



Introductory Remarks

By

**H.E. Ambassador CHEN Xu**

Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China

At the Review of

The Third Periodic Report of China

On the Implementation of the International Covenant

On Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

15 February 2023, Geneva

# 中国代表团团长陈旭大使在中国参加《经济、社会及文化权利国际公约》履约审议上的介绍性发言

(2023年2月15日)

主席先生，  
各位专家，  
女士们，先生们：

非常荣幸代表中国政府就执行《经济、社会及文化权利国际公约》第三次履约报告作介绍性发言。中国政府派出了由中央政府、香港特区政府和澳门特区政府组成的高级别代表团。中央政府代表团来自最高人民法院、国务院新闻办公室、统战部、教育部、国家民委、公安部、民政部、人力资源和社会保障部、文化和旅游部、国家卫生健康委、国家宗教局、国家疾控局、国务院妇女儿童工作委员会办公室等涉及经济、社会、文化领域的主要负责部门。

主席先生，各位专家，

为做好提交第三次履约报告相关工作，中国外交部会同30多家立法、司法、行政部门组成报告撰写跨部门工作组，认真完成了第三次履约报告的撰写工作，并于2019年12月按期提交。该报告全面反映了自上轮审议以来中国促进和保护经社文权利的政策、实践和成就，详细介绍了执行《公约》

有关条款和落实上轮审议结论性意见的最新情况和进展。2022年3月，中国政府还根据委员会初审问题单按期提交了详实的补充答复材料。同时，协调香港特区和澳门特区分别撰写并提交了各自的履约报告和答复材料。

中国政府高度重视非政府组织参与，履约报告撰写过程中，各部门起草主管领域材料时，分别征询了本领域非政府组织和学术研究机构意见。外交部在汇总各部门的材料后，又多次征询了20多家具有代表性的非政府组织和学术研究机构意见，并通过外交部网站广泛征求公众意见。这些都充分体现了中国政府在履约问题上开放透明、认真负责的态度。

主席先生、各位专家，

自上次履约审议以来，中国坚定不移走中国人权发展道路，推动中国人权事业取得历史性成就，中国人民的经社文权利保障水平迈上新台阶。

**第一，持续完善促进和保护经社文权利的总体规划。**上次审议以来，中国制定颁布了《民法典》、《反家庭暴力法》等新法律，修改了《人口与计划生育法》、《教育法》，废止了劳动教养等规定。中国围绕农村扶贫开发、“健康中国”、教育改革、社会保障、生态环境保护、民族地区发展、妇女儿童发展、老龄事业、残疾人事业等几十个涉及经社文权利的具体领域制定了政策文件，连续发布两期《国家人权行动计划》并认真开展落实和评估工作。这些都为中国促进和保护经社文权利提供了重要法律和政策框架。

**第二，坚持将生存权和发展权作为首要基本人权。**过去

十年，中国经济实力实现历史性跃升，国内生产总值从 54 万亿元增加到 121 万亿元，稳居世界第二位，对世界经济增长贡献率达到 36% 左右。人均 GDP 按平均汇率折算连续两年保持在 1.2 万美元以上。中国如期打赢人类历史上最大规模的脱贫攻坚战，现行标准下 9899 万农村贫困人口全部脱贫，提前 10 年实现联合国 2030 年可持续发展议程减贫目标，对全球减贫贡献率超过 70%。粮食生产实现“十九连丰”，产量连续八年稳定在 1.3 万亿斤以上。

**第三，深入贯彻以人民为中心的发展思想，坚持在发展中保障和改善民生。**中国深入实施就业优先战略，过去十年，城镇就业人员总数从 3.7 亿增长到 4.8 亿，年均新增超过 1300 万人，目前城镇调查失业率 5.6%，克服疫情冲击和经济下行压力，在 14 亿多人口的大国实现了比较充分的就业。上次审议以来，中国建设各类保障性住房和棚户区改造安置住房 5900 多万套，改造农村危房 2400 多万户，城乡居民住房条件明显改善。中国建成世界上规模最大的社会保障体系，过去十年，基本养老保险参保人数从 7.9 亿人增加到 10.4 亿人，失业保险参保人数从 1.5 亿人增加到 2.3 亿人，工伤保险人数从 1.9 亿人增加到 2.9 亿人。

**第四，健康权得到更加充分保障。**中国全面推进健康中国建设，把“以治病为中心”转变为“以人民健康为中心”。过去十年，中国人均预期寿命从 74.8 岁增长到 78.2 岁，主要健康指标居于中高收入国家前列。中国建成了世界上最大的全民基本医疗保障网，基本医疗保险参保人数超过 13.6 亿人，参保覆盖面稳定在 95% 以上。中国政府不断加大基层特别是偏远地区医疗资源的投入，90% 的城乡家庭 15 分钟内

能够达到最近的医疗点。新冠疫情发生以来，中国政府始终坚持人民至上、生命至上，中国的重症率和死亡率至今保持在全球最低水平。前阶段，随着疫情形势变化、疫苗接种普及和防控经验积累，中国对防控措施进行了优化调整，短期内出现了一定感染冲击，目前已进入收尾阶段。

**第五，坚持绿水青山就是金山银山，生态环境显著改善。**过去十年，中国地级以上城市颗粒物（PM2.5）平均浓度下降了34.8%。全国单位国内生产总值二氧化碳排放下降34.4%，煤炭在能源消费中的占比从68.5%下降到56%。中国宣布二氧化碳排放力争于2030年前达到峰值，努力争取2060年前实现碳中和，宣布不再新建境外煤电项目，绿色越来越成为中国高质量发展的底色。

**第六，积极保障教育权和文化权。**教育普及水平实现历史性跨越，城乡免费义务教育全面实现，进入高等教育普及化阶段。现代公共文化服务体系日趋完善。过去十年，中国文化产业增加值从约1.8万亿元增长到约4.5万亿元，年均增速12.1%，文化领域市场主体从3.6万家增长到6.5万家。全国图书馆、文化馆数量从十年前的6300个左右增长到约9.5万个。中国现有群众文化团队超过45万个，比十年前增加50%。过去十年间，累计提供给受众的公共文化数字资源总量达3844TB。

**第七，进一步加强特定群体权益保障。**中国56个民族一律平等，少数民族合法权益得到有效保障。中国连续制定了多期妇女儿童发展纲要，修订了妇女权益保障法，更有效地促进男女平等和妇女儿童全面发展。中国被世卫组织列为妇幼健康高绩效10个国家之一。截至2020年末，女性人均

预期寿命提高到 80.88 岁，较十年前增加 3.51 岁。中国 8500 万残疾人在康复、教育、就业及精神文化方面获得全面支持，95%以上的残疾儿童接受义务教育。《马拉喀什条约》正式对中国生效，将有效保障阅读障碍者欣赏文化作品和接受教育的权利。中国积极应对人口老龄化，大力建设 15 分钟养老服务圈，2.67 亿 60 岁以上老年人口中超过九成都能实现居家养老或者依托社区养老。

**第八，积极开展经社文领域国际合作。**中国累计向 166 个国家和国际组织提供发展援助，派遣 60 多万名援助人员。中国—联合国和平与发展基金相继启动实施 34 个发展领域项目。中国提出的共建“一带一路”倡议、全球发展倡议得到国际社会热烈响应和广泛支持，为在全球范围内促进和保护经社文权利作出积极贡献。

主席先生，各位专家，

人权保障没有最好，只有更好。中国在促进和保护经社文权利方面还面临着许多问题和挑战，比如发展不平衡不充分问题仍然突出，推进高质量发展面临不少瓶颈，重点领域改革还有不少硬骨头要啃，城乡区域发展和收入分配差距仍然较大，人民群众在就业、教育、医疗、托育、养老、住房等方面面临不少难题，生态环境保护任务依然艰巨。

中国共产党第二十次全国代表大会明确了中国未来一个时期的中心任务，强调以中国式现代化全面推进中华民族伟大复兴。我们的目标是到 2035 年基本实现社会主义现代化，到本世纪中叶把中国建成富强民主文明和谐美丽的社会主义现代化强国。中国式现代化进程也是不断促进和保护人

权的进程，中国将坚持不懈地努力使全体人民在更高水平上平等享有经济、社会及文化权利。

主席先生、各位专家，

根据《中华人民共和国香港特别行政区基本法》和《中华人民共和国澳门特别行政区基本法》，两特区因适用《公约》有关规定所产生的国际权利与义务由中国政府承担，其执行公约情况的报告由两特区自行撰写，涉及特区履约的情况由特区代表作阐述。

下面请允许我请中国代表团的两位副团长，来自香港特区的傅小慧女士和来自澳门特区的卢瑞祥先生分别介绍香港和澳门执行公约情况。

谢谢主席先生和各位专家。

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**Introductory remarks by H.E. Ambassador Chen Xu  
Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China  
at the Review of the Third Periodic Report of China  
on the Implementation of the International Covenant  
on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
(15 February, Palais Wilson, 10 minutes )**

Mr. Chair,

Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chinese government, I am greatly honored to present China's Third Periodic Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Chinese government has sent a high-level delegation consisting of the central government and the governments of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region (hereafter "SAR"). Delegates representing the central government come from key departments in charge of economic, social and cultural affairs, including the Supreme People's Court, the State Council Information Office, the United Front Work Department, the Ministry of Education, the National



Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Health Commission, the State Administration for Religious Affairs, the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control, the National Working Committee on Children and Women Under the State Council.

Mr. Chair,

Members of the Committee,

In order to ensure the timely submission of the third periodic report, the Foreign Ministry of China formed an interdepartment working group with more than 30 legislative, judicial and administrative departments. The report was drafted carefully and submitted on time in December 2019. The report is a comprehensive reflection of China's policies, practices and achievements in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights since the last review. It also introduces in detail the latest development and progress made by China in implementing relevant Covenant articles and the concluding observations of the last periodic review. In addition, the Chinese government submitted a detailed replies to the Committess's List of Issues on time in March 2022. Efforts were also made to coordinate the Hong Kong SAR and the Macao SAR to draft and submit their respective reports and replies to the List of Issues. The Chinese government attaches great importance

to the participation of NGOs. In drafting their respective materials, all departments consulted relevant NGOs and academic research institutions. After collecting materials from relevant departments, the Foreign Ministry extensively sought the opinion of over 20 representative NGOs and academic research institutions, and consulted the public through its official website. This fully demonstrates China's openness, transparency and responsible attitude to the review.

Mr. Chair,

Members of the Committee,

Since its last review, China has steadfastly followed a Chinese path of human rights development and made historic progress in promoting its human rights cause, scoring new achievements in protecting Chinese people's economic, social and cultural rights.

First, we made constant efforts to optimize the overall planing of the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. Since the last review, China formulated and enacted new laws including the *Civil Code* and the *Anti-domestic Violence Law*, revised the *Population and Family Planning Law* and the *Education Law*, and repealed regulations on re-education through labor. China has also issued dozens of policy papers covering specific areas of economic, social and cultural rights, including on development-driven poverty alleviation in rural areas, "healthy

China”, education reform, social security, ecological conservation and environmental protection, development of ethnic minority areas, development of women and children, and undertakings for the elderly and the disabled. China has also released two consecutive National Human Rights Action Plans followed by earnest efforts on implementation and evaluation. All these have helped to establish an important legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights in China.

Second, the right to subsistence and the right to development have been upheld as the foremost basic human rights. In the past decade, China’s economic strength has taken a huge leap, with its GDP soaring from RMB54 trillion to RMB121 trillion, propelling it to the world's second largest economy, and contributing by around 36 percent to the world economic growth. At the average exchange rate, China’s per capita GDP has exceeded 12,000 US dollars for two consecutive years. China won the biggest battle against poverty in human history as scheduled, ending poverty for the 98.99 million rural residents living below the current poverty line, meeting the poverty eradication goal of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, and contributing by over 70 percent to the world’s achievement in poverty reduction. China witnessed another bumper grain harvest for the 19 years on end, with an annual grain output of over 1.3 trillion jin (650 million tonnes)

over the past eight years.

Third, China has implemented a people-centered development strategy and secured and improved the people's well-being in the process. China has also made extensive efforts under an employment-first approach. In the past decade, China's employed population in urban areas has increased from 370 million to 480 million, with an annual growth of over 13 million, and kept the current surveyed urban unemployment rate at 5.6%. As a major country with a population of more than 1.4 billion, China has overcome the impact of the pandemic and the downward pressure in economy and achieved a relatively full employment. Since the last review, China built more than 59 million units of affordable housing and housing in run-down urban areas, and rebuilt over 24 million dilapidated rural houses, resulting in a significant improvement in housing conditions in both urban and rural areas. China has put in place the biggest social security system in the world. In the past decade, people covered by the basic old-age insurance increased from 790 million to 1.04 billion; those covered by the unemployment insurance schemes increased from 150 million to 230 million; and those under the coverage of work-related injury insurance are up from 190 million to 290 million.

Fourth, the right to health was more adequately protected. China is moving forward with the Healthy China Initiative on all fronts, and shifted the focus on healthcare from treating illnesses to

improving people's health. In the past decade, Chinese people's average life expectancy has increased from 74.8 years to 78.2 years, and the Chinese people's main health indicators rank high among the middle- and high-income countries. China has built the largest network of national basic medical insurance covering over 1.36 billion people, or more than 95 percent of the total population. The Chinese government has steadily increased investment in medical resources at the community level, especially in remote areas, making it possible for 90 percent of families in urban and rural areas to reach the nearest hospital within 15 minutes. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government has put the people and their lives first, and managed to maintain the lowest rates of severe cases and case fatality in the world. China has recently refined its COVID response measures in light of the evolving situation and the increase of vaccination rates and containment experience, and experienced some short-term infection shock, which is now petering out.

Fifth, guided by the belief that pristine waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, we have brought significant improvement to China's ecological environment. In the past decade, the average PM2.5 concentration in cities at or above the prefecture level dropped by 34.8 percent; the carbon dioxide emissions per unit of the GDP decreased by 34.4 percent nationwide; and the share of coal in the total energy consumption was down from 68.5 percent to 56 percent. China has announced that it will strive to peak carbon

dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. We have also decided to stop building new coal-fired power projects abroad. Green development has increasingly become a defining feature of China's high-quality development.

Sixth, we have actively protected the right to education and cultural right. In a historic achievement of universal education, compulsory education is now fully free in both urban and rural areas, and moves are under way to deliver on universal higher education. A modern system of public cultural services is gradually taking shape. In the past decade, the added-value of China's cultural industry increased from RMB1.8 trillion to RMB4.5 trillion, at an average annual growth rate of 12.1 percent; cultural market entities have increased from 36,000 to 65,000; libraries and culture pavilions have increased from 6,300 to 95,000; grassroot culture organizations have risen by 50 percent to 450,000; digital cultural resources available to the general public stand at 3,844 terabytes.

Seventh, we have further enhanced the protection of rights and interests of vulnerable groups. All 56 ethnic groups in China are equal, and the lawful rights and interests of ethnic minorities are effectively protected. China has adopted consecutively several Outlines for Women's Development and Outlines for Children's Development, amended the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, as part of active efforts to promote gender

equality and the all-around development of women and children. China is recognized by the WHO as one of the 10 fast-track countries in women's and children's health. By the end of 2020, the average life expectancy of women in China reached 80.88 years, up by 3.51 years compared with a decade ago. 85 million persons with disabilities in China are fully supported in their rehabilitation, education, employment and intellectual and cultural needs, and more than 95 percent of children with disabilities are enrolled in the compulsory education system. With the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in China, the rights to appreciate literature and receive education for people with reading disorder have been effectively protected. China is moving proactively to deal with the problem of an aging population by investing heavily in the 15-minute circles of elderly care services. For the 267 million aged-over 60 people in China, over 90 percent have access to at-home elderly care or community-based elderly care.

Eighth, we have actively promoted international cooperation in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. China has provided development aid to 166 countries and international organizations and dispatched more than 600,000 personnels. The China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund successively launched 34 development projects. The Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative put forward by China are warmly received and widely supported by the international community as an active contribution to the promotion and

protection of economic, social and cultural rights across the world.

Mr. Chair,

Members of the Committee,

No one can claim a perfect record in human rights protection, as there is always room for improvement. China still faces multiple problems and challenges in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights, including a glaringly unbalanced and inadequate development, multiple bottlenecks in high-quality development, unresolved stumbling blocks in key reform areas, wide disparities in the income distribution as well as the levels of development between urban and rural areas and among different regions, along with a host of problems facing people in areas such as employment, education, medical services, childcare, elderly care and housing, not to mention daunting challenges in ecological conservation and environmental protection.

The 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China has set out China's central task in the near future, emphasizing the advancement of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Our goal is to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035 and to turn China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by



the middle of this century. The process of Chinese modernization is also a process of constantly promoting and protecting human rights, and China will strive relentlessly to realize the equal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for all people at higher standards.

Mr. Chair,

Members of the Committee,

According to *the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the Peoples Republic of China* and *the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the Peoples Republic of China*, while the central government is responsible for the international obligations and duties arising from the application of the Covenant in the two SARs, the implementation reports in the two SARs are compiled and presented by their own representatives.

Now with your permission, I would like to give the floor to the two deputies of my delegation, Ms. FOO Siu-wai, Gracie from the Hong Kong SAR and Mr. LOU Soi Cheong from the Macao SAR, to present the implementation of the Covenant in Hong Kong and Macao respectively.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Committee.