

**CIVIL ASSOCIATION  
"GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT"  
(CIGD)**

**"Voluntary contribution to the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review  
of the People's Republic of China, for the 31st Session of the Working Group  
on the Universal Periodic Review".**

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## **Who we are:**

1. We are a Civil Association formally registered on June 19, 2017, with the aim of carrying out research, proposals and activities focused on sustainable development such as:
  - Training, divulgation, research and implementation of activities on global issues related to development, as well as the identification of good practices of countries and other global actors.
  - The promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil, political and environmental rights, with a human rights approach, aimed at public and private institutions or organizations.
  - The development and implementation among the different actors of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

## **The People's Republic of China and progress on human rights**

2. The Government of the People's Republic of China during the period 2013-2018 has continued its efforts to implement and guarantee human rights for the Chinese population. Chapters I and II of the Constitution of the People's Republic contain the general principles and fundamental rights and duties of citizens respectively, the priorities of the Chinese State in the right to education, culture and communication, social security, health, environment, work, gender equality and the inviolability of human dignity.
3. Based on the fundamental norm, the Chinese government has adopted, implemented and enforced the constitutional mandates, the adoption of international conventions on human rights and has developed State Action Plans on Human Rights for the periods 2009-2010, 2012-2015 and is currently implementing the 2016-2020 Plan.
4. The current State Human Rights Action Plan, guided by the general principles of human rights and based on real Chinese conditions, includes among its goals: (a) To guarantee economic, social and cultural rights generally; (b) To protect civil and political rights in accordance with the law; (c) To fully guarantee the rights of specific groups; (d) To promote in-depth human rights education; and (e) To participate actively in international human rights work.
5. In order to achieve these goals, the Chinese government has proposed the need to combine the cause of human rights with the construction of the economy, politics, culture, since development is the key to solving human rights problems.
6. In this regard, the XIII Economic and Social Development Plan of the People's Republic of China (2016-2020) is articulated and in line with the State Plan of Action on Human Rights (2016-2020). Its priorities are focused on the right to development, which is an inalienable human right.

7. One of the objectives of both five-year plans is the importance of more sustainable, balanced and ecological development, which is integrated with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
8. In 2016, the Chinese government adopted the National Plan to implement the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development -integrated with the aforementioned plans- and developed several concrete initiatives to implement the 2030 Agenda, such as: "Innovation-driven Development", "Healthy China 2030" and "Biodiversity Conservation Strategy".
9. The National Plan for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among the 9 priority areas, highlights the following issues directly associated with Human Rights:
  - Eradicate poverty and hunger through specific measures to alleviate and eliminate poverty, and improve agricultural production capacity and food security.
  - Implement development strategies driven by innovation and generate momentum for sustainability, healthy and stable economic growth.
  - Advancing industrialization to promote coordinated urban-rural and rural-urban development and among the three dimensions of sustainable development.
  - Improve social security and social services to ensure equal access to basic public services.
  - To safeguard equity and social justice in order to improve the well-being of people and promote all human beings development.
  - Protect the environment and build protective barriers for ecological safety.
  - Actively address climate change and integrate climate change responses into development strategies.
10. Likewise, the Council of State between 2017-2018 has approved that the cities of Shenzhen, Taiyuan and Guilin build experimental innovation zones to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and seek solutions for sustainable growth.
11. In order to promote Chinese development, with win-win benefits for the rest of the nations, it has promoted the China Silk Road initiative (proposed in 2013) and the Sustainable Development Goals through the National Plan, which aim to improve the connection between countries and regions through infrastructure, trade, finance and policies; the implementation of the concept of building a community of shared future for humanity.
12. In the same context, within the framework of the process of integrating the Development Plan, the State Plan of Action on Human Rights and the National Plan to implement the SDGs, the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic report of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was presented to the United Nations in April 2017, fulfilling one of the goals of the State Plan.

## Recommendations

13. Continue efforts to submit national reports (pending) to the United Nations treaty bodies in order to comply with the international conventions on human rights and to highlight the progress, challenges and opportunities in this area.

14. Strengthen actions to maintain the links between the Strip and Route initiative and the Sustainable Development Goals, as the 17 objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda can guide China's policies and actions.

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To date, the Government of the People's Republic of China has adopted 6 key international conventions out of a total of 9: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (only signed), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>11</sup> Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development.