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**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.

[6 February 2023]

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



The Practice and Experience of Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in China

Protection of the rights of persons with disabilities constitutes an important part of China's human rights cause. The practice and experience of protecting the rights of the disabled in China, including equal protection of the life, health, and development rights of the disabled; comprehensively promoting the elimination of poverty and sharing the fruits of development for the disabled; special protection of vulnerable groups such as disabled women, children, and the elderly; innovate channels to ensure persons with disabilities participate in cultural, sports and entertainment activities; promote the construction of a barrier-free environment with the framework of the rule of law to promote social inclusiveness; and actively participate in international human rights exchanges and cooperation, and contribute to the world's cause of persons with disabilities and human rights governance.

China's human rights cause has always put the people at the center, put life first, and insisted on the equal protection of life, health, and development rights of every member of society. People with disabilities are important members of the social family. China attaches great importance to the social participation of the disabled, and promotes the disabled to truly become the subjects of rights, and become participants, contributors, and beneficiaries of economic and social development. National laws and policies have enshrined the equal human dignity of persons with disabilities and recognize the diversity of their physical and mental abilities as part of the diversity of human civilization. The government and society have taken measures to implement the ideas contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to eliminate obstacles in the interaction between physical and mental impairments of persons and the external environment. In recent years, in the work of epidemic prevention and control and economic and social recovery, persons with disabilities have become beneficiaries of equal protection policies, advocates of improving relevant policies, and participants in economic and social development.

"To build a well-off society in an all-round way, there must be no one with a disability left behind." In the process of eradicating absolute poverty and building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, China has adopted a variety of positive measures to help the poor, and empower the disabled to achieve self-development, such as implementing and expanding the basic subsidy system, establish and implement the rehabilitation assistance system for disabled children, weaving a sound security network for the disabled; increasing support for rehabilitation institutions and projects to promote rehabilitation and poverty alleviation; innovating vocational education to improve the effectiveness of knowledge empowerment and tech-driven poverty alleviation; build various poverty alleviation bases to promote various forms of employment for disabled people, including proportional employment and assisted employment. These initiatives form a synergy to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in social and economic life on an equal basis with others, be self-reliant, poverty-relieved, and actively participate in the great process of achieving common prosperity.

China has taken active measures to provide special protection for vulnerable groups such as disabled women, children, and the elderly to ensure their equal enjoyment of basic rights. In 2022, the National People's Congress amended the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, emphasizing that people's governments at all levels and relevant departments should take necessary measures to strengthen the protection of the rights and interests of poor women, elderly women, disabled women and other disadvantaged women (Article 52); Disabled People's Federations and other mass organizations should actively safeguard the rights and interests of disabled women within their respective scope of work (Article 6). The Law on the Protection of Minors, revised in 2020, attaches great importance to the equal rights of disabled minors to receive education and specifically requires schools to provide care for "students with physical and mental disabilities" (Article 29). The Anti-Domestic Violence Law states that special protection should be given to minors, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant and lactating women, and seriously ill patients who experience domestic violence (Article 5). In practice, some Disabled Persons' Federations refer to this law to assist disabled persons to apply for writs of habeas corpus on their behalf, which further strengthens equal access to judicial protection for disabled persons.

The fourth "National Human Rights Action Plan" (2021-2025), "Chinese Women's Development Program (2021-2030)" and "Chinese Children's Development Program (2021-2030)" all pay special attention to the difficulties faced by disabled women and children, requiring Government departments and group organizations are particularly concerned and provide a strong guarantee with special system measures. China has included the protection of the rights and interests of people with disabilities in its overall national economic and social development plan, and has implemented 7 programs specially designed to provide assistance to people with disabilities, so as to better coordinate the protection of their rights and interests and the economic and social development of the country, and ultimately ensure their equal rights. In addition, the Chinese government has launched a special action on Internet adaptation for the elderly and barrier-free transformation, promulgating special design specifications and general norms for accessibility of buildings and municipal facilities; in the policy document, it is emphasized that public elderly care services, barrier-free and aging adaptation projects should give priority to the coverage of disability, dementia, Disabled Elderly Families.

China innovates platforms and channels to ensure that people with disabilities participate in various cultural, sports and entertainment activities. Sport is increasingly becoming an important part of a better life for people with disabilities. China has held many high-level international sports events for persons with disabilities, which has effectively promoted the development of the cause of persons with disabilities. At the 2022 Beijing Winter Paralympic Games, which closed on March 13, 2022, the Chinese sports delegation fought bravely and ranked first on the medal list, achieving the best result in the history of its participation in the Winter Paralympic Games. The Beijing Winter Paralympic Games are excellent and outstanding. It not only demonstrates the superb competitive level and self-improvement spirit of athletes with disabilities but also brings the cause of people with disabilities in the new era to a new level. Sports events such as ice and snow sports for the disabled are exciting and interesting, and the outstanding performance of the disabled in participating in those sports is inspiring. The cultural impact and other legacies of such mega-events will profoundly benefit our social inclusion. Through various cultural assistance programs, China works to ensure that people with disabilities receive barrier-free access to cultural products and services, such as films, TV dramas and theater shows. China ratified through the National People's Congress the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled in 2021 and became a party to the treaty as of May 5, 2022, committing to significantly enrich the cultural life and improve the literacy levels of people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.

China promotes the construction of a barrier-free environment and social inclusion within the framework of the rule of law. By the end of 2022, there were 11 laws, 4 administrative regulations, dozens of special policies and national standards that directly stipulated barrier-free construction. In recent years, some local legislation has accumulated affirmative experience in barrier-free construction. Currently, the Standing Committee of National People's Congress is making the Barrier-free Environment Construction Law. The draft embodies the basic principles of respecting and safeguarding human rights and promoting inclusive development in a society ruled by law. First of all, the draft expands the beneficiaries of barrier-free construction, better benefits all members of society on the basis of ensuring the disabled and the elderly, and accurately includes all the beneficiaries of accessibility in practice, proposing the new conception of "social members with barrier-free needs". Secondly, the draft puts forward higher requirements for the construction and renovation of facilities, incorporates mandatory standards for the construction of barrier-free facilities into the law, and makes detailed regulations on the maintenance and management of barrier-free facilities. Third, the draft clarifies the basic requirements for information communication and expands the scope of social service accessibility.

The protection of the rights of the disabled in China consists of a key content of China's path of modernization and continuous improvement of the legal protection of human rights, which shows the effective model and practical experience of the development of China's human rights cause. China upholds an attitude of open exchanges and multilateral cooperation, actively implements the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and participates in international and regional affairs for persons with disabilities.

All these amount to China's great efforts in participating in global human rights governance, promoting a new international governance order that is fair, just, reasonable and inclusive, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.
