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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 United Nations Association of China, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 August 2026]

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



Contributions of China's Global Initiatives to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The global human rights landscape is currently confronted with profound and complex challenges. Persistent poverty, frequent regional conflicts, rising cultural prejudice, flawed global governance, and widening development divides have severely hindered the full realization of human rights for all. Against this backdrop, China has successively put forward the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and the Global Governance Initiative (GGI). Rooted in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the core spirit of international human rights instruments, these four interconnected and mutually reinforcing initiatives provide systematic solutions to global human rights deficits. They have delivered tangible progress in promoting and protecting human rights and advanced the reform of global human rights governance with concrete actions and inclusive multilateral cooperation.

The Global Development Initiative serves as a fundamental guarantee for the realization of human rights, anchoring the core proposition that development is the primary human right. Poverty and underdevelopment remain the biggest obstacle to enjoying human rights worldwide. Since its launch in 2021, the GDI has been committed to accelerating the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, prioritizing people-centered development, and advancing inclusive, balanced and green growth. China has established the GDI Project Pool covering poverty alleviation, food security, public health, education, digital connectivity and livelihood improvement, launching over 1,800 practical cooperation projects across developing regions. These targeted projects directly address grassroots livelihood challenges, effectively safeguarding the rights to subsistence and development, which are the foundational human rights for vulnerable groups and developing countries.

Globally, China's decades-long poverty alleviation practice has lifted over 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for more than 70 percent of global poverty reduction achievements, and fulfilled the poverty eradication target of the 2030 Agenda ten years in advance. The Group of Friends of the GDI, comprising over 130 countries and international organizations, has become an important multilateral platform for advancing development-based human rights protection. Multiple UN agencies have conducted in-depth cooperation under the GDI framework, effectively bridging the development financing gap and advancing South-South cooperation in human rights empowerment. By prioritizing the right to development, the GDI corrects the long-standing biased tendency in global human rights governance that overemphasizes political rights while neglecting economic, social and cultural rights, promoting a holistic and balanced view of human rights.

The Global Security Initiative underpins the premise of peaceful human rights realization, adhering to the philosophy that security safeguards human rights. No human rights can be truly guaranteed amid turmoil, conflict and instability. Proposed in 2022, the GSI advocates common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, opposes bloc confrontation, zero-sum games and unilateral sanctions that severely infringe upon people's legitimate rights. It calls for resolving international disputes through dialogue and consultation, advancing preventive diplomacy, and addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats including terrorism, public health crises and climate security risks.

To date, the core concepts of the GSI have been incorporated into more than 140 bilateral and multilateral documents, winning wide recognition from Global South countries. By promoting regional peace and stability, the GSI eliminates external threats to people's lives, property and dignified existence. It responds to the urgent human rights demands of conflict-affected regions, protects vulnerable groups from humanitarian disasters, and safeguards the basic human rights of survival and development for people of all countries. In contrast to certain geopolitical practices that politicize human rights and create division, the GSI builds a secure and stable international environment for the comprehensive realization of human rights through collective security and win-win cooperation.

The Global Civilization Initiative provides inclusive value support for global human rights governance, advocating equality, exchange and mutual learning among all civilizations. Proposed in 2023, the GCI firmly rejects the fallacy of “clash of civilizations” and cultural superiority, opposes the politicization of civilization issues and human rights double standards. It emphasizes that all civilizations are equal, diverse and inclusive, and that human rights concepts and practices must adapt to different national conditions, historical and cultural traditions, and developmental stages.

Human rights are not exclusive patents of individual civilizations, nor should they be defined by a single standard. The GCI promotes dialogue and mutual learning on human rights concepts among different civilizations, respects diverse paths of human rights development, and eliminates cultural barriers and ideological prejudice in global human rights cooperation. China has carried out extensive cross-civilization exchanges, youth dialogue and cultural heritage protection cooperation with countries worldwide, fostering a harmonious international atmosphere for human rights advancement. It effectively counters discriminatory practices such as cultural hegemony and human rights exceptionalism, ensuring that global human rights governance is more inclusive, representative and respectful of diversity.

The Global Governance Initiative offers institutional solutions to improve global human rights governance, aiming to build a fair, just, inclusive and effective global governance system. Launched in 2025, the GGI responds to widespread demands from developing countries for reforming flawed global governance mechanisms. It upholds the principles of sovereign equality, international rule of law, true multilateralism and people-centered governance, and strongly opposes interference in other countries’ internal affairs under the pretext of human rights.

The initiative promotes the reform of human rights governance institutions to enhance the representation and voice of Global South countries, rectifying the unbalanced pattern of global human rights governance. Over 150 countries and international organizations have endorsed the GGI, and relevant friend groups have been established at UN headquarters. It guides global human rights work to shift from empty rhetoric to practical action, prioritizes the resolution of substantive human rights challenges faced by developing countries, and promotes the unified and equal application of international human rights norms. China’s resolution on “the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights” adopted at the Human Rights Council has further institutionalized the development-oriented human rights philosophy driven by the GGI framework.

In synergy, the four global initiatives form an integrated system for advancing global human rights causes: development consolidates the material foundation of human rights, security guarantees the basic premise of human rights, civilization provides inclusive value consensus for human rights cooperation, and governance optimizes the institutional framework for human rights realization. Adhering to the people-centered concept of human rights, China always advocates promoting human rights through development, safeguarding human rights through security, advancing human rights through cooperation, and enriching human rights practices through cultural diversity.

China has ratified 29 core international human rights instruments, actively participates in UN human rights mechanisms, and has made constructive contributions to formulating key human rights documents. The United Nations Association of China believes that China will continue to advance the implementation of the four global initiatives, uphold true multilateralism, deepen human rights exchanges and cooperation with all parties, firmly oppose human rights politicization and double standards, and work with the international community to build a global human rights governance system that is more just, equitable, inclusive and beneficial to all, so as to realize the common goal of human rights for everyone.