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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 Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation, 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.

[1 August 2025]

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



The Concept of 'Harmony Between Man and Nature' in Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Protection of Cultural Rights

Cultural rights are an important part of human rights, embodying the common aspiration of mankind for the value of life and the continuity of civilization. The core concept of "harmony between man and nature" in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) culture, inherited for thousands of years, provides unique wisdom for the protection of cultural rights in the contemporary era.

The TCM concept of "harmony between man and nature" emphasizes the interdependence between man and nature, and the harmonious resonance between the body and mind with heaven and earth. This is in deep harmony with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "everyone has the right to take part in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts". In China, we have established a protection system for intangible cultural heritage related to TCM, enabling traditional diagnosis and treatment techniques to benefit people of all ethnic groups through living inheritance. We have integrated the TCM concept of "health preservation in accordance with seasons" into public health services, closely combining cultural practices with the protection of the right to health. Through international exchange centers for TCM, we promote dialogue between traditional medicine and global medical science, ensuring that the cultural dignity of different civilizations is equally respected.

The essence of cultural rights lies in enabling every civilization to nourish life and inherit wisdom in its own way. China is willing to work with other countries to promote the protection of cultural rights towards a more diverse future with the inclusive spirit of "harmony between man and nature", allowing the flowers of civilizations to bloom in mutual learning.
