



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 114 (c)

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other  
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### **Letter dated 21 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the decision of the Government of the People's Republic of China to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2024–2026, at the elections to be held in New York during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, on 10 October 2023.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), I have the honour to transmit the enclosed aide-memoire, which contains China's voluntary pledge for the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).

It is kindly requested that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (c).

*(Signed)* **Zhang Jun**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations



## **Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

[Original: Chinese and English]

### **Aide-Memoire on Pledges and Commitments**

The Government of the People's Republic of China has decided to submit its candidature for the United Nation Human Rights Council for 2024–2026. The election will be held in New York during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in October 2023.

China pursues a people-centred approach to promoting and protecting human rights and believes that a life of contentment for the people is the ultimate human right. China follows a path of human rights development that is consistent with the trend of the times and suits the nation's conditions, and scored historic achievements in its promotion and protection of human rights. The respect for and protection of human rights is enshrined in the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and is also incorporated in China's national plans for economic and social development. China is implementing its National Action Plan on Human Rights (2021–2025), making China one of the few countries that have formulated and implemented national action plans on human rights for four consecutive periods. The Chinese government has fulfilled its pledges and commitments made during its last campaign for membership of the Council, which include among others:

- **The economic, social and cultural rights of the Chinese people are better protected.** China has won a decisive victory in its toughest battle against poverty in human history, eradicating absolute poverty, once and for all, on its land. A total of 832 impoverished counties and close to 100 million poor rural residents have been lifted out of poverty. China has achieved moderate prosperity in all respects throughout the country. China has met the target of poverty eradication set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, and contributed over 70 percent of the global poverty reduction.

China applies a new philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, and works to foster a new development dynamic. Its economic strength has risen to a historic high. In 2022, China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 121 trillion yuan, and GDP per capita reached 85,698 yuan. The share of permanent urban residents in the total population reached 65.2 percent. China acts on the recognition that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and has embarked on a path of green, low-carbon, and high-quality development that gives priority to eco-environmental conservation. China tops the world for the development and use of renewable energy, the production and sales of new energy vehicles, and the area of planted forests. China's national carbon trading market, the world's largest for trading in greenhouse gas emissions, has started operating.

China works to protect and improve the well-being of its people through development. China's average life expectancy has increased to 78.2 years, and the core health indicators of its people are among the best of middle- and high-income countries. China's employed population in urban areas reached 460 million, increasing by over 12 million annually on average. China has established the world's largest education, social security, and health-care systems. The coverage of compulsory education and pre-school education in China has reached the average level of high-income countries. Its basic old-age insurance and basic medical

insurance cover 1.05 billion and 1.346 billion people respectively, which account for 95 percent of the entire population. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, China upheld the principle of putting the people and their lives first. While doing all it could to protect the lives and health of its own people, China also launched the largest global humanitarian assistance in history. China sent medical supplies to more than 150 countries, provided more than 2.2 billion doses of vaccines to the rest of the world, and carried out joint vaccine production with other countries.

- **The civil and political rights of the Chinese people are fully protected.** China has comprehensively developed whole-process people's democracy, made all-round progress in improving the institutions, standards, and procedures of socialist democracy, and advanced socialist consultative democracy by way of extensive participation. China has reinforced the foundations that undergird the people's running of the country, injecting fresh vitality into democracy at the community level. Whole-process people's democracy in China integrates process-oriented democracy with results-oriented democracy, procedural democracy with substantive democracy, direct democracy with indirect democracy, and people's democracy with the will of the state. It is a democracy that covers all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society. It is the broadest, most genuine, and most effective democracy. China has established and continued to improve the systems and institutions that ensure the people's exercise of their rights to information, participation, expression, and oversight. As of July 2023, the Standing Committee of the 13th and 14th National People's Congress had launched online public consultations on a total of 154 draft laws, and received 3.37 million submissions from over 1.1 million people who offered their views and feedback on the drafts. The Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee has set up 33 local legislative outreach offices nationwide, which has led to the establishment of more than 6,500 legislative outreach offices at provincial level or in municipalities with sub-districts, providing people with platforms to participate in the law making process.

China follows a path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics. With a focus on protecting and promoting social equity and justice, China pursues coordinated progress in law-based governance, law-based exercise of state power, and law-based government administration, and integrates the rule of law for the country, the government, and society. China has strengthened the respect for and protection of human rights throughout the process of legislation, enforcement, administration of justice, and observation of the law. Since 2018, China has adopted the Amendments to the Constitution, enacted 50 new laws including the Civil Code, the Personal Information Protection Law, the Community Correction Law, the Legal Aid Law, and the Law on the Development of a Barrier-free Environment, amended 113 laws including the Criminal Law, the Law on the Protection of Minors, and the Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. In 2023, the Legislation Law was amended, specifying that legislation shall serve to respect and protect human rights, and safeguard and promote social equity and justice. China has taken further reform measures in order to establish a system of criminal proceedings centred on court trials, and strictly applies the principle of no crime and no penalty without law and the presumption of innocence.

- **The rights and interests of specific groups are effectively protected.** China upholds the equality of all ethnic groups, and sees to it that they are the masters of the country and participate in the management of state affairs, and that their legitimate rights and interests are protected. All the 55 ethnic minorities are represented in the NPC and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The 14th NPC has 442 deputies from ethnic minorities

while the 14th CPPCC National Committee has 243 ethnic minority members. The living standards of ethnic minority people and in areas with large ethnic minority populations have significantly improved. A total of 31.21 million people in ethnic minority areas who had lived below the current poverty line have been lifted out of poverty and achieved moderate prosperity. China respects and protects the right of ethnic minority groups to learn and use their spoken and written languages. China has made historic strides in making education universally available in ethnic minority areas. By the end of 2021, the number of ethnic minority students who had received pre-school education, compulsory education, high school education, and higher education reached 5.22 million, 19.57 million, 4.28 million, and 5 million respectively. The proportions indicated by these figures all exceed the percentage of ethnic minorities present in the population as a whole.

China adheres to the fundamental national policy of gender equality, and protects the legitimate rights and interests of women. China has promulgated and is implementing the Outline of Women's Development in China (2021–2030), and amended the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests in 2022 to provide more solid legal support for women's all-round development. For seven consecutive years, female students exceed the number of male students in high school, junior college, undergraduate and postgraduate education. The Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021–2030) has been formulated and put into effect to further protect the legitimate rights and interests of minors, and to provide better environment for their growth. China responds proactively to population aging, and protects the right and access of the elderly to material assistance and support, and nursing services in accordance with the law. A total of over 360,000 institutes and facilities that provide elderly care services have been built nationwide. China is implementing the Plan for Protection and Development of Disabled People During the 14th Five-Year-Plan. China has worked continuously to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities by legal means. China has established 2,869 specialized agencies for coordinating legal aid to people with disabilities, and 2,633 work stations of legal aid for people with disabilities. In 2022, 8.567 million people with disabilities received rehabilitation services and 1.648 million benefited from adaptation services for assistive devices. China also attaches great importance to cultural and sports activities of people with disabilities. Chinese Para athletes have topped the gold medal and medal tally for five consecutive Paralympic Games. China's hosting of the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games was a great success.

- **China has carried out fruitful international exchanges and cooperation on human rights.** China has put forward the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. China advocates for safeguarding human rights with security, promoting human rights with development, and advancing human rights with cooperation. China has contributed its insight and offered Chinese input to the progress of human rights civilization. China has tabled and worked for the adoption of draft resolutions, including “The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights”, “Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights”, “Negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights”, and “Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic” at the Human Right Council. China has made joint statements on behalf of developing countries on multiple occasions, and held side events together with other developing countries at the Human Rights Council, calling for the respect for the right of all countries to choose their own path of the promotion and protection of human rights, rejecting politicization of human rights or double standards on human rights issues, advocating for

constructive dialogue and cooperation on human rights, and upholding international equity and justice.

In May 2022, China hosted the visit of the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet. China has conducted exchanges and cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since 2022, China has participated in the reviews of its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. China has provided detailed data and cited specific cases to the relevant Treaty Bodies to illustrate how it had honoured its obligations under these conventions.

China has engaged with more than 30 countries and regional organizations for human rights dialogue and consultation based on equality and mutual respect. China has hosted a number of international events to promote exchanges on human rights, including the Beijing Forum on Human Rights and the South-South Human Rights Forum. In June 2023, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, the Information Office of the State Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the China International Development Cooperation Agency jointly hosted the Forum on Global Human Rights Governance. Over 300 participants from nearly 100 countries and international or regional organizations, including the United Nations attended the event, and had in-depth discussions on how to make the global human rights governance fairer, more equitable, and more inclusive.

China has attained remarkable achievements in its economic and social development and its promotion and protection of human rights. The Chinese people's aspiration for a better life has grown ever stronger. China's central task at this stage is to advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Chinese modernization is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development. China will continue to strengthen human rights protection and promote the unimpeded and all-round development of people in the process of advancing Chinese modernization. In this connection, the Chinese government is willing to make solemn pledges and commitments as follows:

- **China will continue to fully protect the economic, social and cultural rights of its people.** We will continue to apply a people-centred development philosophy, protect people's fundamental interests, improve their well-being, and work tirelessly to ensure that development is for the people and by the people, and that its fruits are shared by the people. We will do a better job of seeing that the gains of modernization benefit all our people fairly. We will improve the basic public service system to raise public service standards, make public services more balanced and accessible, and achieve solid progress in promoting common prosperity. We will move faster to build a high-quality educational system, advance students' well-rounded development, and promote fairness in education. We will implement the employment-first strategy, intensify efforts to implement the employment-first policy and improve related mechanisms to promote high-quality and full employment. We will improve the social security system, further improve the multi-tiered social security system that covers the entire population in urban and rural areas and see that it is fair, unified, reliable, well-regulated, and sustainable. We will advance the Healthy China Initiative, give strategic priority to ensuring the people's health and improve policies on promoting public health.

- **China will continue to effectively ensure the civil and political rights of its people.** We will continue to advance whole-process people's democracy, improve the system of institutions through which the people run the country, encourage the people's orderly participation in political affairs and guarantee their ability to engage in democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management, and oversight in accordance with the law. We will actively develop democracy at the primary level. We will continue to carry forward reform in the domain of rule of law in order to strengthen legal protection for human rights, and improve related legal institutions. We will ensure strict and impartial administration of justice, deepen comprehensive and integrated reform of the judicial system, and fully and faithfully implement the judicial accountability system. We will develop an impartial, efficient and authoritative socialist judicial system, and see that the people feel justice has been served in each and every judicial case. We will strengthen legal supervision by prosecuting bodies and improve the system of public interest litigation. We will develop a modern public legal service system that covers both urban and rural populations, and carry out intensive activities to raise public awareness of the rule of law.
- **China will reinforce the equal protection of the rights and interests of particular groups and provide them with extra assistance.** We will uphold and improve the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and promote unity and progress for all ethnic groups on all fronts. We will remain committed to the fundamental national policy of gender equality and protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and children. We will improve the systems of social security, care and services for people with disabilities and promote all-around development of related programs. We will pursue a proactive national strategy in response to population aging, strengthen elderly care programs and services, and provide better services to the elderly who are without family support. We will make sure that basic elderly care is accessible to the entire elderly population.
- **China will continue to take an active part in global human rights governance.** China will continue to uphold true multilateralism, participate in the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, strive for greater fairness, justice, reason, and inclusivity in global governance on human rights, and hold dear humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom. We will continue to promote equal treatment to all human rights and the implementation of principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization at the Human Rights Council and other United Nations human rights mechanisms. We will continue to promote constructive dialogues and cooperation on human rights between all parties. We will live up to our international commitments and fulfil our obligations under the international human rights treaties to which China is a party. We will continue, in a responsible manner, to submit periodic reports to relevant human rights treaty bodies on the implementation of related treaties and conduct constructive dialogue with them. We will actively participate in the reviews of our implementation of relevant human rights treaties and the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We will accept and implement reasonable and feasible recommendations in accordance with our national conditions. We will continue to hold dialogues and consultations on human rights with other countries and regional organizations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and carry out human rights technical cooperation with other countries.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. It upholds the principle of putting people first and is committed to a path of human rights development that meets the trend of the times

and suits its national conditions. While advancing its own human rights cause, China will continue to actively participate in global human rights governance, carry out extensive exchanges and cooperation on human rights with other countries, and contribute to worldwide progress in human rights and to building a human community with a shared future.

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