT, jointly issued the Administrative Provisions on the Internet Audio-Video Program Service (《互聯網視聽節目服務管理規定》), or the Audio-Video Program Provisions, which came into effect on January 31, 2008 and was amended on August 28, 2015. The Audio-Video Program Provisions defines “internet audio-video program services” as producing, editing and integrating audio-video programs, supplying audio-video programs to the public via the internet, and providing audio-video programs uploading and transmission services to a third party. Entities providing

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internet audio-video programs services must obtain an Audio and Video Service Permission, or AVSP. Applicants for the AVSP shall be state-owned or state-controlled entities unless an AVSP has been obtained prior to the effectiveness of the Audio-Video Program Provisions in accordance with the then-in-effect laws and regulations. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises are not allowed to engage in the above-mentioned services. According to the Audio-Video Program Provisions and other relevant laws and regulations, audio-video programs provided by the entities supplying internet audio-video program services shall not contain any illegal content or other content prohibited by the laws and regulations, such as any content against the basic principles in the PRC Constitution, any content that jeopardizes the sovereignty of the country or national security, and any content that disturbs social order or undermine social stability. A full copy of any audio-video program that has already been broadcasted shall be retained for at least 60 days. Movies, television programs and other media content used as internet audio-video programs shall comply with applicable administrative regulations on programs transmitting through radio, movie and television channels. Entities providing services related to internet audio-video programs shall immediately remove the audio-video programs violating laws and regulations, keep the relevant records, report to the relevant authorities, and implement other regulatory requirements.

The Categories of the Internet Audio-Video Program Services (《互聯網視聽節目服務業務分類目錄》), or the Audio-Video Program Categories, promulgated by SARFT on March 17, 2010 and amended on March 10, 2017, classifies internet audio-video programs into four categories: (I) Category I internet audio-video program service, which is carried out with a form of radio station or television station; (II) Category II internet audio-video program service, including (a) re-broadcasting service of current political news audio-video programs; (b) hosting, interviewing, reporting, and commenting service of arts, entertainment, technology, finance and economics, sports, education, and other specialized audio-video programs; (c) producing (interviewing not included) and broadcasting service of arts, entertainment, technology, finance and economics, sports, education, and other specialized audio-video programs; (d) producing and broadcasting service of internet films/dramas; (e) aggregating and broadcasting service of films, television dramas and cartoons; (f) aggregating and broadcasting service of arts, entertainment, technology, finance and economics, sports, education and other specialized audio-video programs; and (g) live audio-video broadcasting service of cultural activities of common social organizations, sport events or other organization activities; (III) Category III internet audio-video program service, including (a) aggregating service of online audio-video content, and (b) re-broadcasting service of the audio-video programs uploaded by internet users; and (IV) Category IV internet audio-video program service, including (a) re-broadcasting of the radio or television program channels; (b) re-broadcasting of internet audio-video program channels; and (c) re-broadcasting of online live audio-video program.

On July 20, 2015, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (the SAPPRFT, currently known as the National Radio and Television Administration) issued the Circular on Relevant Issues Concerning Implementing the Approval Granting for Mobile Internet Audio-Video Program Services (《關於做好移動互聯網視聽節目服務增項審核工作有關問題的通知》), or the Mobile Audio-Video Program Circular. The Mobile Audio-Video Program Circular provides that the mobile internet audio-video program services shall be deemed a type of internet audio-video program services. Entities approved to provide mobile internet audio-video program services may use mobile WAP websites or mobile applications to provide audio-video program services, but the

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types of the programs operated by such entities shall be within the permitted scope as provided in their AVSPs and the said mobile applications shall be filed with the SAPPRFT.

On November 18, 2019, the CAC, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Radio and Television Administration jointly issued the Administrative Provisions on Internet Audio-Video Information Services (《網絡音視頻信息服務管理規定》), or the Internet Audio-Video Information Services Provisions, which became effective on January 1, 2020. The Internet Audio-Video Information Services Provisions defines the “Internet audio-video information services” as providing services regarding audio and video information production, uploading and transmission to the public via internet platforms such as websites and applications. Entities providing internet audio-video information services must obtain relevant licenses subject to applicable PRC laws and regulations and are required to authenticate users’ identities based on their organizational codes, PRC ID numbers, or mobile phone numbers, etc.

### **Regulations on Online Live Streaming**

On November 4, 2016, the CAC issued the Administrative Regulations on Online Live Streaming Services (《互聯網直播服務管理規定》), or the Online Live Streaming Regulations, which came into effect on December 1, 2016. According to the Online Live Streaming Regulations, when providing internet news information services, both online live streaming service providers and online live streaming publishers must obtain the relevant licenses for providing internet news information service and may only carry out internet news information services within the scope of such licenses. All online live streaming service providers (whether or not providing internet news information) must take certain actions to operate their services, including establishing platforms for monitoring live streaming content.

According to the Measures for the Administration of Cyber Performance Business Operations (《網絡表演經營活動管理辦法》), which was promulgated by the Ministry of Culture on December 2, 2016 and became effective on January 1, 2017, an online performance business entity engaging in online performance business operations shall apply to the cultural administrative department at the provincial level for an Internet Culture Operation License, and the business scope of such license shall include online performance. An online performance business entity shall indicate the license number of its Internet Culture Operation License in a conspicuous place of the homepage of its website.

On November 12, 2020, the National Radio and Television Administration promulgated the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Live Streaming Web Shows and Live Streaming E-commerce (《關於加強網絡秀場直播和電商直播管理的通知》), or the Circular 78, which sets forth registration requirements for platforms providing online show live streaming or e-commerce live streaming as well as requirements for certain live streaming businesses with respect to real-name registration, limits on users’ spending on virtual gifting, restrictions on minors from virtual gifting, live streaming review personnel requirements and content tagging requirements, among other things. On February 9, 2021, the CAC, together with six other authorities, jointly issued the Guidance Opinions on the Strengthening the Regulation and Management Work of Internet Streaming (《關於加強網絡直播規範管理工作的指導意見》), or the Circular 3, which requires internet streaming

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platforms to set up appropriate caps on the maximum purchase price for each piece of virtual gifts and maximum value of virtual gifts that the users give to the performers each time.

On March 25, 2022, CAC, the State Taxation Administration and SAMR issued Opinions on Further Regulating the For-Profit Activities in Online Live Streaming to Promote a Healthy Development of the Industry (《關於進一步規範網絡直播營利行為促進行業健康發展的意見》), which provides that, among others, live streaming platforms shall report to tax authorities information including but not limited to live streaming publishers' identity, information of the live streaming account and the bank account which receives profits, types of revenue and profits earning information.

On May 7, 2022, CAC, together with three other authorities, jointly issued the Opinions on Regulating Live Streaming Rewards and Strengthening Minor Protections (《關於規範網絡直播打賞加強未成年人保護的意見》), or the Live Streaming Opinions, which iterates the requirements for live streaming platforms in respect of strengthening real-name registration, prohibiting minors from virtual gifting and restrictions on providing live streamer services to minors. Pursuant to the Live Streaming Opinions, online platforms are prohibited from ranking, introducing or recommending live streaming performers solely by the monetary amount of virtual gifts that they have received from users, nor could the platforms rank users based on the monetary amount of virtual gifts that they have sent to live streaming performers. Any such rankings currently available on these online platforms is ordered to be removed by June 7, 2022 according to the Live Streaming Opinions. In addition, the online platforms shall procure that, during the peak hours (from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.) every day, each live streaming performer shall not engage in "PKs" (i.e. real-time interactive competitive game between two performers) against another performer for more than twice, and the online platforms shall not impose penalty within the game or provide any technical support to facilitate imposing such penalty.

### **Regulations on Online Music**

On November 20, 2006, the Ministry of Culture issued the Several Opinions on the Development and Administration of Online Music (《關於網絡音樂發展和管理的若干意見》), or the Online Music Opinions, which became effective on the same date. The Online Music Opinions provide that, among other things, an internet music product provider must obtain an internet cultural operation license, or ICO License. On October 23, 2015, the Ministry of Culture promulgated the Circular on Further Strengthening and Improving the Content Administration of Online Music (《關於進一步加強和改進網絡音樂內容管理工作的通知》), effective as of January 1, 2016, which provides that internet music operating entities shall report to a nationwide administrative platform the details of its content self-monitoring activities on a quarterly basis.

In 2010 and 2011, the Ministry of Culture greatly intensified its regulations on online music products by issuing a series of circulars regarding online music industry, such as the Circular on Regulating the Market Order of Online Music Products and Renovating Illegal Conducts of Online Music Websites (《關於規範網絡音樂市場秩序整治網絡音樂網站違規行為的通告》) and the Circular on Investigating Illegal Online Music Websites (《關於查處違法網絡音樂網站的通知》) in 2010. In addition, the Ministry of Culture issued the Circular on Clearing Illegal Online Music Products

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(《關於清理違規網絡音樂產品的通告》) on January 7, 2011, which clarifies that entities engaging in any of the following conducts will be subject to relevant penalties or sanctions imposed by the Ministry of Culture: (i) providing online music products or relevant services without obtaining corresponding qualifications; (ii) importing online music products that have not been reviewed by the Ministry of Culture; or (iii) providing domestically developed online music products that have not been filed with the Ministry of Culture.

On July 8, 2015, the National Copyright Administration issued the Circular regarding Ceasing Transmitting Unauthorized Music Products by Online Music Service Providers (《關於責令網絡音樂服務商停止未經授權傳播音樂作品的通知》), which requires that (i) all unauthorized music products on the platforms of online music services providers shall be removed prior to July 31, 2015, and (ii) the National Copyright Administration investigate and punish the online music services providers who continue to transmit unauthorized music products following July 31, 2015.

### **Regulations on Production and Operation of Radio and Television Programs**

On July 19, 2004, the SARFT promulgated the Regulations on the Administration of Production and Operation of Radio and Television Programs (《廣播電視節目製作經營管理規定》), or the Radio and TV Programs Regulations, which came into effect on August 20, 2004 and was amended on August 28, 2015 and October 29, 2020, respectively. Pursuant to the Radio and TV Programs Regulations, entities engaging in the production of radio and television programs must obtain a License for Production and Operation of Radio and TV Programs from the SARFT or its counterparts at the provincial level. Holders of such licenses must conduct their business operations strictly in compliance within the approved scope as provided in the licenses.

### **Regulations on Publication**

Publishing activities in China are mainly supervised and regulated by the SAPPRFT. On February 4, 2016, the SAPPRFT and the MIIT jointly promulgated the Regulations on the Administration of Online Publishing Services (《網絡出版服務管理規定》), or the Online Publishing Regulations, which came into effect on March 10, 2016. The Online Publishing Regulations define “online publications” as digital works that are edited, produced, or processed to be published and provided to the public through the internet, including (a) original digital works, such as pictures, maps, games and comics; (b) digital works with content that is consistent with the type of content that, prior to being released online, typically was published in offline media such as books, newspapers, periodicals, audiovisual products and electronic publications; (c) digital works in the form of online databases compiled by selecting, arranging and compiling other types of digital works; and (d) other types of digital works identified by the SAPPRFT. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises are not allowed to engage in the distribution of the foregoing online publications through the internet. Under the Online Publishing Regulations, internet operators distributing online publications via internet are required to obtain an Online Publishing Service Permit from the SAPPRFT.

On May 31, 2016, the SAPPRFT and the MOFCOM jointly promulgated the Provisions for the Administration of the Publication Market (《出版物市場管理規定》), or Provisions for Publication,

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which became effective on June 1, 2016. According to the Provisions for Publication, any entity or individual that intends to engage in wholesale or retail of publications shall obtain a publication business permit. The Administrative Regulations on Publishing (2020 Revised) (《出版管理條例(2020年修訂)》), which was promulgated by the State Council and became effective on November 29, 2020, specifies that entities and individually owned businesses engaging in retail of publications shall obtain a publication business permit.

### Regulations on Internet Culture Activities

Pursuant to the Interim Administrative Provisions on Internet Culture (《互聯網文化管理暫行規定》), or the Internet Culture Provisions, promulgated by the Ministry of Culture on May 10, 2003 and amended on February 17, 2011 and December 15, 2017, internet culture activities include: (i) production, reproduction, import, distribution or broadcasting of internet culture products (such as online music, online game, online performance and cultural products by certain technical means and copied to the internet for spreading); (ii) distribution or publication of cultural products on internet; and (iii) exhibitions, competitions and other similar activities concerning internet culture products. The Internet Culture Provisions further classifies internet cultural activities into commercial internet cultural activities and non-commercial internet cultural activities. Entities engaging in commercial internet cultural activities must apply to the relevant authorities for an ICO License, while non-commercial cultural entities are only required to report to related culture administration authorities within 60 days of the establishment of such entity. If any entity engages in commercial internet culture activities without approval, the cultural administration authorities or other relevant government may order such entity to cease to operate internet culture activities as well as levy penalties including administrative warning and fines up to RMB30,000. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises are not allowed to engage in the above-mentioned services except online music services.

### Regulations on Virtual Currency

On January 25, 2007, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Culture, the MII and the GAPP jointly issued the Circular regarding Regulation of Online Gaming Operating Order and Ban on Gambling through Online Gaming (《關於規範網絡遊戲經營秩序查禁利用網絡遊戲賭博的通知》) which has implications on the issuance and use of virtual currency. To curtail online games that involve online gambling while addressing concerns that virtual currency might be used for money laundering or illicit trade, the circular (a) prohibits online game operators from charging commissions in the form of virtual currency in connection with winning or losing of games; (b) requires online game operators to impose limits on use of virtual currency in guessing and betting games; (c) bans the conversion of virtual currency into real currency or property; and (d) prohibits services that enable game players to transfer virtual currency to other players.

In February 2007, fourteen PRC regulatory authorities jointly issued a circular to further strengthen the oversight of internet cafes and online games (《關於進一步加強網吧及網絡遊戲管理工作的通知》). In accordance with the circular, the People's Bank of China has the authority to regulate virtual currency, including: (a) setting limits on the aggregate amount of virtual currency that can be issued by online game operators and the amount of virtual currency that can be purchased by an

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individual; (b) stipulating that virtual currency issued by online game operators can only be used for purchasing virtual products and services within the online games and not for purchasing tangible or physical products; (c) requiring that the price for redemption of virtual currency shall not exceed the respective original purchase price; and (d) banning the trading of virtual currency.

On June 4, 2009, the Ministry of Culture and the MOFCOM jointly issued the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Online Game Virtual Currency (《關於加強網絡遊戲虛擬貨幣管理工作的通知》), or the Virtual Currency Circular. The Virtual Currency Circular requires businesses that (a) issue online game virtual currency (in the form of prepaid cards or pre-payment or prepaid card points), or (b) offer online game virtual currency trading services, to apply for approval from the Ministry of Culture through its provincial branches. Businesses that issue virtual currency for online games are prohibited from offering services of trading virtual currency, or vice versa. Any company that fails to file the necessary application for approval of the Ministry of Culture will be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to mandatory corrective actions and fines.

Under the Virtual Currency Circular, online games virtual currency trading service provider refers to business that provides platform services related to trading virtual currency of online games among game users. The Virtual Currency Circular further requires an online game virtual currency trading service provider to comply with relevant e-commerce regulations issued by the MOFCOM. According to the Guiding Opinions on Online Trading (Interim) (《商務部關於網上交易的指導意見(暫行)》) issued by the MOFCOM on March 6, 2007, online platform services are trading services provided to online buyers and sellers through a computer information system operated by the service provider. The Virtual Currency Circular regulates, among others, the amount of virtual currency a business can issue, the retention period of user records, the function of virtual currency and the return of unused virtual currency upon the termination of online services. Online game operators are prohibited from distributing virtual items or virtual currencies to players through random selection methods such as lotteries and gambling, and the player directly pays cash or virtual currency. Game operators are prohibited from issuing virtual currency to game players in any way other than legal tender purchases. Any business that provides online game virtual currency trading services is required to adopt technical measures to restrict the transfer of online game virtual currency among accounts of different game players. On May 14, 2019, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that it would no longer assume the responsibility for overseeing online games industry.

In November 2020, the National Radio and Television Administration issued the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Live Streaming Web Shows and Live Streaming E-commerce (《關於加強網絡秀場直播和電商直播管理的通知》), which requires a live-performance streaming platform to adopt and practically implement the real-name registration system for the performers and the viewers who purchase virtual gifts for the performers by taking measures including real-name verification, face recognition and human review. Viewers who fail to pass the real-name registration shall not be allowed to purchase virtual gifts. Live-performance streaming platforms shall block any mechanism that allows minors to purchase any virtual gifts for the performers. A platform shall set limits on the maximum amount for purchasing virtual gifts for each time, each day and each month. In addition, the live-performance streaming platform shall not adopt operation strategies that encourage viewers to purchase virtual gifts irrationally.

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### Regulations on Commercial Performances

The Administrative Regulations on Commercial Performances (《營業性演出管理條例》) was promulgated by the State Council in August 11, 1997 and last amended with immediate effect on November 29, 2020. According to these regulations, to legally engage in commercial performances, a culture and arts performance group shall have full-time performers and equipment in line with its performing business, and file an application with the culture administrative department of the people's government at the county level for approval. To legally engage in commercial performances, a performance brokerage agency shall have three or more full-time performance brokers and funds for the relevant business, and file an application with the culture administrative department of the people's government of a province, autonomous region or municipality directly under central government. The culture administrative department shall make a decision within 20 days from the receipt of the application whether to approve the application, and upon approval, will issue a performance permit. Anyone or any entity engaging in commercial performance activities without approval may be imposed a penalty, in addition to being ordered to cease its actions. Such penalty may include confiscation of performance equipment and illegal proceeds, and a fine of 8 to 10 times of the illegal proceeds. Where there are no illegal proceeds or the illegal proceeds are less than RMB10,000, a fine of RMB50,000 to RMB100,000 will be imposed. In addition, the Measures for the Administration of Performance Brokers (《演出經紀人員管理辦法》) was promulgated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on December 13, 2021 and became effective on March 1, 2022, pursuant to which performance broker shall pass the performance broker exam and acquire a performance broker certificate before engaging in the performance brokerage activities. The Implementing Rules for Administrative Regulations on Commercial Performances (《營業性演出管理條例實施細則》), or the Rules for Commercial Performances, which was promulgated on March 5, 1998 by the Ministry of Culture and last amended with immediate effect on May 13, 2022, further stipulates that foreign-invested performance brokerage institution engaged in commercial performance activities shall submit applications in accordance with the Rules for Commercial Performances before conducting such activities.

To regulate brokerage activities in the field of the radio and television and internet audio-video, the National Radio and Television Administration issued the Administration Measures for Brokerage Agencies in the Field of Radio and Television and Internet Audio-Video (《廣播電視和網絡視聽領域經紀機構管理辦法》), or the Administration Measures for Brokerage Agencies, on May 20, 2022, which became effective on June 30, 2022. The Administration Measures for Brokerage Agencies stipulates that, among others, (i) a brokerage agency shall obtain the consent from minors' legal guardians before providing brokerage services to minors; and (ii) a brokerage agency shall strengthen the daily account maintenance of and supervision over any official fans group and fans club, and shall not appoint any minor to be the group leader or person in charge of such accounts.

### Regulations on Online Advertising Services

On April 24, 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress enacted the revised Advertising Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國廣告法》), or the Advertising Law, effective on September 1, 2015 which was further amended on October 26, 2018 and April 29, 2021. The Advertising Law increases the potential legal liability of advertising services providers and

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strengthens regulations of false advertising. The Advertising Law sets forth certain content requirements for advertisements including, among other things, prohibitions on false or misleading content, superlative wording, socially destabilizing content or content involving obscenities, superstition, violence, discrimination or infringement of the public interest.

On July 4, 2016, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (currently known as the State Administration for Market Regulations) issued the Interim Measures on the Administration of Online Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理暫行辦法》), or the SAIC Interim Measures, which came into effect on September 1, 2016. The Advertising Law and the SAIC Interim Measures require that online advertisements may not affect users' normal use of internet and internet pop-up advertisements must display a "close" sign prominently and ensure one-key closing of the pop-up windows. The SAIC Interim Measures provide that all online advertisements must be marked "advertisement" so that consumers can distinguish them from non-advertisement information. Moreover, the SAIC Interim Measures require that, among other things, sponsored search advertisements shall be prominently distinguished from normal search results and it is forbidden to send advertisements or advertisement links by email without the recipient's permission or induce internet users to click on an advertisement in a deceptive manner.

On November 26, 2021, the Administrative Measures for Internet Advertising (Draft for Comment) (《互聯網廣告管理辦法(公開徵求意見稿)》) was published by the SAMR for public comments until December 25, 2021, which requires that internet advertising operators and publishers shall establish and improve the management systems regarding acceptance, registration, review and filing of the internet advertising businesses according to the relevant regulations and shall examine, verify and register the identity information of advertisers such as their names, addresses and valid contact details, set up registration files and check and update them on a regular basis. Relevant files shall be kept for not less than three years from the date of termination of the advertisement release. Internet advertising operators and publishers are required to set up advertisement reviewers familiar with advertising laws and regulations, and if possible, a special department shall be established to be responsible for the review of internet advertisements. The Administrative Measures for internet Advertising (Draft for Comment) was released for public comment only and there remains substantial uncertainty, including but not limited to its final content, adoption timeline, effective date or relevant implementation rules.

On November 1, 2021, the MIIT promulgated the Notice of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Launching the Action for Improvements to the Perception of Information and Communications Services (《工業和信息化部關於開展信息通信服務感知提升行動的通知》), or the MIIT Notice. Under the MIIT Notice, internet enterprises shall set obvious and effective close buttons in the splash ads of their APPs. On September 9, 2022, the Administrative Provisions on Internet Pop-up Window Information Notification Services (《互聯網彈窗信息推送服務管理規定》) was issued by the CAC, MIIT and SAMR, effective from September 30, 2022, which requires that splash ads shall be subject to content compliance review and shall be identifiable, prominently marked as "advertisement," and users shall be notified expressly. Besides, splash ads shall be able to be closed with a single click.

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### Regulations on Internet Security

On December 28, 2000, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress enacted the Decision on the Protection of Internet Security (《關於維護互聯網安全的決定》), as amended on August 27, 2009, which provides that the following activities, among others, conducted through the internet, will be subject to criminal liabilities if constituting a crime: (a) gaining improper entry into any of the computer information networks relating to state affairs, national defensive affairs, or cutting-edge science and technology; (b) spreading rumor, slander or other harmful information via the internet for the purpose of inciting subversion of the state political power; (c) stealing or divulging state secrets, intelligence or military secrets via internet; (d) spreading false or inappropriate commercial information; or (e) infringing on the intellectual property. The Ministry of Public Security issued the Administrative Measures on Security Protection for International Connections to Computer Information Networks (《計算機信息網絡國際聯網安全保護管理辦法》) on December 16, 1997 and amended it on January 8, 2011, which prohibits using internet to leak state secrets or to spread socially destabilizing content.

On December 13, 2005, the Ministry of Public Security issued the Provisions on the Technical Measures for the Protection of the Security of the Internet (《互聯網安全保護技術措施規定》), which requires that internet services providers shall have the function of backing up the records for at least 60 days. In addition, internet services providers shall (a) set up technical measures to record and keep the information as registered by users; (b) record and keep the corresponding relation between the internet web addresses and intranet web addresses as applied by users; and (c) record and follow up the net operation and have the functions of security auditing.

On January 21, 2010, the MIIT promulgated the Administrative Measures for Communications Network Security Protection (《通信網絡安全防護管理辦法》), which requires that all communication network operators including telecommunications services providers and internet domain name service providers divide their own communication networks into units. The unit category shall be classified in accordance with degree of damage to national security, economic operation, social order and public interest. In addition, the communication network operators must file the division and ratings of their communication network with MIIT or its local counterparts. If a communication network operator violates these measures, the MIIT or its local counterparts may order rectification or impose a fine up to RMB30,000 in case such violation is not duly rectified in accordance with the order of the competent authority.

On July 1, 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the PRC National Security Law (《中華人民共和國國家安全法》), which came into effect on the same day. The National Security Law provides that the state shall safeguard the sovereignty, security and cyber security development interests of the state, and that the state shall establish a national security review and supervision system to review, among other things, foreign investment, key technologies, internet and information technology products and services, and other important activities that are likely to impact the national security of China. On April 13, 2020, twelve PRC regulatory authorities including the CAC issued the Cybersecurity Review Measures (《網絡安全審查辦法》), with effect from June 1, 2020, which provide detailed cybersecurity review procedures for the purchase of network products and services by operators of "critical information infrastructure." According to the

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Measures for Cybersecurity Review, operators of “critical information infrastructure” are operators identified by the regulatory department in charge of the protection of critical information infrastructure, and “network products and services” primarily are core network equipment, high-performance computers and servers, mass storage equipment, large databases and applications, network security equipment, cloud computing services, and other network products and services that may have an important impact on the security of critical information infrastructure.

In addition, the PRC Data Security Law (《中華人民共和國數據安全法》) was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on June 10, 2021 and took effect on September 1, 2021. The PRC Data Security Law establishes a tiered system for data protection in terms of their importance. Data categorized as “important data,” which will be determined by regulatory authorities in the form of catalogs, are required to be treated with higher level of protection. Specifically, the PRC Data Security Law provides that operators processing “important data” are required to appoint a “data security officer” and a “management department” to take charge of data security. In addition, such operator is required to evaluate the risk of its data activities periodically and file assessment reports with relevant regulatory authorities.

On July 6, 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council jointly issued the Opinions on Strictly Cracking Down Illegal Securities Activities in Accordance with the Law (《關於依法從嚴打擊證券違法活動的意見》), which request improvement on the laws and regulations related to data security, cross-border data transfer and the management of confidential information, strengthening principal responsibility for the information security of overseas listed companies, strengthening standardized mechanisms for providing cross-border information, and improvement of cross-border audit regulatory cooperation in accordance with the law and the principle of reciprocity.

Regulations on the Security Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure (《關鍵信息基礎設施安全保護條例》), or the CII Protection Regulations, became effective on September 1, 2021. According to the CII Protection Regulations, critical information infrastructure, or the CII, refers to any important network facilities or information systems of the important industry or field such as public communication and information service, energy, transportation, water conservancy, finance, public services, e-government affairs and national defense science, which may endanger national security, people’s livelihood and public interest in the case of damage, function loss or data leakage. Regulators supervising specific industries are required to formulate detailed guidance to recognize the CII in the respective sectors, and a critical information infrastructure operator, or a CIIO, must take the responsibility to protect the CII’s security by performing certain prescribed obligations. For example, CIIOs are required to conduct network security test and risk assessment, report the assessment results to relevant regulatory authorities, and timely rectify the issues identified at least once a year. In addition, relevant administration departments of each critical industry and sector shall be responsible to formulate eligibility criteria and determine the CIIO in the respective industry or sector. The operators shall be informed about the final determination as to whether they are categorized as CIIOs.

On November 14, 2021, Regulations on Network Data Security Management (Draft for Comment) (《網絡數據安全管理條例(徵求意見稿)》), or the Draft Regulations on Network Data, was

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proposed by the CAC for public comments until December 13, 2021. The Draft Measures on Network Data requires data processors to apply for cybersecurity review in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations for carrying out activities including but not limited to: (i) a merger, reorganization, or division to be conducted by an Internet platform operator who has amassed a substantial amount of data resources that concern national security, economic development or the public interest, which will or may impact national security; (ii) an overseas initial public offering to be conducted by a data processor processing the personal information of more than one million individuals; (iii) an initial public offering in Hong Kong to be conducted by a data processor, which will or may impact national security; and (iv) other data processing activities that will or may have an impact on national security. Any failure to comply with such requirements may subject us to, among others, suspension of services, fines, revoking relevant business permits or business licenses and penalties. However, it provides no further explanation or interpretation as to how to determine what “may affect national security.” As of the date of this listing document, there is no schedule as to when the Draft Regulations on Network Data will be enacted.

On December 28, 2021, the CAC, the NDRC, the MIIT, and several other PRC regulatory authorities jointly issued the Cybersecurity Review Measures (《網絡安全審查辦法》) which became effective on February 15, 2022 and replaced the Measures for Cybersecurity Review promulgated on April 13, 2020. Pursuant to the Cybersecurity Review Measures, critical information infrastructure operators that procure internet products and services, and network platform operators engaging in data processing activities, must be subject to the cybersecurity review if their activities affect or may affect national security. The Cybersecurity Review Measures further stipulate that network platform operators holding over one million users’ personal information shall apply with the Cybersecurity Review Office for a cybersecurity review before listing in a foreign country (國外上市). The relevant regulatory authorities may initiate the cybersecurity review against the relevant operators if the authorities believe that the network products or services or data processing activities of such operators affect or may affect national security.

### **Regulations on Privacy Protection**

On December 29, 2011, the MIIT promulgated the Several Provisions on Regulation of Order of Internet Information Service Market (《規範互聯網信息服務市場秩序若干規定》), which prohibit internet information service providers from collecting personal information of any user without prior consent. Internet information service providers shall explicitly inform the users of the means of collecting and processing personal information, the scope of content, and purposes. In addition, internet information service providers shall properly keep the personal information of users, if the preserved personal information of users is divulged or may possibly be divulged, internet information service providers shall immediately take remedial measures and report any material leak or potential material leak to the telecommunications regulatory authority.

On December 28, 2012, the Decision on Strengthening Network Information Protection (《關於加強網絡信息保護的決定》) promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress emphasizes the need to protect electronic information that contains individual identification information and other private data. The decision requires internet service providers to establish and publish policies regarding the collection and use of electronic personal information and to take necessary measures to ensure the security of the information and to prevent leakage, damage or loss.

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In July 2013, the MIIT promulgated the Regulations on Protection of Personal Information of Telecommunications and Internet Users (《電信和互聯網用戶個人信息保護規定》), or the Regulations on Network Information Protection, effective on September 1, 2013, to enhance and enforce legal protection over user information security and privacy on the internet. The Regulations on Network Information Protection require internet operators to take various measures to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of users' information.

Pursuant to the Ninth Amendment to the Criminal Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國刑法修正案(九)》) issued by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on August 29, 2015, effective on November 1, 2015, any internet service provider that fails to fulfill the obligations related to internet information security as required by applicable laws and refuses to take corrective measures, will be subject to criminal liability for (i) any large-scale dissemination of illegal information; (ii) any severe effect due to the leakage of users' personal information; (iii) any serious loss of evidence of criminal activities; or (iv) other severe situations, and any individual or entity that (a) sells or provides personal information to others unlawfully or (b) steals or illegally obtains any personal information will be subject to criminal liability in severe situations.

On November 7, 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the Cybersecurity Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》), or the Cybersecurity Law, which came into effect on June 1, 2017. Pursuant to the Cybersecurity Law, network operators shall follow their cybersecurity obligations according to the requirements of the classified protection system for cybersecurity, including: (a) formulating internal security management systems and operating instructions, determining the persons responsible for cybersecurity, and implementing the responsibility for cybersecurity protection; (b) taking technological measures to prevent computer viruses, network attacks, network intrusions and other actions endangering cybersecurity; (c) taking technological measures to monitor and record the network operation status and cybersecurity incidents; (d) taking measures such as data classification, and back-up and encryption of important data; and (e) other obligations stipulated by laws and administrative regulations. In addition, network operators shall follow the principles of legitimacy to collect and use personal information and disclose their rules of data collection and use, clearly express the purposes, means and scope of collecting and using the information, and obtain the consent of the persons whose data is gathered.

Pursuant to the Notice of the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the Ministry of Public Security on Legally Punishing Criminal Activities Infringing upon the Personal Information of Citizens (《最高人民法院、最高人民檢察院、公安部關於依法懲處侵害公民個人信息犯罪活動的通知》), issued on April 23, 2013, and the Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on Several Issues regarding Legal Application in Criminal Cases Infringing upon the Personal Information of Citizens (《最高人民法院、最高人民檢察院關於辦理侵犯公民個人信息刑事案件適用法律若干問題的解釋》), which was issued on May 8, 2017 and took effect on June 1, 2017, the following activities may constitute the crime of infringing upon a citizen's personal information: (i) providing a citizen's personal information to specified persons or releasing a citizen's personal information online or through other methods in violation of relevant national provisions; (ii) providing legitimately collected information relating to a citizen to others without such citizen's consent (unless the information is processed, not traceable to a specific person and not recoverable); (iii) collecting a citizen's personal information in violation of applicable rules

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and regulations when performing a duty or providing services; or (iv) collecting a citizen's personal information by purchasing, accepting or exchanging such information in violation of applicable rules and regulations.

On January 23, 2019, the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission and other three authorities jointly issued the Circular on the Special Campaign of Correcting Unlawful Collection and Usage of Personal Information via Apps (《關於開展App違法違規收集使用個人信息專項治理的公告》). Pursuant to this circular, (i) app operators are prohibited from collecting any personal information irrelevant to the services provided by such operator; (ii) information collection and usage policy should be presented in a simple and clear way, and such policy should be consented by the users voluntarily; and (iii) authorization from users should not be obtained by coercing users with default or bundling clauses or making consent a condition of a service. App operators violating such rules may be ordered by authorities to rectify within a given period of time and those that refuse to rectify may be disclosed to the public. Provided that the circumstances are serious, the relevant business may be suspended, or the business operation may be terminated for rectification, or the relevant business permits or licenses may be revoked in accordance with the law. Such regulatory requirements were emphasized by the Notice on the Special Rectification of Apps Infringing upon User's Personal Rights and Interests (《關於開展App侵害用戶權益專項整治工作的通知》), which was issued by MIIT on October 31, 2019. On November 28, 2019, the CAC, the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the SAMR jointly issued the Methods of Identifying Illegal Acts of Apps to Collect and Use Personal Information (《App違法違規收集使用個人信息行為認定方法》) which further illustrates certain common illegal practices of apps operators in terms of personal information protection, including "failure to publicize rules for collecting and using personal information," "failure to expressly state the purpose, manner and scope of collecting and using personal information," "collection and use of personal information without consent of users of such App," "collecting personal information irrelevant to the services provided by such app in violation of the principle of necessity," "provision of personal information to others without users' consent," "failure to provide the function of deleting or correcting personal information as required by laws" and "failure to publish information such as methods for complaints and reporting."

Furthermore, the Provisions on the Cyber Protection of Children's Personal Information (《兒童個人信息網絡保護規定》) issued by the CAC came into effect on October 1, 2019, which require, among others, that network operators who collect, store, use, transfer and disclose personal information of children under the age of 14 establish special rules and user agreements for the protection of children's personal information, inform the children's guardians in a noticeable and clear manner, and shall obtain the consent of the children's guardians.

On May 28, 2020, the National People's Congress adopted the PRC Civil Code (《中華人民共和國民法典》), which came into effect on January 1, 2021. Pursuant to the PRC Civil Code, the personal information of a natural person shall be protected by the law. Any organization or individual shall legally obtain such personal information of others and ensure the safety of such information, and shall not illegally collect, use, process or transmit personal information of others, or illegally purchase or sell, provide or make public personal information of others.

On August 20, 2021, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the Personal Information Protection Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人信息保護法》), or the

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Personal Information Protection Law, which took effect on November 1, 2021. As the first systematic and comprehensive law specifically for the protection of personal information in the PRC, the Personal Information Protection Law provides, among others, that (i) an individual's consent shall be obtained to use sensitive personal information, (ii) personal information operators using sensitive personal information shall notify individuals of the necessity of such use and impact on the individual's rights, and (iii) where it is necessary for personal information to be provided by a personal information processor to a recipient outside the territory of the PRC due to any business need or any other need, a security assessment organized by the national cyberspace authority shall be passed.

### **Regulations on Infringement upon Intellectual Property Rights via Internet**

The PRC Civil Code (《中華人民共和國民法典》), which was adopted by the National People's Congress on May 28, 2020 and became effective on January 1, 2021, provides that (i) an online service provider should be held liable for its own tortious acts in providing online services; (ii) where an internet user engages in tortious conduct through internet services, the obligee shall have the right to notify the internet service provider that it should take necessary action such as by deleting content, screening, breaking links, etc. After receiving the notice, the network service provider shall promptly forward the notice to the relevant network user and take necessary measures in light of the preliminary evidence of infringement and the type of service; if the internet service provider fails to take necessary action after being notified, it shall be jointly and severally liable with the internet user with regard to the additional injury or damage suffered and (iii) where an internet service provider knows or should have known that an internet user is infringing upon other people's civil rights and interests through its internet service but fails to take necessary action, it shall be jointly and severally liable with the internet user.

### **Regulations on Algorithm Recommendations**

On September 17, 2021, the CAC and eight other authorities jointly promulgated the Notice on Promulgation of the Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Comprehensive Governance of Algorithm-Related Internet Information Services (《關於加強互聯網信息服務算法綜合治理的指導意見》), which provides that, among others, enterprises shall establish an algorithmic security responsibility system and a technology ethics vetting system, improve the algorithmic security management organization, strengthen risk prevention and control as well as potential danger investigation and governance, and improve the capacity to respond to algorithmic security emergencies. Enterprises shall also strengthen their sense of responsibility and assume the main responsibility for the results arising from the application of algorithms

On December 31, 2021, the CAC, the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the SAMR jointly issued the Administration Provisions on Algorithmic Recommendation of Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務算法推薦管理規定》), or the Administration Provisions on Algorithmic Recommendation, which became effective on March 1, 2022. The Administration Provisions on Algorithmic Recommendation stipulates that algorithmic recommendation service providers shall (i) fulfill their responsibilities for algorithm security, (ii) establish and improve management systems for algorithm mechanism examination, ethical vetting in technology, user registration, information release vetting, protection of data security and personal information, anti-

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telecommunications and internet fraud, security assessment and monitoring, emergency response to security incidents, etc., and (iii) formulate and disclose relevant rules for algorithm recommendation services, and be equipped with professional staff and technical support appropriate to the scale of the algorithm recommendation service. The provider of algorithmic recommendation services shall not use the services to (i) engage in any illegal activity which may endanger national security and social public interest, disturb economic and social order, or infringe others' legitimate rights and interest, or (ii) disseminate any information prohibited by laws or regulations.

### **Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights**

#### *Copyright*

China has enacted various laws and regulations relating to the protection of copyright. China is also a signatory to some major international conventions on protection of copyright and became a member of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Universal Copyright Convention in October 1992, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights upon its accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001.

The Copyright Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國著作權法》), adopted in 1990 and revised in 2001, 2010 and 2020 respectively, or the Copyright Law, and its implementing regulations (《中華人民共和國著作權法實施條例》) adopted in 2002 and amended in 2011 and 2013, provide that Chinese citizens, legal persons, or other organizations will, whether published or not, enjoy copyright in their works, which include music works. Copyright will generally be conferred upon the authors, or in case of works made for hire, upon the employer of the author. Copyright holders enjoy personal and economic rights. The personal rights of a copyright holder include rights to publish works, right to be named as the author of works, right to amend the works and right to keep the works intact; while economic rights of a copyright holder include, but not limited to, reproduction right, distribution right, performance right, information network dissemination right, etc. In addition, the rights of performers with respect to their performance, rights of publishers with respect to their design of publications, rights of producers with respect to their video or audio productions, and rights of broadcasting or TV stations with respect to their broadcasting or TV programs are classified as copyright-related interest and protected by the Copyright Law. For a piece of music works, it may involve the copyright of lyricist and of composers, which are collectively referred to as the “music publishing rights” elsewhere in this listing document, and the copyright-related interests of recording producers and of performers, which can be collectively referred to as the “musical recording rights” elsewhere in this listing document. The copyright holders may license others to exercise, or assign all or part of their economic rights attached to their works. The license can be made on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis. With a few exceptions, an exclusive license or an assignment of copyright should be evidenced in a written contract. Pursuant to the Copyright Law and its implementing regulations, copyright infringers are subject to various civil liabilities, such as stopping infringing activities, issuing apologies to the copyright owners and compensating the copyright owners for damages resulting from such infringement. The damages should be calculated based on the actual loss suffered by the copyrights owner or the illegal income made by the infringer.

The Provisional Measures on Voluntary Registration of Works (《作品自願登記試行辦法》), promulgated by the National Copyright Administration on December 31, 1994 and effective on

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January 1, 1995, provides for a voluntary registration system as administered by the National Copyright Administration and its local counterparts.

The Computer Software Copyright Registration Measures (《計算機軟件著作權登記辦法》), or the Software Copyright Measures, promulgated by the National Copyright Administration on February 20, 2002, regulates registrations of software copyright, exclusive licensing contracts for software copyright and assignment agreements. The National Copyright Administration administers software copyright registration, and the Copyright Protection Center of China is designated as the software registration authority. The Copyright Protection Center of China shall grant registration certificates to the Computer Software Copyright applicants which meet the requirements of both the Software Copyright Measures and the Computer Software Protection Regulations (《計算機軟件保護條例》), which promulgated by the State Council on June 4, 1991 and last amended on January 30, 2013.

The Measures for Administrative Protection of Copyright Related to Internet (《互聯網著作權行政保護辦法》), which were jointly promulgated by the National Copyright Administration and the MII on April 29, 2005 and became effective on May 30, 2005, provide that upon receipt of an infringement notice from a legitimate copyright holder, an internet content service provider must take remedial actions immediately by removing or disabling access to the infringing content. If an internet content service provider knowingly transmits infringing content or fails to take remedial actions after receipt of a notice of infringement that harms public interest, the internet content service provider could be subject to administrative penalties, including an order to cease infringing activities, confiscation by the authorities of all income derived from the infringement activities, or payment of fines.

On May 18, 2006, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on the Protection of the Right to Network Dissemination of Information (《信息網絡傳播權保護條例》), as amended on January 30, 2013. Under these regulations, an owner of the network dissemination rights with respect to written works or audio or video recordings who believes that information storage, search or link services provided by an internet service provider infringe his or her rights may require that the internet service provider delete, or disconnect the links to, such works or recordings. The internet service provider who provides information storage space to recipients of its services to facilitate the provision by such recipient of works, performances and audio-video content to the public shall not be held liable for losses caused by any alleged infringement, provided that such internet service provider has deleted relevant works, performances and audio-video content after receiving a notice from the purported right holder, and the satisfaction of certain other conditions, including that (i) such internet service provider has specifically indicated that such information storage space is provided for the recipients of its services and the name, contact person information and network address of the of the network service provider have been made public; (ii) the works, performances and audio-video content provided by the recipients are not altered; (iii) the internet service provider is not aware and has no reason to be aware that the works, performances and audio-video content provided by recipients of its services are infringing; and (iv) the internet service provider does not derive economic benefits directly from the works, performances and audio-video content provided by the recipients of its services. Additionally, according to the Provisions of the Supreme People's Court on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law to Trial of Civil Dispute Cases of

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Infringement upon Information Network Transmission Rights (《最高人民法院關於審理侵害信息網絡傳播權民事糾紛案件適用法律若干問題的規定》) promulgated by the Supreme People's Court on December 17, 2012 and amended on December 29, 2020, in cases where the plaintiff in an infringement claim has raised preliminary evidence to prove that an internet service provider has provided works, performances or audio and video products, if such network service provider can prove that it has provided no more than network services and had no fault, the act of such network service provider will not be considered infringement.

### *National Copyright Administration*

The Copyright Law provides that holders of copyright or copyright-related rights may authorize a collective copyright management organization to exercise their copyright or copyright-related rights. Upon authorization, the collective copyright administration organization is entitled to exercise the copyright or copyright-related rights in its own name for the holders of copyright or copyright-related rights, and participate as a party in court or arbitration proceedings concerning the copyright or copyright-related rights. On December 7, 2013, the State Council promulgated the amended Regulations on Collective Administration of Copyright (《著作權集體管理條例》), or the Collective Administration Regulations. The Collective Administration Regulations clarified that the collective copyright management organization is allowed to (i) enter into license agreement with users of copyright or copyright-related rights, (ii) charge royalty from users, (iii) pay royalty to holders of copyright or copyright-related rights, and (iv) participate in court or arbitration proceedings concerning the copyright or copyright-related rights. Pursuant to the Collective Administration Regulations, performance right, filming right, broadcasting right, rental right, information network dissemination right, reproduction right and other rights stipulated by the Copyright Law which are hard to be exercised effectively by the right holders may be collectively administrated by a collective copyright administration organization. Foreigners and stateless persons may, through an overseas collective copyright management organization having a mutual representation contract with the collective copyright management organization in China, authorize the collective copyright management organization in China to manage copyright or copyright-related rights in China. The aforesaid mutual representation contract means a contract under which the collective copyright management organization in China and its overseas peers authorize each other to conduct collective copyright administration within their respective home countries or regions. In 1992, the National Copyright Administration and Chinese Musicians Association jointly established the Music Copyright Society of China.

The Collective Administration Regulations also prescribes that unauthorized establishments of collective administrations or branches and unauthorized collective copyrights administration activities shall be banned by the copyrights administration department or the civil administration department of the State Council in accordance with their respective scope of functions and relevant illegal gains shall be confiscated, meanwhile if the case constitutes a crime, criminal responsibility shall be investigated according to the law.

### *Trademark*

According to the Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法》), adopted in 1982 and latest amended in 2019, as well as the Implementation Regulation of the Trademark Law of the PRC

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(《中華人民共和國商標法實施條例》) adopted by the State Council in 2002 and subsequently amended in 2014, registered trademarks are granted a term of ten years which may be renewed for consecutive ten-year periods upon request by the trademark owner. Trademark license agreements shall be filed with the Trademark Office for record. Conducts that shall constitute an infringement of the exclusive right to use a registered trademark include but not limited to: using a trademark that is identical with or similar to a registered trademark on the same or similar goods without the permission of the trademark registrant, selling goods that violate the exclusive right to use a registered trademark, etc. Pursuant to the Trademark Law of the PRC, in the event of any of the foregoing acts, the infringing party will be ordered to stop the infringement immediately and may be fined; the counterfeit goods will be confiscated. The infringing party may also be held liable for the right holder's damages, which will be equal to gains obtained by the infringing party or the losses suffered by the right holder as a result of the infringement, including reasonable expenses incurred by the right holder for stopping the infringement.

### *Patent*

In China, the Patent Administrative Department of the State Council is responsible for administering patents, uniformly receiving, examining and approving patent applications. In 1984, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法》), which was subsequently amended in 1992, 2000, 2008 and 2020, respectively. In addition, the State Council promulgated the Implementing Rules of the Patent Law (《中華人民共和國專利法實施細則》) in 2001, as amended in 2002 and 2010 respectively, pursuant to which a patentable invention and utility model must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability, and designs must be obviously different from current designs or combinations thereof. Patents cannot be granted for scientific discoveries, rules and methods for intellectual activities, methods used to diagnose or treat diseases, animal and plant breeds or substances obtained by means of nuclear transformation. A patent is valid for a term of twenty years with respect to an invention, a term of ten years with respect to a utility model and a term of fifteen years with respect to a design, starting from the application date. Except under certain circumstances specifically provided by law, any third party user must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent, or else the use will constitute an infringement of the rights of the patent holder.

### *Domain Names*

In China, the administration of PRC internet domain names is mainly regulated by the MIIT, under supervision of the China Internet Network Information Center, or CNNIC. On August 24, 2017, the MIIT promulgated the Measures on Administration of Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》), which became effective as of November 1, 2017 and replaced the Measures on Administration of Domain Names for the Chinese Internet (《中國互聯網絡域名管理辦法》) issued by the MII on November 5, 2004, which adopt "first to file" rule to allocate domain names to applicants, and provide that the MIIT shall supervise the domain names services nationwide and publicize PRC's domain name system. On June 18, 2019, the CNNIC issued a circular (《國家頂級域名爭議解決辦法》) to authorize a domain name dispute resolution institution acknowledged by the CNNIC to decide relevant disputes. On January 1, 2018, the Circular of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Regulating the Use of Domain Names in Providing Internet-based

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Information Services (《工業和信息化部關於規範互聯網信息服務使用域名的通知》) issued by the MIIT became effective, which stipulates that an internet access service provider shall, pursuant to requirements stated in the Anti-Terrorism Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國反恐怖主義法》) and the Cybersecurity Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》), verify the identities of internet-based information service providers, and the internet access service providers shall not provide access services for those who fail to provide their real identity information.

### **Regulations on Taxation**

#### ***Enterprise Income Tax***

On March 16, 2007, the National People's Congress promulgated the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) which was amended on February 24, 2017 and December 29, 2018; and on December 6, 2007, the State Council enacted the Implementation Regulations for the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》), which was amended on April 23, 2019, or collectively, the PRC EIT Law. Under the PRC EIT Law, both resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises are subject to tax in the PRC. Resident enterprises are defined as enterprises that are established in China in accordance with PRC laws, or that are established in accordance with the laws of foreign countries or regions but the actual management institutions are in the PRC. Non-resident enterprises are defined as enterprises that are organized under the laws of foreign countries or regions and whose actual management institutions are outside the PRC, but have established institutions or premises in the PRC, or have no such established institutions or premises but have income generated from the PRC. Under the PRC EIT Law and relevant implementing regulations, a uniform enterprise income tax rate of 25% is applied. However, if non-resident enterprises have not formed permanent establishments or premises in the PRC, or if they have formed permanent establishment or premises in the PRC but there is no actual relationship between the relevant income derived in the PRC and the established institutions or premises set up by them, enterprise income tax is set at the rate of 10% with respect to their income sourced from the PRC. Pursuant to the PRC EIT Law, the EIT tax rate of a qualified high and new technology enterprise, or HNTE, is 15%. According to the Administrative Measures for the Recognition of HNTEs (《高新技術企業認定管理辦法》), effective on January 1, 2008 and amended on January 29, 2016, for each entity accredited as HNTE, its HNTE status is valid for three years if it meets the qualifications for HNTE on a continuing basis during such period.

#### ***Value-added Tax***

The Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) were promulgated by the State Council on December 13, 1993 and came into effect on January 1, 1994 which were last amended on November 19, 2017. The Detailed Rules for the Implementation of Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) were promulgated by the Ministry of Finance on December 25, 1993 and subsequently amended on December 15, 2008 and October 28, 2011, or collectively, VAT Law. On November 19, 2017, the State Council promulgated the Order on Abolishing the Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Business Tax and Amending the Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《關於廢止〈中華人民共和國營業稅暫行條例〉和修改〈中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例〉的決定》), or Order 691.

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According to the VAT Law and Order 691, all enterprises and individuals engaged in the sale of goods, processing, repair and replacement services, sales of services, intangible assets, real property and the importation of goods within the territory of the PRC are the taxpayers of VAT. The VAT rates generally applicable are simplified as 17%, 11% and 6%, and the VAT rate applicable to the small-scale taxpayers is 3%.

On April 4, 2018, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation jointly issued the Notice on Adjustment of VAT Rates (《關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》), which came into effect on May 1, 2018. According to the abovementioned notice, the taxable goods previously subject to VAT rates of 17% and 11% respectively become subject to lower VAT rates of 16% and 10% respectively. On March 20, 2019, the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the General Administration of Customs issued the Announcement on Relevant Policies on Deepen the Reform of Value-added Tax (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》), pursuant to which that the taxable goods previously subject to VAT rates of 16% and 10% respectively become subject to lower VAT rates of 13% and 9% respectively, effective from April 1, 2019.

### *Dividend Withholding Tax*

The PRC EIT Law provides that since January 1, 2008, an enterprise income tax rate of 10% will normally be applicable to dividends declared to non-PRC resident investors which do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC, or which have such establishment or place of business but the relevant income is not effectively connected with the establishment or place of business, to the extent such dividends are derived from sources within the PRC.

Pursuant to the Arrangement Between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Incomes (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), or the Double Tax Avoidance Arrangement and other applicable PRC laws, if a Hong Kong resident enterprise is determined by the competent PRC tax authority to have satisfied the relevant conditions and requirements under such Double Tax Avoidance Arrangement and other applicable laws, the 10% withholding tax on the dividends the Hong Kong resident enterprise receives from a PRC resident enterprise may be reduced to 5%. However, based on the Circular on Certain Issues with Respect to the Enforcement of Dividend Provisions in Tax Treaties (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》), or the SAT Circular 81, issued on February 20, 2009 by the State Administration of Taxation if the relevant PRC tax authorities determine, at their discretion, that a company benefits from such reduced income tax rate due to a structure or arrangement that is primarily tax-driven, such PRC tax authorities may adjust the preferential tax treatment. According to the Circular on Several Issues regarding the “Beneficial Owner” in Tax Treaties (《國家稅務總局關於稅收協定中“受益所有人”有關問題的公告》), which was issued on February 3, 2018 by the SAT, effective as of April 1, 2018, when determining the applicant’s status of the “beneficial owner” regarding tax treatments in connection with dividends, interests or royalties in the tax treaties, several factors, including without limitation, whether the applicant is obligated to pay more than 50% of its income in twelve months to residents in third country or region, whether the business operated by the applicant constitutes actual business activities, and whether the counterparty country or region to the tax treaties does not levy any tax or grant tax exemption on relevant incomes or levy tax at an extremely low rate, will be taken into account, and such factors will be analyzed according

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to the actual circumstances of the specific cases. This circular further provides that applicants who intend to prove his or her status of the “beneficial owner” shall submit the relevant documents to the relevant tax bureau according to the Announcement on Issuing the Measures for the Administration of Non-Resident Taxpayers’ Enjoyment of Treaty Benefits (《關於發佈〈非居民納稅人享受協定待遇管理辦法〉的公告》).

### *Tax on Indirect Transfers*

On February 3, 2015, the SAT issued the Circular on Issues of Enterprise Income Tax on Indirect Transfers of Assets by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises (《國家稅務總局關於非居民企業間接轉讓財產企業所得稅若干問題的公告》), or SAT Circular 7, which was partially repealed in October and December 2017. Pursuant to SAT Circular 7, an “indirect transfer” of assets, including equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, by non-PRC resident enterprises, may be recharacterized and treated as a direct transfer of PRC taxable assets, if such arrangement does not have a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of avoiding payment of PRC enterprise income tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax. When determining whether there is a “reasonable commercial purpose” of the transaction arrangement, features to be taken into consideration include, inter alia, whether the main value of the equity interest of the relevant offshore enterprise derives directly or indirectly from PRC taxable assets; whether the assets of the relevant offshore enterprise mainly consist of direct or indirect investment in China or if its income is mainly derived from China; and whether the offshore enterprise and its subsidiaries directly or indirectly holding PRC taxable assets have real commercial nature which is evidenced by their actual function and risk exposure. According to SAT Circular 7, where the payor fails to withhold any or sufficient tax, the transferor shall declare and pay such tax to the tax authority by itself within the statutory time limit. Late payment of applicable tax will subject the transferor to default interest. SAT Circular 7 does not apply to transactions of sale of shares by investors through a public stock exchange where such shares were acquired on a public stock exchange. On October 17, 2017, the SAT issued the Circular on Issues of Withholding of Income Tax of Non-resident Enterprises at Source (《國家稅務總局關於非居民企業所得稅源泉扣繳有關問題的公告》) as amended on June 15, 2018, or SAT Circular 37, which further elaborates the relevant implemental rules regarding the calculation, reporting and payment obligations of the withholding tax by the non-resident enterprises. Nonetheless, there remain uncertainties as to the interpretation and application of SAT Circular 7. SAT Circular 7 may be determined by the tax authorities to be applicable to our offshore transactions or sale of our shares or those of our offshore subsidiaries where non-resident enterprises, being the transferors, were involved.

### **Regulations on Foreign Exchange Registration of Offshore Investment by PRC Residents**

#### *General Rules*

The core regulations governing foreign currency exchange in China are the Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》), promulgated by the State Council in 1996 and most recently amended in August 2008, or the Foreign Exchange Regulations. Under the Foreign Exchange Regulations, payments of current account items, such as profit distributions and trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, can be made in foreign currencies without prior approval from SAFE by complying with certain procedural requirements. By

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contrast, the conversion of Renminbi into other currencies and remittance of the converted foreign currency outside the PRC to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of foreign currency-denominated loans, or if foreign currency is to be remitted into China under the capital account such as a capital increase or foreign currency loans to our PRC subsidiaries, prior approval from or registration with appropriate regulatory authorities is required.

Pursuant to the Circular of Further Improving and Adjusting Foreign Exchange Administration Policies on Foreign Direct Investment (《關於進一步改進和調整直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), or SAFE Circular 59 promulgated by SAFE on November 19, 2012, which became effective on December 17, 2012, and were further amended on May 4, 2015, October 10, 2018 and December 30, 2019, the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts, such as pre-establishment expenses accounts, foreign exchange capital accounts and guarantee accounts, the reinvestment of Renminbi proceeds by foreign investors in the PRC, and remittance of foreign exchange profits and dividends by a foreign invested enterprise to its foreign shareholders no longer require the approval or verification of SAFE.

In February 2015, SAFE promulgated the Circular of Further Simplifying and Improving the Policies of Foreign Exchange Administration Applicable to Direct Investment (《關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), or SAFE Circular 13, which became effective on June 1, 2015 and was partially repealed on December 30, 2019. SAFE Circular 13 cancels the administrative approval requirements of foreign exchange registration of foreign direct investment and overseas direct investment, and simplifies the procedure of foreign exchange-related registration, and foreign exchange registrations of foreign direct investment and overseas direct investment will be handled by the qualified banks and their branches instead of SAFE and its branches.

The Circular on the Reforming the Administration of Foreign Exchange Settlement of Capital of Foreign-invested Enterprises (《關於改革外商投資企業外匯資本金結匯管理方式的通知》), or SAFE Circular 19 which was issued by SAFE on March 30, 2015, effective from June 1, 2015 and partially repealed on December 30, 2019, allows foreign-invested enterprises, within the scope of business, to settle their foreign exchange capital on a discretionary basis according to the actual needs of their business operation and provides the procedures for foreign-invested enterprises to use Renminbi converted from foreign currency-denominated capital for equity investment.

In January 2017, SAFE promulgated the Circular on Further Improving Reform of Foreign Exchange Administration and Optimizing Genuineness and Compliance Verification (《關於進一步推進外匯管理改革完善真實合規性審核的通知》), or SAFE Circular 3, which stipulates several capital control measures with respect to the outbound remittance of profit from domestic entities to offshore entities, including (i) under the principle of genuine transaction, banks shall check board resolutions regarding profit distribution, the original of tax filing records and audited financial statements; and (ii) domestic entities shall hold income to account for previous years' losses before remitting the profits. Further, according to SAFE Circular 3, domestic entities shall make detailed explanations of the sources and utilization arrangements of capital, and provide board resolutions, contracts and other proof when applying for the registration in connection with an outbound investment and outbound remittance of capitals.

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### *Offshore Investment*

The Circular of SAFE on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration over the Overseas Investment and Financing and Round-trip Investment by Domestic Residents via Special Purpose Vehicles (《國家外匯管理局關於境內居民通過特殊目的公司境外投融資及返程投資外匯管理有關問題的通知》), or SAFE Circular 37, which became effective on July 4, 2014, regulates foreign exchange matters in relation to the use of special purpose vehicles, or SPVs, by PRC residents or entities to seek offshore investment and financing or conduct round trip investment in China. Under the Circular 37, an SPV refers to offshore enterprises directly established or indirectly controlled by PRC residents for the purpose of seeking offshore equity financing or making offshore investment, using legitimate domestic or offshore assets or interests, while “round trip investment” refers to the direct investment in China by PRC residents or entities through SPVs, namely, establishing foreign-invested enterprises to obtain the ownership, control rights and management rights. SAFE Circular 37 requires that, before making contribution into an SPV, PRC residents or entities are required to register with the local SAFE branch.

Pursuant to SAFE Circular 37 and SAFE Circular 13, PRC residents or entities can register with qualified banks instead of SAFE or its local branch in connection with their establishment of an SPV. An amendment to registration or subsequent filing with qualified banks by such PRC resident is also required if there is a material change with respect to the capital of the offshore company, such as any change of basic information (including change of individual shareholder of such PRC residents, change of name and operation term of the SPV), increases or decreases in investment amount, transfers or exchanges of shares, or mergers or divisions. Failure to comply with the registration procedures set forth in SAFE Circular 37, misrepresent on or failure to disclose the actual controllers of foreign-invested enterprise that is established through round-trip investment, may result in bans on the foreign exchange activities of the relevant onshore company, including the payment of dividends and other distributions to its offshore parent or affiliates, and may also subject relevant PRC residents to penalties under the Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》).

### *Employee Stock Incentive Plan*

SAFE issued the Circular on Issues Concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange Used for Domestic Individuals’ Participation in Equity Incentive Plans of Overseas Listed Companies (《關於境內個人參與境外上市公司股權激勵計劃外匯管理有關問題的通知》), or SAFE Circular 7 in 2012. Pursuant to SAFE Circular 7, employees, directors, supervisors, and other senior officers who participate in any equity incentive plan of publicly-listed overseas companies and who are PRC citizens or non-PRC citizens residing in China for a consecutive period of no less than one year, subject to a few exceptions, are required to register with SAFE or its local branches through a domestic qualified agent, which could be a PRC subsidiary of such overseas listed companies, and complete other procedures with respect to the equity incentive plan. In addition, the PRC agent is required to amend SAFE registration with respect to the equity incentive plan if there is any material change to the equity incentive plan, the PRC agent or other material changes. The PRC agent must, on behalf of these individuals who have the right to exercise the employee share options, apply to SAFE or its local branches for an annual quota for the payment of foreign currencies in connection

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with these individuals' exercise of the employee share options. Such individuals' foreign exchange income received from the sale of stocks and dividends distributed by the overseas listed company and any other income shall be fully remitted into a collective foreign currency account in China opened and managed by the PRC subsidiaries of the overseas listed company or the PRC agent before distribution to such individuals.

In addition, the State Administration of Taxation has issued certain notices concerning employee share options and restricted shares. Under these notices, employees working in China who exercise share options or are granted restricted shares will be subject to PRC individual income tax. PRC subsidiaries are required to file documents related to employee share options or restricted shares with relevant tax authorities and to withhold individual income taxes of employees who exercise their share options or purchase restricted shares. If the employees fail to pay or the PRC subsidiaries fail to withhold their income taxes in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, the PRC subsidiaries may face sanctions imposed by the tax authorities or other PRC regulatory authorities.

### **Loans by Foreign Companies to their PRC Subsidiaries**

Loans made by foreign investors as shareholders in foreign invested enterprises established in China are considered to be foreign debts and are mainly regulated by the Regulation of the People's Republic of China on Foreign Exchange Administration (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》), the Interim Provisions on the Management of Foreign Debts (《外債管理暫行辦法》), the Statistical Monitoring of Foreign Debts Tentative Provisions (《外債統計監測暫行規定》), and the Administrative Measures for Registration of Foreign Debts (《外債登記管理辦法》). Pursuant to these regulations and rules, a shareholder loan in the form of foreign debt made to a PRC entity does not require the prior approval of SAFE, but such foreign debt must be registered with and recorded by SAFE or its local branches within 15 business days after such foreign debt contract has been entered into. Under these regulations and rules, the balance of the foreign debts of a foreign invested enterprise shall not exceed the difference between the total investment and the registered capital of the foreign invested enterprise, or the Total Investment and Registered Capital Balance.

The Notice of the People's Bank of China on Matters concerning the Macro-Prudential Management of Full-Covered Cross-Border Financing (《中國人民銀行關於全口徑跨境融資宏觀審慎管理有關事宜的通知》), or PBOC Notice No. 9, issued by the PBOC on January 12, 2017, provides that within a transition period of one year from January 12, 2017, the foreign invested enterprises may adopt the currently valid foreign debt management mechanism, or the Current Foreign Debt Mechanism, or the mechanism as provided in PBOC Notice No. 9, or the Notice No. 9 Foreign Debt Mechanism, at their own discretion. PBOC Notice No. 9 provides that enterprises may conduct independent cross-border financing in RMB or foreign currencies as required. According to the PBOC Notice No. 9, the outstanding cross-border financing of an enterprise (the outstanding balance drawn, here and below) shall be calculated using a risk-weighted approach, or the Risk-Weighted Approach, and shall not exceed the specified upper limit, namely: risk-weighted outstanding cross-border financing = the upper limit of risk-weighted outstanding cross-border financing. The upper limit of risk-weighted outstanding cross-border financing of an enterprise = its net assets × the leverage rate of cross-border financing × the macro-prudential adjustment parameter, among which

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the leverage rate of cross-border financing of an enterprise shall be 2 for enterprises and the macro-prudential adjustment parameter shall be 1. Therefore, as of the date hereof, the upper limit of risk-weighted outstanding cross-border financing of a PRC enterprise is 200% of its net assets, or Net Asset Limits. Enterprises shall file with SAFE in its capital item information system after entering into a cross-border financing agreement, but no later than three business days before making a withdrawal.

In addition to the foregoing, pursuant to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Promoting the Facilitation of Cross-border Trade and Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》), or the SAFE Circular 28, which was promulgated by the SAFE on October 23, 2019 and came into effect on the same date, our PRC subsidiaries established in the pilot regions, which refers to Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Hainan province, are not required to register each of their foreign debts with SAFE or its local branches but to complete foreign debts registration with SAFE or its local branches in the amount of 200% of the net asset of the relevant PRC subsidiary. Upon such registrations, our relevant PRC subsidiaries will be allowed to procure foreign loan within the registered amount and complete the formalities for inward and outward remittance of funds, purchase and settlement of foreign currency directly with a bank, and are required to make declaration of international balance of payments pursuant to applicable regulations. However, since it is relatively new, uncertainties still exist in relation to its interpretation and implementation.

Based on the foregoing, if we provide funding to our wholly foreign owned subsidiaries through shareholder loans, the balance of such loans shall not exceed the Total Investment and Registered Capital Balance and we will need to register such loans with SAFE or its local branches in the event that the Current Foreign Debt Mechanism applies, or the balance of such loans shall be subject to the Risk-Weighted Approach and the Net Asset Limits and we will need to file the loans with SAFE in its information system in the event that the Notice No. 9 Mechanism applies. Under the PBOC Notice No. 9, after a transition period of one year from January 11, 2017, the PBOC and SAFE will determine the cross-border financing administration mechanism for the foreign-invested enterprises after evaluating the overall implementation of PBOC Notice No. 9. As of the date hereof, neither the PBOC nor SAFE has promulgated and made public any further rules, regulations, notices or circulars in this regard. It is uncertain which mechanism will be adopted by the PBOC and SAFE in the future and what statutory limits will be imposed on us when providing loans to our PRC subsidiaries. Despite neither the Foreign Investment Law nor its Implementing Regulation prescribes whether the certain concept “total investment amount” with respect to foreign-invested enterprises will still be applicable, no PRC laws and regulations have been officially promulgated to abolish the Current Foreign Debt Mechanism.

### **Regulations on Employment and Social Welfare**

#### *Employment*

The Labor Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動法》) which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on July 5, 1994, effective since January 1, 1995, and were further amended on August 27, 2009 and December 29, 2018, the Labor Contract Law of the

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PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on June 29, 2007 and amended on December 28, 2012, and the Implementing Regulations of the Labor Contract Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法實施條例》) which was promulgated by the State Council on September 18, 2008, are the principal regulations that govern employment and labor matters in the PRC. Under the above regulations, labor relationships between employers and employees must be executed in written form, and wages shall not be lower than local standards on minimum wages and shall be paid to employees timely. In addition, employers must establish a system for labor safety and sanitation, strictly abide by state standards and provide relevant training to its employees. Employers are also prohibited from forcing employees to work above certain time limit and employers shall pay employees for overtime work in accordance to national regulations.

### *Social Insurance and Housing Fund*

According to the Social Insurance Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》) promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC on October 28, 2010, effective since July 1, 2011 and amended on December 29, 2018, together with other relevant laws and regulations, the PRC establishes a social insurance system including basic pension insurance, basic medical insurance, occupational injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance. Any employer shall register with the local social insurance agency within 30 days after its establishment and shall register for the employee with the local social insurance agency within 30 days after the date of hiring. An employer shall declare and make social insurance contributions in full and on time. The occupational injury insurance and maternity insurance shall only be paid by employers while the contributions of basic pension insurance, medical insurance and unemployment insurance shall be paid by both employers and employees.

According to the Regulation on the Administration of Housing Fund (《住房公積金管理條例》) promulgated by the State Council on April 3, 1999 and amended in 2002 and 2019 respectively, employers are required to register at the designated administrative centers, open bank accounts for depositing employees' housing fund and make housing fund contributions for employees in the PRC. Employer who fails to make housing fund contributions may be ordered to rectify the noncompliance and pay the required contributions within a stipulated deadline.

### **Regulations on Anti-Monopoly**

The Anti-Monopoly Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國反壟斷法》) promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, or the Anti-Monopoly Law, which became effective on August 1, 2008, prohibits undertakings from monopolistic conducts such as:

- Entering into monopolistic agreements, which means agreements or concerted practices to eliminate or restrict competition. For example, agreements for fixing or altering prices of goods, limiting the output or sales volume of goods, fixing the price of goods for resale to third parties, among others, unless such agreements satisfy the specific exemptions prescribed therein, such as improving technologies or increasing the efficiency and

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competitiveness of small and medium-sized undertakings. Sanctions against such violations include an order to cease the relevant activities, and confiscation of illegal gains and fines (from 1% to 10% of sales revenue in the preceding year, or a fine up to RMB500,000 if the intended monopolistic agreement has not been performed);

- Abuse of dominant market position. For example, selling goods at unfairly high prices or purchasing goods at unfairly low prices, selling goods at prices below cost or refusing to trade with a trading party without any justifiable cause. Sanctions for such violations include an order to cease the relevant activities, confiscation of the illegal gains and fines (from 1% to 10% of sales revenue in the preceding year); and
- Concentration of undertakings which has or may have an effect of eliminating or restricting competition. Pursuant to the Anti-Monopoly Law and the Rules of the State Council on Declaration Threshold for Concentration of Undertakings (《國務院關於經營者集中申報標準的規定》) as amended on September 18, 2018, require that the anti-monopoly agency (i.e., the State Administration for Market Regulation) shall be notified in advance of any concentration of undertaking if certain filing thresholds (i.e., during the previous fiscal year, (i) the total global turnover of all operators participating in the transaction exceeded RMB10 billion in the preceding fiscal year and at least two of these operators each had a turnover of more than RMB400 million within China in the preceding fiscal year, or (ii) the total turnover within China of all the operators participating in the concentration exceeded RMB2 billion in the preceding fiscal year, and at least two of these operators each had a turnover of more than RMB400 million within China in the preceding fiscal year) are triggered, and no concentration shall be implemented until the anti-monopoly enforcement agency clears the anti-monopoly filing.

In March 2018, the SAMR was formed as a new regulatory agency to take over, among other things, the anti-monopoly enforcement functions from the relevant departments under the MOFCOM, the NDRC and the SAIC, respectively. Since its inception, the SAMR has continued to strengthen its anti-monopoly enforcement. The SAMR issued the Notice on Anti-monopoly Enforcement Authorization (《關於反壟斷執法授權的通知》) on December 28, 2018, which grants authorizations to the SAMR's province-level branches for anti-monopoly enforcement within their respective jurisdictions, and issued the Anti-monopoly Compliance Guideline for Operators (《經營者反壟斷合規指南》) on September 11, 2020, which applies to operators under the Anti-Monopoly Law for establishing an anti-monopoly compliance management system and preventing anti-monopoly compliance risks. On November 18, 2021, the National Anti-monopoly Bureau was officially established to formulate anti-monopoly institutional measures and guidelines, implement anti-monopoly law enforcement, undertake the guidance for enterprises' anti-monopoly action responding abroad and so on.

According to the Anti-monopoly Guidelines of the Anti-monopoly Commission under the State Council in the Field of Intellectual Property Rights (《國務院反壟斷委員會關於知識產權領域的反壟斷指南》), which was promulgated and became effective on January 4, 2019, or the Anti-monopoly IP Rights Guidelines, the Anti-monopoly Law is applicable when the operator abuses intellectual property rights and conducts acts that exclude or restrict competition. Pursuant to the Anti-monopoly IP Rights Guidelines, analysis of whether the operator has abused intellectual property rights to exclude or restrict competition shall follow the following basic principles: (i) the same regulatory

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standards for other forms of property rights shall be adopted and the relevant provisions of the Anti-monopoly Law of the PRC shall be followed; (ii) the characteristics of intellectual property rights shall be taken into account; (iii) the operator shall not be presumed to have a dominant market position in the relevant market because of its ownership of intellectual property rights; and (iv) the positive impact of relevant behaviors on efficiency and innovation shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

On June 26, 2019, the SAMR issued the Interim Provisions on the Prohibitions of Acts of Abuse of Dominant Market Positions (《禁止濫用市場支配地位行為暫行規定》), which took effect on September 1, 2019 and was amended on March 24, 2022 to further prevent and prohibit the abuse of dominant market positions. On February 7, 2021, the Anti-Monopoly Bureau of the State Council officially promulgated the Guidelines to Anti-Monopoly in the Field of Internet Platforms (《關於平臺經濟領域的反壟斷指南》), or the Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms. The Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms mainly covers five aspects, including general provisions, monopoly agreements, abusing market dominance, concentration of undertakings, and abusing of administrative powers eliminating or restricting competition. The Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms (《關於平臺經濟領域的反壟斷指南》) prohibits certain monopolistic acts of internet platforms so as to protect market competition and safeguard interests of users and undertakings participating in the internet platform economy, including without limitation:

- (i) prohibiting platforms from reaching monopoly agreements. A monopoly agreement in the field of platform economy refers to any agreement, decision or other concerted conduct by undertakings to exclude or restrict competition. “Other concerted conduct” refers to the conduct whereby undertakings do not explicitly enter into an agreement or decision, but are actually coordinated through data, algorithms, platform rules or other means, except for price following and other parallel conduct conducted by the relevant undertakings based on their independent expression of intent;
- (ii) prohibiting the concentration of undertakings that has or may have the effect of eliminating or restricting competition; and
- (iii) prohibiting platforms with dominant position from abusing their market dominance. The activities which may constitute the abuse of market dominance include, without limitation, sales of commodities at an unfairly high price or purchases of commodities at an unfairly low price, sales of commodities at a price lower than cost without justified reasons, refusing to enter into transactions with transaction counterparties without justified reasons, limit transactions with transaction counterparties without justified reasons, tie-in sales or attaching unreasonable transaction terms without justified reasons, and differential treatment to the transaction counterparties with identical transaction conditions without justified reasons.

In addition, the Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms also reinforces anti-monopoly merger review for internet platform related transactions to safeguard market competition.

On June 24, 2022, the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress to Amend the Anti-Monopoly Law of the People’s Republic of China (《全國人民代表大會常務委員會

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關於修改〈中華人民共和國反壟斷法〉的決定》), or the Decision to Amend the Anti-Monopoly Law, was adopted and became effective on August 1, 2022. The Decision to Amend the Anti-Monopoly Law strengthens the regulation on the internet platforms, requiring that undertakings shall not use data and algorithms, technologies, capital advantages, platform rules, and other means to engage in monopolistic conduct; and also escalates in full scale the administrative penalties for monopolistic conducts, for the failure to notify the anti-monopoly agencies on the proposed concentration of undertakings, the State Council Anti-Monopoly Enforcement Agency may order to reinstate the original status prior to the concentration and impose a fine up to ten percent of the operator's last year's sales revenue, provided that the concentration of undertakings has or may have an effect on excluding or limiting competition; if the concentration does not have the effect on excluding or limiting competition, a fine up to RMB5,000,000 may be imposed on operators. Since such provisions are relatively new, uncertain still remains as to the interpretation and implementation of such laws and regulations.

### Regulations on M&A and Overseas Listings

In 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies, including the CSRC, jointly adopted the Regulations on Mergers of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors (《關於外國投資者併購境內企業的規定》), or the M&A Rules, amended in 2009. The M&A Rules purport, among other things, to require an offshore special purpose vehicle controlled by PRC companies or individuals and formed for overseas listing purposes through acquisitions of PRC domestic interest held by such PRC companies or individuals, to obtain the approval from the CSRC prior to publicly listing their securities on an overseas stock exchange. In 2006, the CSRC published a notice on its official website specifying documents and materials required to be submitted to it by the offshore special purpose vehicle seeking CSRC approval of its overseas listing. If the CSRC or other PRC regulatory agencies subsequently determine that prior CSRC approval was required, we may face regulatory actions or other sanctions from the CSRC or other PRC regulatory agencies.

The M&A Rules also establish procedures and requirements that could make some acquisitions of PRC companies by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex, including requirements in some instances that the anti-monopoly law enforcement agency be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a PRC domestic enterprise. In addition, the Rules on Implementation of Security Review System for the Merger and Acquisition of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors (《外國投資者併購境內企業安全審查制度的規定》) issued by the MOFCOM in 2011 specify that mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors that raise “national defense and security” concerns and mergers and acquisitions through which foreign investors may acquire de facto control over domestic enterprises that raise “national security” concerns are subject to strict review by the MOFCOM, and prohibit any activities attempting to bypass such security review, including by structuring the transaction through a proxy or contractual control arrangement.

On December 24, 2021, the CSRC published the Administrative Provisions of the State Council on the Overseas Issuance and Listing of Securities by Domestic Companies (Draft for Comments) (《國務院關於境內企業境外發行證券和上市的管理規定(草案徵求意見稿)》), or the Draft Administrative Provisions, and the Measures for the Overseas Issuance and Listing of Securities Record-filings by

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Domestic Companies (Draft for Comments) (《境內企業境外發行證券和上市備案管理辦法(徵求意見稿)》), or the Draft Measures, for public comments. These drafts stipulate that PRC domestic companies that seek to offer and list securities in overseas markets directly or indirectly shall complete the filing procedures with and report relevant information to the CSRC. Pursuant to these drafts, if the issuer meets the following conditions, its offering and listing will be deemed as an “indirect overseas offering and listing by a PRC domestic company” and is therefore subject to the filing requirements: (i) the revenues, profits, total assets or net assets of the Chinese operating entities in the most recent financial year accounts for more than 50% of the corresponding data in the issuer’s audited consolidated financial statements for the same period; (ii) the majority of senior management in charge of business operation are Chinese citizens or have domicile in PRC, and its principal place of business is located in PRC or main business activities are conducted in PRC. The domestic enterprises should submit filing documents to CSRC within three business days after the submission of the application for overseas initial public offering, and after completing the filing procedures for an overseas initial public offering and listing. For the purposes of implementing and strengthening the CSRC’s supervision, the issuer will need to comply with continuous filing and reporting requirements after such offering and listing, among others, including the following: (i) reporting material events which arose prior to such offering and listing, (ii) filing for follow-on offerings after the initial offering and listing, (iii) filing for transactions in which the issuer issues securities for acquiring assets, and (iv) reporting material events after the initial offering and listing. In a Q&A released on its official website, the respondent CSRC official indicated that the CSRC will start applying the filing requirements to new offerings and listings. New initial public offerings and refinancing by existing overseas listed Chinese companies will be required to go through the filing process. As for the other filings for the existing companies, the regulator will grant adequate transition period to complete their filing procedures.

On April 2, 2022, the CSRC published the Provisions on Strengthening the Management of Confidentiality and Archives Related to the draft Overseas Issuance of Securities and Overseas Listing by Domestic Companies (Draft for Public Comments) (《關於加強境內企業境外發行證券和上市相關保密和檔案管理工作的規定(徵求意見稿)》), or the Draft Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions relating to Overseas Listing, for public comments. In the overseas listing activities of domestic companies, as well as securities companies and securities service institutions providing relevant securities services hereof, should establish a sound system of confidentiality and archival work, shall not disclose state secrets, or harm the state and public interests. Where a Domestic Company provides or publicly discloses to the relevant securities companies, securities service institutions, overseas regulatory authorities and other entities and individuals, or provides or publicly discloses through its overseas listing entity, any document or material involving any state secrets or any work secret of organizations, it shall report to the competent authority for approval in accordance with the law, and submit to the secrecy administration department for filing. Domestic Companies shall not provide accounting records to an overseas accounting firm that has not performed the corresponding procedures. Securities companies and securities service organizations shall comply with the confidentiality and archive management requirements, and keep the documents and materials properly. Securities companies and securities service institutions that provide domestic enterprises with relevant securities services for overseas issuance and listing of securities shall keep such archives they compile within the territory of the PRC and shall not transfer such archives to overseas institutions or individuals, by any means such as carriage, shipment or information technology, without the approval of the relevant competent authorities. If the archives or duplicates

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of such archives are of important value to the state and society and needed to be taken abroad, approval shall be obtained in accordance with relevant provisions. However, the Draft Administrative Provisions, the Draft Measures and the Draft Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions relating to Overseas Listing were released for public comment only and there remains substantial uncertainty, including but not limited to its final content, adoption timeline, effective date or relevant implementation rules. As of date of this listing document, the Draft Administrative Provisions, the Draft Measures and the Draft Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions relating to Overseas Listing are still in draft form and there is no schedule for the adoptions of such drafts.