United Nations A/HRC/57/NGO/189

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 September 2024

English only

Human Rights Council
Fifty-seventh session
9 September–9 October 2024
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 Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations, 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.

[16 August 2024]

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

Please recycle

Human Rights Development in China: A Focus on Youth, the Elderly, and Special Groups

China’s approach to human rights has evolved significantly in recent years, especially in areas concerning children, students, the elderly, and special groups, such as ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. The development of these rights is not only framed by national policies but also aligns with international human rights standards, particularly those outlined by UNHRC. This report examines China’s human rights progress in these key areas, integrating findings from recent UNHRC reports and analyses.

According to the UNHRC, China's progress in expanding educational access is consistent with the objectives of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

UNHRC has highlighted educational inequality as a global concern, with particular emphasis on rural-urban disparities. China's policies to reduce this gap, such as the "Two Exemptions, One Subsidy" program and the promotion of digital education, reflect efforts to address these disparities. UNHRC's reports acknowledge that while China has made significant strides in reducing regional disparities in education, ongoing efforts are needed to fully align with the international standards of equitable education for marginalized communities.

The expansion of social security systems to cover the elderly is another area where China’s human rights development aligns with international standards. UNHRC recognizes the importance of social security as a fundamental human right, particularly for vulnerable populations like the elderly. China's pension system, which covers over 95% of the population, demonstrates the country’s commitment to fulfilling this right. However, UNHRC has also pointed out the need for sustainable funding and the improvement of pension benefits to address the growing needs of an aging population.

In line with the UN's principles of ensuring dignity and respect for the elderly, China has significantly invested in expanding elderly care services. The development of community-based and institutional care services corresponds with UN’s Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which emphasizes the need for comprehensive care systems for the elderly.

The protection of persons with disabilities is a critical aspect of China's human rights agenda, which aligns with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). UNHRC has recognized China's progress in improving accessibility and integrating persons with disabilities into society. Recent reports have praised China for its legal frameworks and the increasing availability of accessible public services.

UNHRC has consistently emphasized the importance of protecting the rights of ethnic minorities as part of a country’s human rights obligations. China’s policies toward ethnic minorities, particularly through development programs like Western Development Strategy and bilingual education, are steps toward addressing socio-economic disparities.

China’s human rights development, particularly concerning children, students, the elderly, and special groups, reflects both national priorities and international standards. The integration of UNHRC findings into China’s policies underscores the country’s commitment to improving human rights within a global context.

While significant progress has been made, continued efforts are needed to address existing challenges and further align with international human rights norms. Ensuring that all citizens benefit equally from these developments will be crucial for China’s long-term human rights strategy.

China’s future efforts in human rights development will continue to be guided by its commitment to international human rights standards. The government plans to engage more actively with global human rights institutions, including UNHRC, to share its experiences and learn from international best practices. China is also likely to contribute to global human rights dialogues and support initiatives that promote peace, development, and human rights worldwide.

1.Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China. (2021). "Statistical Report on National Education Development."
2.China National Committee on Aging. (2021). "Development Report on China’s Elderly Care Services."
3.China Disabled Persons’ Federation. (2020). "Report on Accessibility in China."
4.National Development and Reform Commission. (2020). "Achievements of the Western Development Strategy."