

**PARTY BUILDING, ELITE POLITICS AND  
NEW REGULATIONS ON CADRE  
PROMOTION AND DEMOTION IN CHINA**

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## Executive Summary

1. On 20 September 2022, the Communist Party of China (CPC) passed new regulations on the promotion and demotion of leading party cadres.
2. The regulations replace earlier, provisional regulations of 2015, differing from these especially in one crucial respect: Articles 5 and 6 of the 2015 regulations that stipulated the mandatory retirement ages and term limits for the appointment of “leading cadres” (i.e. officials with leading duties in organs at all levels) have been dropped in the new regulations.
3. Xi Jinping had arranged for lifting the number of terms (originally set at two) for himself as president at the 2018 National People’s Congress.
4. The 2022 regulations have now formalised and generalised this practice with potentially major implications for the careers of all leading cadres across China. With the elimination of term and age limits, Xi Jinping has dealt the final blow to the regularised political competition and succession of the reform era.
5. After taking office, Xi’s unrelentless party-building efforts have strengthened the organisation and ideology of the Party. They are to ensure that the Party is well-poised to meet challenges arising from domestic developments and an increasingly hostile external environment, and to survive future power struggles when he finally leaves the stage.