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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 Foundation for Human Rights 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.

[27 January 2026]

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



## **China's Achievements and Progress in Safeguarding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Respecting and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities is a crucial measure of a nation's level of civilization, social inclusivity, and modernization. In recent years, China has adhered to a people-centered development philosophy, integrating the development of disability-related undertakings into the national development strategy and the overall framework for human rights protection. It has made efforts across multiple dimensions, including institutional construction, legal regulation, and technological empowerment. China has achieved significant progress in promoting the equal participation of persons with disabilities in social governance, building a legal protection system, and leveraging technology to foster inclusion. A more equitable and inclusive society is rapidly taking shape.

### **1. Expanding Channels for Participation: A Fundamental Shift in Social Roles**

Through the establishment of institutional safeguards and diverse participation channels, persons with disabilities in China are transitioning from being “passive recipients of assistance” in the past to becoming proactive “contributors to social development” and “advocates for rights”. This marks a fundamental shift in social roles, significantly enhancing their sense of social integration and ownership.

At the level of political participation, the proportion and capacity of representatives and committee members with disabilities in the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at all levels are continuously increasing. For instance, Lv Shiming, a deputy to the 13th and 14th NPC, has actively promoted the transition of accessible environment construction from conceptual advocacy to legally binding requirements, participating throughout the drafting process of the Law of China (PRC) on Building Accessible Environments. The work of Lv Shiming and others fully demonstrates the significant role played by representatives with disabilities in the country's political life, ensuring that the special needs of this group are fully considered during legislation and decision-making, and embodying the concrete implementation of whole-process people's democracy in the field of disability-related undertakings. This institutional design guarantees that persons with disabilities not only have the right to vote but also the right to participate in decision-making and the management of state affairs.

The China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and its local organizations play a key role in promoting the social participation of persons with disabilities. As a mass organization connecting and serving persons with disabilities, the CDPF acts as a vital bridge between the government and the community. Zhang Haidi, former Chairperson of the CDPF, has long been committed to advancing various causes for persons with disabilities, including rehabilitation, education, and employment. Actively promoted by her, China's first specialized institution of higher learning dedicated to cultivating rehabilitation professionals—the University of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences—was completed and put into use in 2024. The establishment of this university fills a gap in China's training of rehabilitation professionals, providing crucial talent support for improving the quality of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and advancing the Healthy China initiative.

### **2. Strengthening the Legal Foundation: Building a Solid Framework for Human Rights Protection**

The realization of rights relies on a robust and stable legal guarantee. China has established a legal framework for the rights of persons with disabilities, with the Constitution of China at its core, the Law of the PRC on the Protection of with Disabled Persons as its foundation, and specialized laws such as the Law of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on Building Accessible Environments as key pillars. This framework fully aligns with the principles of

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, providing a solid legal foundation for the development of disability-related undertakings.

The Constitution of China clearly stipulates: “The state and society shall assist arrangements for the work, livelihood and education of citizens who are blind, deaf, mute or have other disabilities.” This programmatic clause establishes the fundamental responsibility of the state in safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities and serves as the supreme legal source for all subordinate laws and specific policies. Guided by this constitutional principle, China’s legal framework for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities continues to improve.

On September 1, 2023, the Law of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on Building Accessible Environments officially came into effect. This is the first specialized law enacted in China for the construction of accessible environments. It not only covers the construction of physically accessible environments but also incorporates information accessibility and service accessibility within its scope, reflecting the progressive legislative philosophy of the times. Following the enactment of this law, Chongqing seized the opportunity to launch the “Accessible Mountain City” public welfare project. In May 2024, the “Accessible Friendly Map” application was launched, providing detailed information on public transportation, accessible pathways, elevators, restrooms, and other facilities. Residents can also participate in the construction of accessible environments by reviewing and rating locations, fostering a collaborative mechanism led by the government with social participation and shared benefits.

In terms of judicial protection, judicial authorities at all levels actively fulfill their responsibilities. The Supreme People’s Court regularly releases typical cases related to the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities to guide judicial practice. For example, the Intermediate People’s Court of Qingdao, Shandong Province, in collaboration with the local Disabled Persons’ Federation, innovated a “1+N” mediation mechanism. This mechanism involves mediators, public-interest lawyers, sign language interpreters, and other stakeholders to efficiently resolve disputes, fully safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of persons with disabilities in areas such as equal employment and expression of appeals. After a case is concluded, the Disabled Persons’ Federation continues to provide follow-up assistance to the disabled parties involved, ensuring that the resolution extends beyond the case itself and that care remains ongoing. This approach not only upholds individual rights through the rigor of the judiciary but also conveys social warmth through humanistic care.

### **3. Technological Empowerment: Bridging the “Last Mile” for Rights Realization**

The rapid advancement of technology offers unprecedented solutions to the many barriers faced by persons with disabilities. China has incorporated the development of disability-assistive technology and innovation into the overall plan for building a strong nation in science and technology. Technological innovation has opened new pathways for persons with disabilities to integrate into society, transforming rights on paper into tangible conveniences in daily life.

In the field of information accessibility, China has vigorously carried out special campaigns to make internet applications accessible. By the end of 2024, more than 3,000 websites and mobile applications had undergone accessibility modifications. The widespread adoption of features such as voice recognition and text conversion has enabled persons with disabilities to enjoy the conveniences of digital services. More television programs are now equipped with subtitles and sign language interpretation, and intelligent public transportation service systems are being further promoted. Technology continues to enhance the accessibility experience.

The flourishing development of the internet economy has opened up diversified and inclusive new pathways for the employment of persons with disabilities. Taking the food delivery industry as an example, some platforms have actively optimized their systems by introducing accessibility features such as “one-click call” and “electronic communication cards”. These features effectively break down communication barriers between delivery riders with hearing impairments and customers or merchants, creating a more equitable employment

environment. Meanwhile, the robust growth of e-commerce has significantly lowered the barriers to entrepreneurship and work, enabling many persons with mobility limitations to overcome physical constraints, achieve economic self-reliance through online platforms, and better realize their personal and social value.

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