



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 March 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Development as the Key to Address All Human Rights Issues

Development is one of the three pillars of the United Nations system. The Resolution 41/128 Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, explicitly states that “The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.” To put it simply, without addressing worldwide development issues, we cannot fully protect human rights nor achieve peace and security. This realization led all member states of the United Nations to unanimously agree on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, linking human rights with development. Similarly, recognizing the importance of development, China introduced a Resolution at the 47th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council called “The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights,” which was later accepted.

China has shown impressive results in implementing the resolution “The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights.” This success is evident not only in China’s attainment of the poverty reduction goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a decade in advance of the designated timeline, but also in the tangible improvements in everyday life for Chinese citizens. The economic situation for the Chinese population has significantly improved, according to China’s National Bureau of Statistics. In 2022, the average GDP per person was RMB 85,698, placing China as an upper-middle-income country. Chinese families now have more living space, with an average of 41.76 square meters per household, as per the seventh national population census. Travel has become more accessible in China. By the end of 2022, the country’s extensive transportation network exceeded six million kilometers. China now hosts the world’s largest high-speed railway system, an extensive highway network, and world-class port clusters. The country has also progressed in developing a greener, more appealing living environment and leads in forest growth and artificial afforestation, enabling people to enjoy greenery outside their windows and easy access to parks.

China’s development has extended broader economic, social, and cultural rights to every Chinese citizen, and created new opportunities for political participation. Since the start of 2020, China, like other countries, has grappled with an unprecedented pandemic. The dual challenge of safeguarding citizens’ health while ensuring their voices are heard by the government has been significant. In response, the Chinese government has undertaken considerable measures to tackle this issue, with the advancement of internet technology playing a key role. In October 2022, following a preliminary review of proposed changes to the Legislation Law, the country actively sought public opinion from various sectors, receiving nearly a thousand online submissions. These valuable insights were incorporated into a revised version of the amendment, with the public once again invited to provide feedback. This comprehensive approach culminated in the passage of the legislation in March of this year. Beyond participating in major events like national legislative processes, the public is also urged to supervise governance and offer suggestions. The launch of the 12345 hotline has provided a quicker way for people to convey their advice, streamlining the feedback process. The motto, “If you have an issue, dial 12345,” has now gained wide recognition in China.

China’s progress in human rights has been significant as it continues its development journey. Along with internal advancement, China is proactively involved in international human rights governance, aspiring to make substantial contributions to global human rights causes. Central to these efforts is the belief that development is key to assisting other countries in overcoming human rights challenges. With this goal in mind, China has launched initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative, demonstrating its leadership. China’s Juncao technology has played a pivotal role in supporting small island developing states (SIDS) and African countries in safeguarding the basic right to subsistence for their populations. The completion of the China-the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Railway has extended the railway mileage in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic from just 3.5 kilometers to 422 kilometers.

As the Chinese proverb goes, “If you want to get rich, build roads first,” a similar saying is now found in the Lao language. China’s infrastructure projects not only fast-track other countries’ progress but also foster the independent growth of local communities. The China-Kazakhstan joint national highway project is close to completion in August. Within a segment managed by a Chinese company, a remarkable story unfolds about a Kazakhstani worker named “Gulistan”. When Gulistan initially arrived at the construction site, her salary, though already higher than the local average, was a modest 200,000 Kazakhstan Tenge per month (equivalent to approximately RMB 3,240). In her own words, Gulistan says, “Chinese enterprises have nurtured my personal growth.” Today, equipped with new office skills, Gulistan’s salary has risen to 350,000 Tenge (approximately RMB 5,667), significantly improving her family’s quality of life.

Like many, Gulistan’s story serves as an example of the connection between individual development and broader societal progress. Achieving long-term development in turn hinges on a peaceful environment. Yet, our world today is far from peaceful. Various issues, both old and new, such as conflicts, poverty, hunger, and climate change, have hindered global development. For the first time in three decades, the Human Development Index has seen a consecutive two-year decline. Some nations still struggle with food insecurity, putting the basic right to subsistence of their people at risk. More than ten percent of the global population faces the specter of hunger. At this critical moment, the challenge of fostering positive global human rights governance is evident. We urge all nations to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development within the United Nations framework, and to actively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By prioritizing development to enhance human rights, we can foster a cooperative and harmonious environment that leads to human rights fulfillment. This journey has already begun, and with determination, more people will join us in the collective march towards progress.
