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Policy Update

China Advocates for AI Cooperation to Advance Women's Rights

A joint statement delivered by China on behalf of over 80 countries advocates for intensified international cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence to promote women's rights.

GENEVA, July 2 (Xinhua) — China spoke on behalf of a group of countries at the 56th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council here on Monday, advocating for strengthened international cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) to promote women's rights.

Delivering a joint statement on behalf of over 80 countries, Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the UN office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, emphasized the tremendous potential of rapid AI technology development for promoting economic and social progress and advancing human civilization.

Highlighting women's significant role in driving social development and progress, the statement said that next year marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which should be used as an opportunity to promote gender equality to ensure women to become key participants in, strong contributors to and true beneficiaries of the development of new quality productive forces.



Chen Xu (C, Front), permanent representative of China to the UN office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, speaks at the 56th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 1, 2024. [Xinhua/Lian Yi]

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, regarded by UN agencies as the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights, was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.
To this end, the statement put forward a four-point proposal.
It emphasizes upholding a people-centered approach, advocating for the principle of gender equality to promote the comprehensive, equal, and meaningful participation of women in AI governance.
Additionally, it calls for adherence to the principle of non-discrimination, striving to achieve fairness and non-discrimination in AI systems.
The proposal also prioritizes ethics by enhancing standards and norms for AI in advancing gender equality.
Finally, it stresses the importance of maintaining international cooperation to bridge the AI gap and jointly address the challenges AI poses to women worldwide.
This is one of the statements initiated by China at the Human Rights Council on AI's role in advancing the rights of specific groups. China introduced an initiative at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council on promoting the rights of people with disabilities with AI, and another one at the 55th session on enhancing children's rights with AI.



Source: Xinhua, https://english.news.cn/20240702/4c20b25d1ff84979bcedd02f206c4ab6/c.html

Highlights

Feature: Chinese foundation donates free meals to primary school students in Myanmar

YANGON, June 9 (Xinhua) -- As Myanmar's 2024-25 academic year begins on June 3, the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) is providing free meals to primary school students across 10 schools in Hlaingtharya Township of Yangon Region.

Students and parents expressed gratitude to the donors for the free meals program, highlighting the positive impact on their daily lives and education.

Thoon Wati Htet, a third-grade student at Basic Education Primary School (42) in Hlaingtharya Township, had lunch provided by the CFRD on Thursday. "Today, we had chicken curry for lunch. I enjoy both chicken and pork curries. I feel happy and grateful to the donors. When I grow up, I want to become a school teacher," she said happily while enjoying her meal.



Khant Hmu Ko Ko, 10, another third-grader from the same school, also shared on Thursday, "I feel thankful to the people who donated the food. These meals are great for students like us who are facing some challenges. And they taste delicious too."

Ko Shwe War Tun, project manager of the CFRD's Smiling Children Program, the free meal program for the students, said they provide free lunch to over 5,000 primary school students from 10 basic education schools in Yangon for the whole academic year.

"The purpose of the program is to provide good nutrition to students, create job opportunities, and improve students' learning capacity," he said.



"We work in cooperation with respective township education offices. We provide breakfast with traditional snacks and lunch with one type of curry and a vegetable," he added.

The program will cover all the primary school students from 10 schools in Hlaingtharya Township and is slated to continue for the next three academic years, he said.Not only the students but also their parents are happy and grateful to the donors for the student nutrition program.

"I'm very happy. Sometimes, we don't have regular meals and have to skip some. Now, I don't need to prepare a lunch box for my daughter. I also wish the donors happiness and health. My daughter is my youngest of five children," said Daw Nwe Nwe Win, 49, a mother of a second-grader from the school.

Another parent, Khin Thida Hlaing, told Xinhua that it is a tough time for them because of rising commodity prices. "I'm grateful to the donors and wish them prosperity and more donation. I have two children. Some parents here find it hard to prepare lunch boxes."



Daw Khin Htay Yee, 70, a grandmother of a fifth grader, said, "I'm very happy. My grandchild is in grade five. Especially for families without a father or mother, it is difficult to prepare lunch for the students. I wish the donors success and a long life."

The headmistress of the school, with 600 students, also thanked the donors for the free meals for her students. "Because of the free lunch program, school attendance and learning rates have improved a lot," she said.

"Now, my poor students can learn without worrying about their meals. I'm very happy for them. They are the bright stars of our nation's future," she added.

Source: Xinhua, https://english.news.cn/20240609/3cb90a49e40f46d6901543c2af220e5a/c.html

Highlights

"Contribution of the Chinese Modernization to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" -- Side-event of the 56th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council Successfully Held

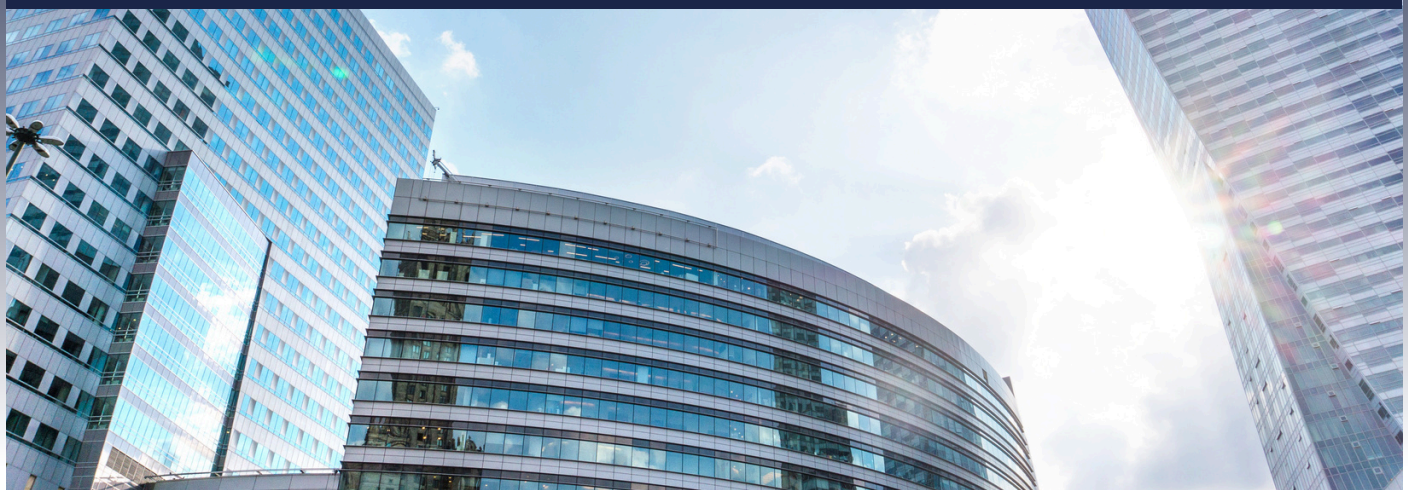


On July 4, 2024, United Nations Association of China (UNA-China) held a side-event of the 56th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council entitled "Contribution of the Chinese Modernization to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" at Palais des Nations, Geneva. Ms. Hu Wenli, Vice-President and Director-General of UNA-China chaired the event. President of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, former Chinese Ambassador to Australia Mr. Cheng Jingye, former Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Executive Board Member of UNA-China Mr. Ren Yisheng, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for International Strategic and Security Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies(SIIS), and Executive Director of the SIIS Center for International Communications Ms. Li Xin, Director of the Sikh Human Rights Group Mr. Jasdev Singh Rai, Professor of Cross-cultural Law at Utrecht University Mr. Tom Zwart attended the event and delivered keynote speeches. Representatives from the diplomatic corps in Geneva, UN organizations, civil society organizations of China and beyond, as well as media participated in the meeting.

Panelists stated that in the process of Chinese modernization, China adheres to the path of human rights development that conforms to the trend of the times and suits its national conditions. China gives top priority to the rights to subsistence and development. As a developing country with more than 1.4 billion people, China has brought about a historic resolution to the absolute poverty, and built a moderately prosperous society as a whole. Currently, China is actively committed to high-quality development, featuring technological innovation and environmental protection, to achieve harmonious coexistence between human and nature. China upholds peaceful development, puts forward three initiatives on development, security, and civilization, and champions human rights protection by ensuring security, advancing development and enhancing cooperation. China is committed to building an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Source: The United Nations Association of China, https://www.unachina.org/en/article/1115

News about CANGO



Side Event on the Theme of "Shaping a Better Future for Our Next Generation" was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

On May 9th, the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Civil society groups in China at the conference held a forum on the UN Civil Society Conference with the theme of "Shaping a Better Future for Our Next Generation". The conference was convened by a coalition of Chinese civil society groups including China NGO Network for International Exchanges, the Chinese Association for International Understanding, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and the China Association for NGO Cooperation. The forum was attended by civil society representatives from multiple countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, and South America. Chinese and international attendees at the conference shared insights on safeguarding the rights of children and adolescents and the significant role of the civil societies in this cause, offering valuable input for the UN's upcoming "Summit of the Future".

During her speech, Kristin Bodiford, member of the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference's Professional Committee, emphasized the significance of Chinese civil society groups hosting this forum. She highlighted that the conventional family and social frameworks are shifting in global transformations, exerting a deep-rooted influence on future global governance. Encouraging intergenerational dialogue and shared knowledge transfer spanning from traditional handicrafts to innovative technologies can foster social integration and progress, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow for upcoming generations.

Xiao Ningning, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, pointed out that China actively fulfills its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and takes various measures to effectively protect the rights and interests of children and adolescents. The civil society groups in China not only strive to promote the protection of children's rights in their own country, but also actively participate in international cooperation to jointly promote greater progress in the cause of global children' s right protection. She called on civil societies from all countries to fully mobilize social forces, integrate resources from all parties, provide more professional services, enhance the exchange of ideas and practices, and work together to promote the high-quality development of children's rights protection.

Ji Wei, Deputy Director General of the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs in the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, said that the youth are the future of the world, bearing the mission of the times. The more challenging the world is, the more it is necessary for young people from all countries to unite and work together to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing to world peace and development. We look forward to the upcoming UN "Summit of the Future" to address present challenges with a long term perspective, foster collaborative efforts among nations while championing the unity and cooperation of our global youth.
Wang Songtao, Deputy Director General of National Association of Vocational Education of China, stated the core role of vocational education in global youth development, especially digital vocational education, which is expected to become a vital global public product reflecting inclusiveness and sustainability. It will become an effective path for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the realization of a community with a shared future for mankind. The national Association of Vocational Education of China calls on the UN to increase its attention to vocational education and provide strong platform support for international cooperation in vocational education.



Joy Katunge, Legal & Policy Advocacy Officer from the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children, believes that the cause of protecting children's rights requires not only the efforts of a few people, but everyone's. There is a saying in Africa that goes, "Raising a child needs the help and support from the entire village", emphasizing that everyone has a responsibility and obligation to care for and protect the healthy growth of children, and not to let any child fall behind. NGOs play a crucial role in safeguarding children's rights, supervising implementation, and promoting development, and are important defenders of children's rights.
Hideki Wakabayashi, board of Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation pointed out that when safeguarding children's rights and fostering youth development, an approach for heightened transparency and accountability should be adopted. Wakabayashi called for a collective effort towards nurturing a generation growing up in a safe, stable, clean, and pleasing environment, which is an important foundation of sustainable development. It is imperative that governments, society and families should join their efforts in paving the way for a brighter future for the future generations.

Wang Xiangyi, Secretary General of the China Association for NGO Cooperation, stated that climate change and AI pose serious challenges to the development of the youth. Civil societies will play an increasingly important role in education and training innovation, concept promotion, and capacity building. We call on more and more countries to pay attention to issues such as climate change and digital empowerment, promoting the healthy growth of the next generation in a constantly changing world.

Lyu Xiaoning, founder of Viva la Vida, showcased the children's right protection projects under the cooperation between Viva la Vida and other civil societies from various countries. She shared stories of children using participatory art forms such as painting to interpret the childlike world and truly express themselves through various cases.

Representatives from the Economic, Social and Cultural Commission of the African Union, the UN Association of Cuba, and the Sikh Human Rights Group in the UK gave speeches on promoting youth development in the "Global South" and respecting cultural diversity. During the conference, Chinese civil societies held a photo exhibition with the theme of "Youth for Climate: Empowering Global Exchange and Education".



Source: CANGO, https://cango.vip/newsinfo/921463.html