



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 February 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

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.

[11 February 2019]

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



China is a normative power in international human rights regime

1. We welcome that China's comprehensive national strength has grown significantly, and remarkable achievements have been made in protecting human rights in China over the past 40 years of reform and opening up. At the same time, China has taken an active part in international human rights protection and become a normative power in the international human rights regime.
2. We notice China is a backbone power of the development of international human rights cause. China's great achievements in domestic human rights protection and tremendous contributions to the international human rights are increasingly showing strong positive externalities.
3. China combines the principle of the universality of human rights and the basic national conditions, continuously improves people's livelihood, expands democratic participation, and promotes economic, political, social, cultural rights in a coordinated manner. In 2010, China became the world's second largest economy, and its GDP exceeded 80 trillion yuan in 2017. More than 700 million poor people have been lifted out of absolute poverty. China has contributed over 70% to global poverty reduction and is the first developing country in the world to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).
4. We welcome China is committed to promoting development through peace and human rights through development, working with other countries to maintain international peace, jointly tackle international governance crises, and create a harmonious environment of peace and security for international human rights. China has called for joint advancing the Belt and Road and initiated the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to achieve open and inclusive development. China has vigorously safeguarded the development interests and space of developing countries, helped African countries strengthen infrastructure development and connectivity, and paid attention to the development of African people's livelihood
5. We notice China is a driving power for the development of international human rights norms. China has been a model of rule-abiding and a contributor to the development of rules in international human rights system.
6. China has acceded to 26 international human rights conventions, earnestly fulfilled its international human rights obligations, timely submitted national reports to relevant treaty bodies, conducted constructive dialogue with treaty bodies, given full consideration to the suggestions and opinions of treaty bodies, and adopted and implemented reasonable and feasible suggestions in light of China's national conditions. In November 2018, the Human Rights Council unanimously adopted the report of the working group on China's national report in the third round of Universal Periodic Review. More than 120 countries fully recognized China's tremendous achievements in fulfilling its international human rights obligations and promoting and protecting human rights.
7. We notice China has actively participated in the formulation of a series of important international human rights documents, including the UN charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Declaration on the Right to Peace. China has participated in the successive meetings of the group of governmental experts of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that drafted the Declaration on the Right to Development, promoted the adoption of the Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, and actively supported the global consultations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the realization of the right to development.
8. We welcome China has played a constructive role in international negotiations on climate change based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and contributed to the conclusion and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
9. We notice China is a leading power for reform of the international human rights system. Since the reform and opening up, while actively promoting the improvement of

international human rights mechanisms, China has also actively put forward ideas and propositions that reflect the voice of developing countries, leading the new direction of the international human rights system.

10. We notice China always upholds mutual respect for national sovereignty, opposes interference in other countries' internal affairs in the name of human rights, emphasizes the promotion of international human rights protection through dialogue, exchange and equal cooperation instead of confrontation, confrontation and conflict, and opposes the practice of double standards and political confrontation on the issue of human rights.

11. Since the 21st century, China, together with other developing countries, has promoted the establishment of the Human Rights Council to replace the Commission on Human Rights and actively participated in the top-level design of mechanism building of the Human Rights Council. China has always been involved in the intergovernmental process of the UN General Assembly to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

12. Since 2012, China has proposed to build a new type of international relations, emphasizing non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation. China proposed to implement the Belt and Road initiative and build a community of shared future for mankind, adhered to build a lasting peace and universal security, common prosperity, open inclusive, clean and beautiful world. The concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of shared future for mankind has been recognized and accepted by more and more countries. It has been written into the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

13. We notice, as an emerging normative power, China has its own logic of behavior in the international human rights system different from that of some major countries.

14. China's basic principles of using normative powers are not power-oriented or interest-based, but rule-oriented and value-based. The essential characteristics of normative powers are equal cooperation, dialogue and persuasion, seeking common ground while reserving differences, and rule governance. Since reform and opening up, China has achieved rapid development while bringing positive values of peace, development, cooperation and inclusiveness to the international community.

15. We notice, in the field of international governance, China does not pursue realpolitik based on arrogance and bullying, but good governance based on fairness, justice and win-win cooperation. China stands for giving consideration to the interests of developing countries, upholding democracy and the rule of law in international relations, and promoting sound development of international human rights system.

16. We notice the basic way in which China uses normative powers is through role model, rule development and concept guidance. China has always emphasized the combination of the universality of human rights and national conditions, holding that there is no universally applicable development model in the world and respecting the right of people of all countries to independently choose their own human rights development path. China's normative influence is not exerted by political coercive force, but by the appeal of action, institutional appeal and ideological appeal generated by the successful practice of achieving good domestic governance and promoting all-round human development.

17. To further enhance the protection of human rights, we recommend that China to consider the following measures:

- a. Continues to work together other developing countries to actively promote the international community to fully realize the 2030 agenda for sustainable development at an early date;
- b. Further promote the reform of UN human rights mechanism and make the international human rights regime more just and reasonable with its own actions and by working with other countries.