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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.

[20 May 2026]

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



China's Climate Adaptation Strategy, Norms, Practices, and Distinctive Features

China maintains a balanced approach to both adaptation and mitigation in addressing the issue of climate change. China has submitted new and revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in advance of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which explicitly set its climate adaptation goal for the first time, aiming to establish a climate-resilient society by 2035.

In recent years, China has accelerated top-level design and rule-making in climate adaptation, explored nature-based adaptation practices, and achieved positive outcomes in confidence-building, capacity development, and practical effectiveness. This not only advances China's domestic climate adaptation actions and goals but also enriches international best practices and experiences in climate adaptation.

I. Guided by the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 As The Top-Level Design

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035, published in 2022, constitutes China's overarching framework for climate adaptation. It establishes adaptation goals, key performance indicators, and implementation pathways, providing strategic guidance for adaptation efforts across all sectors and regions in China.

This strategy constitutes a concrete measure and embodiment of China's implementation of the Paris Agreement and resolutions adopted by COPs. Based on this strategy, China aims to establish a climate-resilient society by 2035, significantly enhancing the nation's adaptive capacity, safeguarding people's lives and property, and advancing ecological civilization alongside high-quality economic development. China issued the Technical Guidelines for Climate Change Impact and Risk Assessment (Trial) in April 2025, providing further concrete guidance for conducting climate change impact and risk assessments.

At the international level, China co-initiated the establishment of the Global Commission on Adaptation with relevant countries and designated up its first regional office, the China Office, with the objective of proactively fostering the global partnership for climate change adaptation. In response to the UN Secretary-General's "Early Warning for All" initiative, China has unveiled the China Action Plan for Early Warning to Promote Climate Change Adaptation and initiated the Early Warning Flagship Project. Within the context of South-South cooperation, China provides material and capacity-building support to other developing countries, facilitating their adaptation to climate change.

The release of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 has accelerated the advancement of China's policies and the implementation of actions in the field of climate adaptation. Currently, China is focusing on improving its adaptation work system, building a comprehensive workflow that encompasses climate observation and forecasting, impact and risk assessment, integrated adaptation actions, and effectiveness evaluation and feedback. This will further enhance China's overall capacity for climate change adaptation.

II. Focusing On Provincial Adaptation Action Plans And Their Implementation

Climate adaptation actions often exhibit localized characteristics, as each region faces distinct adverse impacts and risks from climate change due to variations in geographical and geological conditions, ecological environments, and economic development levels. A key approach to advancing climate adaptation in China involves provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government (hereafter referred to as provinces) formulating their own provincial climate change adaptation action plans tailored to local conditions.

National-level leadership and guidance play a crucial role in facilitating the expeditious and effective execution of provincial plans through a top-down implementation strategy. The development of provincial climate change adaptation action plans that integrate regional risks, strengths, and characteristics, coupled with ensuring their effective implementation, is central to climate adaptation efforts. As of October 2025, 31 provincial-level administrative divisions have released their climate change adaptation action plans.

These provincial plans, tailored to local conditions, are grounded in the characteristics, current status, trends, impacts, and risks of climate change within each region. The primary objectives, key tasks and supporting measures for local adaptation actions have been clearly defined, embodying local wisdom. This approach is designed to strengthen capacity building for local adaptation, reduce vulnerability, and enhance climate resilience.

A comparison of the provincial plans of Beijing, Guangdong and Zhejiang shows that the focus of these plans is on the introduction of innovative approaches such as digital governance. However, a key distinguishing feature is the prioritisation of transforming urban infrastructure, key sectors and industries, and ecological restoration. For instance, Beijing's plan is pioneering in including "underground climate resilience" in its indicator system and in establishing a hazard investigation database. Zhejiang's strategy integrates urban and rural infrastructure development with nature-based solutions. Guangdong's strategy emphasises "continuously enhancing the climate resilience of natural ecosystems and socio-economic systems" while developing climate-adaptive cultural tourism.

III. Leading by Example Through Pilot Cities and Industries

China's current approach focuses on provincial climate adaptation plans and their implementation guidelines, while also leveraging pilot projects in key cities and industries to demonstrate and promote effective adaptation practices. In 2024, 39 Chinese cities were selected as pilot sites for advancing climate-resilient urban development. Take Tongchuan, for example. This city in Shaanxi Province is a resource-depleted city situated at the transition zone between the Guanzhong Basin and the Loess Plateau, with the fragile ecosystem. The city is exposed to a number of key climate risks, including flooding, drought and low-temperature frost. Its key advantage is its cool average summer temperatures (20–27°C), which make it suitable for developing health and wellness, cultural, and tourism industries. Tongchuan has established a new pathway for climate-resilient city development, centring on the principles of "monitoring first, risk management, resource revitalization". This initiative involves the establishment of four automated greenhouse gas monitoring stations and the construction of an integrated three-dimensional monitoring network, combining aerial, satellite, and ground-based systems. This has had a significant impact on the city's developmental transformation.

In industrial pilot initiatives, the incentive role of market-based and fiscal instruments is emphasized. Multiple provincial-level plans explicitly state that existing fiscal and tax policies—such as ultra-long-term special treasury bonds, green bonds, climate finance, and catastrophe insurance—should be fully leveraged to encourage participation from diverse social capital sources, thereby providing effective financial support for climate adaptation efforts.

IV. Conclusion

The construction of a climate-resilient society is a vital component of upholding a people-centered approach. In order to advance climate adaptation efforts, China has established a top-down, integrated model characterized by administrative promotion and policy guidance. The overarching design of this framework features the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, with precise provincial adaptation plans and practices serving as the core, supplemented by progressive exploratory market-based mechanisms. This approach helps to maintain the flexibility and dynamic evolution of adaptation actions while enhancing certainty and guidance. It contributes to effectively reducing economic losses and health impacts caused by climate risks, thereby more effectively safeguarding human rights.