



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 February 2026

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixty-first session

23 February–2 April 2026

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 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 January 2026]

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



China's Practice of Promoting the Realization of the Right to Food through Food Security Governance

Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights explicitly requires States Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure that everyone has access to adequate, safe and nutritious food. Therefore, food security is directly linked to the availability, accessibility, stability and sustainability of food, which constitutes a key institutional foundation for the realization of the right to food. Against this background, food security has been incorporated by China as an integral component of its national development and security strategy. Through continuous institutional and regulatory efforts in areas including legal frameworks, grain production, circulation systems and quality assurance, China has steadily strengthened food security governance. These efforts provide solid institutional support for safeguarding the right to food of the population, while also offering practical experience that contributes to global food security governance.

I. Strengthening the Institutional Foundation for the Right to Food through the Rule of Law

On 1 June 2024, China formally put into effect the Food Security Law of China, marking the first time that food security governance has been comprehensively regulated through foundational legislation. The Law establishes systematic rules across key areas including the protection of cultivated land, grain production, circulation and market supervision, food quality and safety, emergency response mechanisms, and market regulation. It clarifies the division of responsibilities between central and local governments, improves regulatory mechanisms and remedies, and provides a more stable and predictable legal framework for the realization of the right to food. The implementation of this Law has helped bring food security governance onto an institutionalized and standardized track, enhancing the stability and resilience of China's food supply system against potential risks.

Following the entry into force of the Law, China has accelerated the development of supporting institutional arrangements. Since 2025, in accordance with the principles established by the Law, legislative research on specialized areas such as cultivated land protection has been launched, with the aim of strengthening the legal rigidity of the policy of "storing grain in land." Core mechanisms established under the Law, including the food security responsibility system and coordinated reserve arrangements between government and enterprises, have been fully activated and operationalized through national policies. At the same time, the Law operates in close coordination with related legislation, including the Rural Revitalization Promotion Law of China, forming a comprehensive rule-of-law framework covering the entire food supply chain. Through administrative interpretations and guiding cases, food security governance is being implemented in a coordinated manner within the legal system, laying a solid foundation for ensuring that the population can continuously access sufficient and safe food.

II. Enhancing the Accessibility and Stability of Food Supply

The stable and sufficient food supply constitutes the material foundation for the realization of the right to food. In recent years, China has consistently prioritized the enhancement of overall grain production capacity as a strategic and security-oriented policy objective. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's annual grain output has remained steadily above 1.3 trillion jin (approximately 650 million tonnes). In 2024, total grain production exceeded 1.4 trillion jin (approximately 700 million tonnes) for the first time. Per capita grain availability reached 500 kilograms, surpassing the internationally recognized food security threshold of 400 kilograms. As a result, China has achieved basic self-sufficiency in cereals and high-degree of security in staple foods.

At the institutional level, China has strictly implemented cultivated land protection policies and advanced the construction of high-standard farmland. By the end of 2025, the total area of high-standard farmland is expected to exceed one billion mu, providing a solid foundation

for the policy of “storing grain in land.” China has also continued to strengthen agricultural scientific and technological innovation and the application of mechanization, thereby improving production efficiency and resilience against risks. More than 95 per cent of crop varieties now rely on domestically developed seeds, while the overall rate of agricultural mechanization has exceeded 74 per cent, demonstrating the effectiveness of the policy of “storing grain in technology.” In addition, China has developed an agricultural socialized service system, with more than 1.11 million service organizations nationwide introducing modern production factors into smallholder farming. Together, these measures have strengthened the resilience of China’s food system in responding to natural disasters and market fluctuations, and have enhanced the stability and sustainability of food supply.

III. Ensuring Food Safety and Accessibility

Building on the safeguarding of grain production capacity, China has continued to strengthen institutional frameworks for grain circulation, reserves, and quality supervision, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of the food system. The Food Security Law of China requires the regulation of grain circulation order and the strengthening of market supervision, quality inspection, and emergency grain allocation systems, making food supply chains more resilient and transparent. In recent years, national grain procurement volumes have remained at a relatively high level, playing an effective role in stabilizing market supply and mitigating fluctuations in supply and demand. At the same time, the construction of high-standard grain storage facilities has progressed steadily. Nationwide, the sound storage capacity of standard warehouses has exceeded 730 million tons, significantly strengthening reserve capacity and providing solid support for responding to emergencies and ensuring grain supply at critical moments.

Meanwhile, China has also continued to advance the development of its grain reserve system and quality supervision capacity. Regulatory systems are being upgraded through digital and intelligent technologies. By improving storage facilities, strengthening quality inspection, and promoting information-based supervision tools, China has developed a “penetrative supervision” model that combines human oversight with technological safeguards, enhancing the transparency and effectiveness of grain reserve management. Grain quality supervision now covers the entire supply chain, including production, transportation, storage, processing, and sales. Key technologies have been promoted, such as intelligent sampling and inspection systems for grain procurement and monitoring and early-warning systems for fungal toxins in grain. These measures jointly support the core requirements of the right to food relating to safety and acceptability, through both institutional arrangements and technological means, and help ensure that residents have access to safe and healthy food. These measures also contribute to stabilizing market supply and prices, thereby enhancing the physical and economic accessibility of food.

IV. Promoting Fairness and Sustainability in the Protection of the Right to Food

China’s food security governance emphasizes coordinated participation by government, market actors, and society as a whole, thereby providing a broader social foundation and stronger implementation capacity for the protection of the right to food. The Food Security Law of China establishes a food security responsibility mechanism and requires the improvement of input mechanisms and benefit-compensation mechanisms for major grain-producing areas. Through fiscal, financial, and related policy tools, the Law mobilizes the initiative of local governments, producers, and market actors. In the course of policy implementation, the government has used necessary macroeconomic regulation measures to stabilize prices of grain and important agricultural products. In the first half of 2025, prices of “vegetable basket” products—including meat, eggs, milk, fruits, vegetables, and aquatic products—remained generally stable at the national level, with sufficient supply of key items such as vegetables and pork. These measures helped mitigate the potential adverse impact of market fluctuations on low-income and vulnerable groups. At the same time, China has incorporated grain industry development into rural revitalization planning, strengthening

support for major grain-producing regions and agricultural producers, and enhancing the sustainability of agricultural production. In the first half of 2025, the per capita disposable income of rural residents increased by 6.2 per cent in real terms after deducting price factors, a growth rate higher than that of urban residents. This has helped increase the income of agricultural producers and has contributed to a fairer process for the realization of the right to food.

V. Participating in Global Food Security Governance through International Cooperation

Building on its domestic governance experience, China actively participates in food security cooperation under multilateral and South–South cooperation frameworks, and engages in policy dialogue, technical exchange, and capacity-building cooperation with international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As a core contributor to FAO–China cooperation programmes, China has provided a cumulative contribution of USD 130 million, supporting agricultural cooperation projects in 36 countries and benefiting over one million farmers directly or indirectly. At the regional and bilateral levels, China has implemented nearly one hundred small-scale and targeted agricultural assistance projects in more than 30 African countries through South–South cooperation platforms. In addition, through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training Demonstration Base, China has established 11 overseas agricultural science and technology demonstration parks, promoting practical cooperation and capacity development among SCO member States. Overall, China’s international engagement is evolving from food assistance toward technology empowerment and system-building. These efforts are closely aligned with the domestic governance experience reflected in the Food Security Law of China, and offer constructive experience for global food security governance.
