

**CHINA TO SET UP A NATIONAL
SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**

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Executive Summary

1. As part of its efforts to integrate the functions of the Party's disciplinary inspection authorities and anti-corruption agencies in the administrative and judiciary apparatuses, China is mulling over a decision to set up a national supervisory commission and pass a law on national supervision.
2. China has embarked on supervisory system reforms in Beijing, Shanxi and Zhejiang. It aims to set up local supervisory commissions at provincial, municipal and county levels in order to integrate same-level party commissions for disciplinary inspection, government corruption prevention agencies and procuratorate departments for handling bribery and dereliction of duty cases.
3. The National Supervisory Commission (NSC) will consolidate all activities of anti-graft institutions to not only help top graft-busters centralise the fragmented anti-corruption efforts and improve their effectiveness, but also legitimise their extralegal investigations under the name of "rule of law".
4. With the establishment of the NSC, which will absorb the anti-graft forces of the police, prosecutors and other supervision departments, the political power of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) is expected to expand further.
5. The party-state has relied on its disciplinary inspection system (*jijian xitong*) and political and legal system (*zhengfa xitong*) for its anti-corruption campaign, but the complicated relationship between the two systems has to some extent affected the efficiency and legitimacy of the anti-corruption work.
6. Once the NSC is set up, anti-corruption power could be recentralised with the tension between the CCDI and Central Political and Legal Commission eased in the new institutional framework.

7. The Chinese apparatus of discipline inspection, an import from Russia, is a hierarchical system of discipline inspection commissions that run parallel to party committees at every administrative level from the centre down to counties.
8. Chinese President Xi Jinping has enhanced the authority of disciplinary inspection committees at various levels by placing them under the direct control of the upper-level disciplinary inspection committees, while weakening the leadership relationship between party committees and disciplinary inspection committees at the same level.
9. The establishment of the NSC may not be able to solve fundamental problems facing China's anti-corruption drive, such as the lack of independent judiciary systems and impartial law enforcement.