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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 Chongqing Centre for Equal Social Development, 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.

[26 May 2025]

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



Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change: China's Solutions and Contribution

Currently, the negative impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly prominent and have become one of the severe challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. The State of the Global Climate 2024 report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) points out that signs of human-induced climate change are becoming increasingly evident in 2024, with the number of people newly displaced by extreme weather events reaching the highest level since 2008 and causing damage to homes, critical infrastructure, forests, farmland and biodiversity. The Global Report on Food Crises 2025 indicates that acute food insecurity and child malnutrition are increasing in the most vulnerable regions of the world in 2024, having worsened for the sixth consecutive year, and that climate extremes are one of the main factors contributing to food insecurity and malnutrition.

According to United Nations Secretary-General Guterres, “The climate crisis is the biggest threat to our survival as a species and is already threatening human rights around the world.” In terms of the right to subsistence, according to conservative projections by the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of deaths per year will increase by 250,000 by 2030 as a result of the impact of climate change on diseases such as malaria and coastal flooding. 2024 Report of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change shows that heat-related deaths surged among older adults in 2023, with a 167% increase since the 1990s, exacerbating existing inequities. With regard to the right to development, some developed countries have not only deliberately evaded their historical responsibilities in the governance of carbon emissions, but have also set double standards in the rules of global climate governance: while demanding that developing countries assume “equal” obligations to reduce emissions in accordance with their current “level of development”, they refuse to pay the price for the emission reductions they have made in the course of their industrialization. At the same time, it refuses to pay “historical compensation” for the excessive depletion of the Earth's ecological capacity during the industrialization process. This equitable imbalance in the right to carbon emission essentially deprives developing countries of their legitimate rights to development. The Climate and Development: An Agenda for Action research report of the World Bank Group shows that low - income countries are more vulnerable to climate risks and have higher investment needs, often exceeding 5 percent of their GDP. This means that climate change also has an indirect but profound impact on the rights to development of various countries by affecting economic growth.

As a key force driving global development, China attaches great importance to addressing climate change and human rights protection. It has always regarded the response to climate change as a common issue concerning the destiny of all mankind, profoundly aware that this is not only crucial for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation but also directly related to the future of human advancement. China has put forward innovative ideas such as “Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets” and “Sound ecological environment is the most inclusive benefits to people's wellbeing”. With green development at the core, China has fully carried out Blue Sky Protection Campaign and steadily advanced the Beautiful China Initiative, and effectively integrated ecological conservation with human rights protections. The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2022 made clear that Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature. It emphasizes that China will continue to pursue a model of sound development featuring improved production, higher living standards, and healthy ecosystems. It will continue to deepen the strategy of sustainable development and strive to achieve coordinated progress between economic and social development and environmental protection. China has formulated and implemented four action plans on human rights, which have continuously deepened the relevant measures for the protection of environmental rights and the response to climate change. The Human Rights Action Plan of China (2021-2025) even includes a separate chapter on environmental rights, highlighting the great importance attached to the protection of environmental rights.

China has vigorously strengthened legislative safeguards related to climate governance to regulate the order of climate change and human rights protection. Amendments to the Constitution China (2018) added the concept of “ecological advancement” to the preamble of the Constitution, incorporating ecological advancement into the overall national development layout, establishing the important position of ecological advancement in national development, and providing fundamental guidance for the country's work in ecological protection, climate change response, and other aspects. China has also enacted laws such as the Environmental Protection Law of China, Wetlands Conservation Law of China, Grassland Law of China, and Biosecurity Law of China to systematically strengthen environmental protection.

China's solutions and actions to address climate change have achieved remarkable success. From 2013 to 2023, China's average annual energy consumption growth rate of 3.3 percent had supported an average annual economic growth rate of 6.1 percent, the energy consumption intensity dropped by 26.1% cumulatively, making China one of the countries with the fastest reduction in energy consumption intensity in the world, and exceeding the target of reducing carbon emission intensity that it had pledged to the international community. Meanwhile, in 2024, China completed 4.446 million hectares of trees, 3.224 million hectares of grassland improvement, and 2.783 million hectares of desertified and rocky desertification land were treated. The forest coverage to over 25 percent, with total forest stock volume exceeding 20 billion cubic meters, and the annual carbon sink exceeded 1.2 billion tonnes. The area of preserved planted forests and the grassland area ranked first in the world, making China the country with the largest increase in green coverage globally. In addition, in order to implement the national strategy to actively address climate change, strengthen action initiatives on adaptation to climate change, and effectively prevent the adverse impacts and risks of climate change, the Chinese government has studied and formulated the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035.

At the same time, China advocates building a community with a shared future for mankind and a community of life for man and nature, builds a fair and rational global climate governance system for win-win results, actively carries out South-South cooperation on climate change, and builds the Green Silk Road, contributing Chinese wisdom and approach to global climate governance. From remote sensing satellites for climate monitoring in Africa to low-carbon demonstration zones in Southeast Asia and to energy-efficient lights in small island countries, China upholds the philosophy of “It is more important to show people how to fish than just giving them fish.” and through various forms of results-oriented South-South cooperation, has been doing its best to help developing countries build capacity against climate change. China has made cooperation in the field of ecological advancement a key component of the Belt and Road Initiative. Through a series of green initiatives including green infrastructure, renewable energy, eco-friendly transport, and sustainable finance, it continues to bring benefits to the people of countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the future, China will continue to actively address climate change with firm resolve and concrete actions. While achieving its own sustainable development, China will vigorously build a community with a shared future for mankind, join hands with countries around the world to jointly tackle climate change challenges, and ensure that everyone can enjoy full human rights in a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world.
