



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
6 September 2021

English only

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

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.

[22 August 2021]

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



## **Realize Human Rights Through Unity and Struggle**

2021 will be a year significant for both China and other countries in the world. In July, the Communist Party of China celebrated its 100th anniversary. At the Celebration Assembly, General Secretary XI Jinping solemnly declared that a moderately prosperous society has been built on the land of China, and the problem of absolute poverty has been solved historically. Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is an important effort by China in the field of human rights, and its achievements have attracted worldwide attention. After the completion of a moderately prosperous society, China will further promote the overall development of the economy and society, and strive to build a modern and powerful socialist country in an all-round way. This also means that the establishment of a moderately prosperous society has laid a solid foundation for the full and effective protection of human rights. Analyzing the process of building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way in China from the perspective of the realization of human rights, we can summarize the following important experiences:

First, the human rights direction, path and pace of a country must adapt to its own political, economic, cultural, and social environment, and must conform to the material living conditions and ideological conditions of the society. In 1978, the number of poor people in China reached 770 million. In many areas, food and clothing are a concern and worry. By the end of 2020, the problem of absolute poverty has been completely resolved. This achievement has been affirmed by governments and human rights experts of various countries, and has been praised by the United Nations. It is conceivable that if China did not enter the policy environment of reform and opening up in the 1970s, but built in accordance with the model provided or suggested by some Western countries, the Chinese people's living standards may be difficult to enhance. China regards right to subsistence and right to development as primary human rights, and actively addresses the most urgent needs in people's lives. In the end, it succeeded in poverty alleviation, effectively built a moderately prosperous society, and firmly protected human rights. This is a testament to its success in choosing a human rights path in accordance with its own social conditions.

Second, the process of building a moderately prosperous society in China shows that in the process of human rights development, not only the specific human rights work is constantly improving, but also the awareness of human rights is constantly escalating. In the 1970s, the goal of a moderately prosperous society proposed by China was mainly a concept in the field of economic modernization. By the 1990s, after 20 years of development, China's economic construction has achieved good results. Therefore, China has further enriched the evaluation indicators of a moderately prosperous society in 2002 by observing the situation in its own country and the conditions of other countries in the world. At this time, the economy is still the foundation, but at the same time a series of requirements for political democracy, educational expansion, cultural prosperity, and a beautiful environment have been added. In this way, China's moderately prosperous society extends from the right to subsistence and development to a series of rights including political rights and civil rights, environmental rights, education rights, cultural rights, and social rights. The requirements for social construction are also more multiple-dimensional and harmonious. It is on the basis of this cognitive iteration that China's construction of a moderately prosperous society has broader goals, with stricter evaluation criteria, and clearer task assignments for all types of government staff and the public. Therefore, the establishment of a moderately prosperous society has witnessed the cognition upgrade and practical development of China's human rights cause.

Third, the success of building a moderately prosperous society in China once again proves that human rights are not a concept based on nature. It requires persistent efforts from all aspects. The realization of human rights should be regarded as a detailed and complex social project, not just a noble and ethereal concept. China's moderately prosperous society has gone through more than 40 years of construction in all aspects of society. From urban to rural areas, from the government to ordinary people, from experts, scholars, research institutions, and front-line staff, all have made arduous efforts. Some leaders have directly sacrificed their lives in poverty alleviation. The promotion of China's human rights cause is a good result of the hard and solid efforts of the staff of various departments and fields in China. Those who

expect to promote human rights in their own country for nothing are simple and naive. Those who regards criticizing other countries' human rights as tools to make their own human rights outstanding are even on the wrong way. Human rights are neither God-given, nor can they be achieved without government intervention. Without struggle, any kind of right will be difficult to realize.

Fourth, the realization of human rights depends on international cooperation. Human rights are closely linked to social progress. In the context of globalization, human rights are inseparable from the overall improvement of the international community. From the perspective of historical development, human rights are the result of social progress. Only when society has progressed to a certain level can people's self-awareness be awakened, people's value and dignity can be recognized, and they can continue to fight for rights for more people. At the same time, human rights are the cause of social progress. It is precisely because of people's pursuit of rights and their desire for a happy life that more people continue to deepen, improve and upgrade in science, technology and economy, and lay the foundation for people's good lives in all aspects. Therefore, without social progress, human rights cannot be discussed. The construction of a moderately prosperous society in China is synchronized with reform and opening up. Reform has liberated the minds of the Chinese government and the people, and liberated the productive forces of the Chinese people. The opening up to international market has provided strong support for China's economic and social development. Similarly, the establishment of a moderately prosperous society and the general promotion of China's human rights level will inevitably provide conditions for supporting the promotion of human rights in all countries in the world. Cross-border trade and investment, cultural and educational exchanges, and legal system construction are important means for the overall promotion of global human rights.

Today, the progress of human society has reached a critical period. Especially in 2021, not only the covid-19 epidemic has not been fundamentally controlled, but economic growth is still weak. According to statistics released by the United Nations, many countries have been severely hit economically due to the covid-19 epidemic, and even ten years of construction results have been directly in vain. Therefore, for many countries, how to overcome dangers and obstacles is an extremely critical issue. At present, not only people's economic, social and cultural rights are under threats, but also people's basic security, especially life, health and safety, are not effectively guaranteed. Under such circumstances, it is necessary for the international community to strengthen its unity. Through cooperation between countries and cooperation between countries and international organizations, we can use human resources more effectively, fully safeguard the basic safety and freedom of everyone, and contribute to the progress of human society. And development efforts. In the event of a crisis, human society should avoid unnecessary conflicts between countries, especially those that attack and squash each other, give full play to their own rationality, form a consensus on a community with a shared future for mankind, achieve a higher level of international coordination, and more effectively Deal with common difficulties.

Human rights should be a constructive tool for countries to continuously improve the human happiness and meet people's material and cultural needs through solidarity and cooperation. It should not be an offensive tool to attack others. Only by applying human rights in a positive and healthy manner can human rights be truly realized. It is hoped that all states in the world can better unite, cooperate, work together, and make effective contributions to the full realization of human rights for everyone.