



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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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 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.

[21 January 2026]

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



# **Building an Inclusive Digital Future: Technology Innovation Enabling Inclusive and Equitable Development of All Human Rights**

## **1. Introduction: A Holistic Approach to Human Rights in the New Era**

Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations (ZGC-FSO), representing a diverse network of tech-oriented civil society groups from Beijing, China, appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the promotion and protection of all human rights. We believe that in the 21st century, the realization of human rights is deeply intertwined with sustainable development, technological advancement, and global cooperation. This statement outlines China's commitment to a holistic human rights framework over the past two decades, elucidates the unique role of social organizations in this ecosystem, and reflects on the contemporary relevance of human rights for every individual in our interconnected world.

## **2. China's Evolving Human Rights Endeavors and Global Contributions**

Over the last twenty years, China has pursued a people-centered development philosophy, viewing the rights to subsistence and development as primary and foundational. This approach has guided monumental achievements in economic and social rights, which form the bedrock for the enjoyment of other rights.

**Poverty Eradication as a Landmark Achievement:** Lifting nearly 800 million people out of poverty, culminating in the elimination of absolute poverty by 2021, represents one of the most significant contributions to global human rights in modern history. This feat has substantially secured the basic economic and social rights (such as the rights to food, adequate living standards, and health) for a vast population, creating conditions for the further realization of other rights.[1]

**Legal and Policy Frameworks for Comprehensive Protection:** China has consistently improved its legal system to protect rights. The inclusion of "the state respects and preserves human rights" in the Constitution (2004), the enactment and revisions of laws covering environmental protection, women's rights, labor rights, and social assistance, and the formulation of successive National Human Rights Action Plans demonstrate a systematic commitment to advancing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights in accordance with national conditions.[2]

**Contributions to Global Human Rights Governance:** Actively participating in the UN human rights mechanisms, China engages in constructive dialogues, fulfills reporting obligations, and has ratified numerous international human rights conventions. Furthermore, through the Belt and Road Initiative and South-South cooperation, China shares development experiences and provides capacity-building assistance, supporting other developing countries in their pursuit of the right to development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [3] China believes that initiatives like the Belt and Road contribute to a human rights development path that benefits all participants.[4]

## **3. The Vital Role of Social Organizations: Our Action and Vision**

As an organization rooted in Zhongguancun, China's innovation hub, we, and our member organizations operate at the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, and social good. We recognize our unique capacity to act as a bridge, an innovator, and an implementer in the promotion of human rights.

**Facilitating Public Participation and Digital Inclusion:** We organize forums, training, and awareness campaigns to educate our community—especially tech SMEs and startups—on

corporate social responsibility related to digital ethics, data privacy (a key aspect of the right to privacy), and inclusive design. We advocate for and develop assistive technologies to ensure persons with disabilities can access digital services, promoting their rights to participation and equality.

**Fostering Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights through Innovation:** Our members incubate social enterprises that leverage AI, big data, and IoT to address challenges in education (right to education), healthcare (right to health), and environmental monitoring (right to a healthy environment). We support skills training for vulnerable groups, enhancing their employability and right to work.

**Engaging in Constructive Dialogue:** We serve as a channel for conveying grassroots insights from the tech community to policymakers, contributing to the formulation of more responsive and forward-looking regulations that balance innovation with the protection of fundamental rights in the digital age.

#### **4. Human Rights in the Contemporary Era: Universal Relevance and Concrete Manifestations**

In today's world, characterized by digital transformation and global challenges, human rights are not abstract concepts but tangible realities relevant to every person.

**Digital Dimension of Rights:** The exercise of many rights now has a digital component. Freedom of expression and access to information are mediated through digital platforms. The right to privacy faces new challenges from data collection. Economic rights are linked to digital literacy and access to online marketplaces. Ensuring these rights in the digital sphere is a contemporary imperative.

**Interdependence and Inclusivity:** Climate change underscores the interdependence of the right to a healthy environment with all other rights. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the centrality of the right to health and the principle of non-discrimination. These global issues prove that human rights protections cannot be isolated; they require inclusive, multilateral solutions that leave no one behind.

**Empowerment and Daily Meaning:** For the individual, human rights mean empowerment and dignity. It means a child can access quality education online, a worker is protected by fair labor standards in a gig-economy platform, a citizen can participate in public affairs through e-governance, and a community can preserve its cultural heritage using digital tools. It means living a life free from want and fear, with the opportunity to thrive.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The promotion of all human rights is a shared global journey. China's path, focusing on ensuring basic needs and fostering development, has provided a foundation for its people. Social organizations like ours are crucial partners in translating legal frameworks and policies into lived experiences, particularly by harnessing technology for good. In this era, safeguarding human rights means building a future where technological progress serves humanity inclusively, where global solidarity addresses shared threats, and where every individual, everywhere, can enjoy the full spectrum of dignity and rights. We stand ready to contribute to this collective endeavor.

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[1]: The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China. "Poverty Alleviation: China's Experience and Contribution." April 2021. <http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/32832/Document/1701691/1701691.htm>

[2]: The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China. "Progress in China's Human Rights in 2012-2015." June

2016. <http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/32832/Document/1481618/1481618.htm> ; Information Office of the State Council. "China's Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020)." September 2016.

[3]: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. "China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2021)." [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/W020230414334494118467.pdf](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/W020230414334494118467.pdf)

[4]: Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland. "Belt and Road Initiative Promotes Human Rights Development." March 2023. [http://geneva.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/humanrights/202303/t20230323\\_11044203.htm](http://geneva.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/humanrights/202303/t20230323_11044203.htm)