

# The Synergistic Development of Domestic Practices and International Standards in the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Perspective from the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*

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**Abstract:** *As a key document in the international human rights legal system, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities establishes the principles of non-discrimination and equal protection in the guarantee of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities and sets a standardized framework for the global construction of barrier-free environments. China's first special legislation focusing on the field of barrier-free construction—the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment, emphasizes in its legislative purpose the elimination of social participation barriers for persons with disabilities. Through systematic institutional design, it incorporates the construction of barrier-free environments into the track of rule of law, marking an important transition in China from policy guidance to legal regulation in the field of protecting the rights and interests of special groups. It further reflects respect and protection for the rights of special groups and demonstrates China's practice and promotion of the spirit of international human rights protection in the construction of barrier-free environments. The enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment is of great significance for studying how China implements the guiding principles of international treaties through domestic legislation and practice, enriches the theory of international law, and promotes the development of human rights protection practices. Under the joint action of these two laws, related policies, and international cooperation, China will continue improving the level of human rights protection and provide more Chinese wisdom and approach for the global human rights cause.*

**Keywords:** Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment ♦ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ♦ human rights protection ♦ implementation of international treaties

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## I. Introduction

According to data disclosed in the World Health Organization's *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities*, over 1.3 billion people (approximately one-sixth of the global population) experienced significant functional impairments in 2021. The study also reveals that, on average, human beings spend about 11% of their lifespan in a state of "temporary functional limitation,"<sup>1</sup> which may occur during childhood, old age, periods of accidental injury, or physically demanding work, among other life stages.<sup>2</sup> This finding profoundly demonstrates that functional impairment is not exclusive to specific groups, but rather a universal phenomenon that all members of society may encounter at different stages of life. This very fact reflects human diversity and variability, serving as an important pathway for self-awareness, exploration of self-worth, and all-round development.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, establishing an inclusive environmental support system that covers all populations has become an essential requirement of modern society, wherein the construction of an appropriate barrier-free environment is crucial. The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (hereinafter referred to as the "CRPD") has been hailed as "a typical representative and landmark achievement of the social model of disability."<sup>4</sup>

In the evolution of China's human rights cause, the construction of a barrier-free environment has become a core issue. Conceptually, in advancing the construction of such an environment, China has consistently adhered to the principles of the CRPD, transcending traditional perceptions of disability by emphasizing equality, participation, and integration, and fully respecting the dignity and rights-holder status of persons with disabilities. In practice, China has continuously improved its legal, policy, and standard systems, significantly enhancing the level of barrier-free construction in both urban and rural areas. Since the 1980s, China has increasingly focused on persons with disabilities, and its barrier-free regulations have undergone a process of "starting from scratch, expanding from points to areas, gradually standardizing, and

1. The term "cánzhàng" (残障) originates from a reinterpretation of the English word "disability," emphasizing the interaction between individual impairment and environmental barriers. This reflects the social model advocated by the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The semantic evolution from "cánfèi" (残废) to "cánjī" (残疾) already signifies societal progress, while the more recent shift toward "cánzhàng" further dissociates from the disease metaphor implied by the character "jí" (疾), thereby promoting a transformation in public awareness from "individual treatment" to "environmental adaptation". This paper adopts the term "cánjírén qúntǐ" (残疾人 群体) instead of "cánzhàng rénshì" (残障人士) to maintain consistency with the official Chinese texts of the *Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, ensuring terminological standardization and retrievability. Although "cánjírén qúntǐ" is chosen herein for legislative coherence and data consistency, the academic community widely acknowledges the value of "cánzhàng rénshì" in embodying the social model.

2. World Health Organization, *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities: Executive Summary* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2022), CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO, <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/364833/9789240063624-eng.pdf?sequence=1>.

3. Liu Wenjing, "The Protection of the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities in China from the Perspective of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities": Conceptual Changes and Institutional Innovations," *Human Rights* 2(2015): 98-114.

4. Li Jianfei, Dou Zheng, Shi Jingwei, et al., "China's Accessibility Legislation and Vision," *Disability Research* 1(2021): 29.

continuously improving.”<sup>5</sup> In 1982, Article 45 of China’s *Constitution*<sup>6</sup> embodied special protection for persons with disabilities. Driven by proposals from National People’s Congress representatives and government-led administrative efforts, a series of regulations and policies were introduced, including the *Design Standards for Urban Roads and Buildings Accessible to Persons with Disabilities* (Trial), the *Opinions on Promoting the Development of Disability Affairs*, the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities* (hereinafter referred to as the “*Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities*”), the *Regulations on the Education of Persons with Disabilities*, and the *Regulations on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* (hereinafter referred to as the “*Regulations*”). Cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen have also successively introduced plans and schemes related to barrier-free environment construction. As a result, the legal system for barrier-free access has been continuously refined, and the barrier-free environment has been progressively optimized.<sup>7</sup> However, “given the reality of diverse needs, a large population base, and multiple stakeholders in barrier-free environment construction, the relevant provisions in laws such as the *Civil Code*, the *Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities*, and the *Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly* are fragmented, lack coherence, and sometimes overlap; laws closely related to barrier-free environment construction, such as the *Law on Urban and Rural Planning*, the *Construction Law*, the *Civil Aviation Law*, and the *Railway Law*, do not directly address the issue; the currently implemented *Regulations* suffer from low legal hierarchy, overly principled stipulations, insufficient supervision, and weak binding force, making them inadequate to meet the needs of current developments. There is an urgent need to enact a dedicated law to centrally regulate barrier-free environment construction.”<sup>8</sup> Thus, the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* (hereinafter referred to as the “*Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*”) emerged in response to these needs. This law was re-viewed and passed at the third session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People’s Congress on June 28, 2023, and officially came into effect on September 1, 2023. To protect the equal rights and interests of groups with special needs and promote socially inclusive development, the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* achieves a groundbreaking institutional breakthrough in protecting the rights and interests of functionally impaired groups and the aging population by es-

5. Wang Xiaorong, Xu Qin, and Jia Weiyang, *Accessible Design* (Beijing: China Architecture Publishing & Media Co. Ltd., 2011).

6. Article 45 of the *Constitution of the People’s Republic of China* (1982) states that “Citizens of the People’s Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the State and society when they are old, ill or disabled. The State develops social insurance, social relief and medical and health services that are required for citizens to enjoy this right. The State and society ensure the livelihood of disabled members of the armed forces, provide pensions to the families of martyrs and give preferential treatment to the families of military personnel. The State and society help make arrangements for the work, livelihood and education of the blind, deaf-mutes and other handicapped citizens”.

7. Li Weibing, “Government Responsibility in the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment,” *Journal of Soochow University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)* 2 (2010).

8. He Yiting, “Explanation on the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment (Draft),” National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, [http://www.npc.gov.cn/c2/c30834/202306/t20230629\\_430363.html](http://www.npc.gov.cn/c2/c30834/202306/t20230629_430363.html).

tablishing a systematic legal guarantee framework. This legislative innovation demonstrates the practical transformation of the concept of human rights protection. Also, it provides a demonstrative legal model for advancing the construction of an inclusive society.

Furthermore, China is also contributing its wisdom and solutions to the cause of international human rights. On October 10, 2024, following a joint proposal by China and 30 member states, the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a thematic resolution on barrier-free construction by consensus.<sup>9</sup> This resolution innovatively integrates the construction of an adaptive environment into the international human rights legal system, establishing a synergistic framework between environmental adaptability and human rights protection, marking a significant breakthrough in global governance. Moreover, this is the first time the United Nations has adopted a resolution on this theme, which systematically establishes the status of barrier-free construction in international law for the first time in the history of human societal development, and also reflects an upgraded strategic recognition of inclusive development issues within the international community.

China's conceptual innovations, practical explorations, and institutional reforms in the field of barrier-free environment construction are of great significance for advancing the cause of international human rights and warrant in-depth analysis and research. A barrier-free environment should not be perceived as a "privilege" for persons with disabilities, but rather as a "right to equality" for all groups in need. Consequently, breakthroughs have been achieved in the orientation of legal values: first, by establishing the core objective of enhancing social integration efficiency and optimizing the mechanism for sharing developmental outcomes, a value framework for adaptive environment construction has been formulated; second, by innovatively defining the applicable subjects as "diverse social entities with needs for an adaptive environment," a paradigm shift has been realized from protecting specific groups to covering the entire population. This legislative design embodies the modern governance concept of "barrier-free access for all," providing differentiated protection pathways for members of society at different life stages and with varying ability levels. This expansion demonstrates attention to diverse needs, ensuring that various groups can benefit from the convenience and inclusiveness offered by a barrier-free environment. In this way, the law emphasizes that barrier-free environment construction should benefit everyone, promoting overall social harmony and progress.<sup>10</sup>

From China's signing and implementation of the CRPD to the enactment of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*, this series of actions vividly illustrates China's determined steps to integrate international human rights standards into its domestic legal system, fully demonstrating its proactive efforts in practicing and developing the concept of human rights protection. Exploring the interaction and

9. "UN Human Rights Council Adopts Thematic Resolution on Accessibility Construction Proposed by China and Other Countries," website of China Disabled Persons' Federation, accessed February 28, 2025, <https://www.cdpf.org.cn/xwzx/clyw2/22410c662ac14d2783bf71937829ae7f.htm>.

10. Lü Junyan, "The Human Rights Protection in the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment: From the Perspective of Marxist Conception of Human Rights," *Human Rights* 6(2023): 116.

influence between them holds profound significance for further optimizing the legal framework for protecting the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in China,promoting the realization of social fairness and justice,and enriching and developing the theory of human rights law.

## **II.The Normative System Construction and Rights Realization Mechanism of the CRPD**

Amid the ongoing progress of global human rights,the United Nations CRPD<sup>11</sup> has established fundamental norms for the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities worldwide.Its emergence embodies humanity's persistent pursuit of equality,justice,and human dignity.In the latter half of the 20th century,with the advancement of social civilization,the issue of protecting the rights of persons with disabilities gradually gained widespread international attention.Against this backdrop,after five years of arduous negotiations and consultations,the United Nations General Assembly adopted the CRPD by resolution at its 61<sup>st</sup> session in December 2006.<sup>12</sup> The CRPD entered into force on May 3,2008.Its purpose is to ensure that persons with disabilities worldwide can fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms,while respecting and safeguarding their inherent dignity.The birth of the CRPD signifies the formation of a broad consensus within the international community on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities,setting critical norms and guidance for actions in this field by various countries.As the first comprehensive international human rights treaty of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,the CRPD is also the first human rights instrument that allows regional integration organizations to accede to it,marking a significant shift in attitudes and approaches toward the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.The CRPD elaborates in detail the specific application of the rights of persons with disabilities,identifies areas requiring adjustments to enable their effective exercise of rights,highlights domains where these rights are violated,and emphasizes aspects where strengthened protection is necessary.<sup>13</sup>

### **A.Equality and non-discrimination:the cornerstone principles of the CRPD**

The principles of equality and non-discrimination form the core value and legal foundation of the CRPD,permeating both its substantive provisions and implementation framework.Equality and non-discrimination are both principles and rights,serving as the cornerstone of all human rights.<sup>14</sup> When examining pathways to improve the protection of equal rights and anti-discrimination legal systems for persons with disabilities,*General Comment No.6 on Equality and Non-discrimination*(CRPD/C/

11.*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*(CRPD),accessed February 28,2025,<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>.

12.Li Jing and Qi Caiyun,"The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:Birth,Interpretation,and China's Contribution,"*Disability Research* 3(2019):80-85.

13."Conference on Disability Issues:UN Secretary-General Calls for Building an Inclusive,Barrier-free,and Sustainable World,"United Nations,accessed March 1,2025,<https://news.un.org/zh/story/2022/04/1101372>.

14.Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,"General Comment no.6(2018)on Equality and Non-discrimination,"CRPD/C/GC/6,page 3.



GC/6), adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on April 26, 2018, provides a systematic interpretation of Article 5 of the CRPD. The Comment indicates that States Parties bear an immediate “negative obligation” to prohibit all forms of direct, indirect, and intersectional discrimination. This principle establishes an equality guarantee mechanism, forming a core normative element of the CRPD. Furthermore, through the recurring phrase “on an equal basis with others,” it closely links the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities to the entire human rights system (para. 12). The practical significance of this principle lies in reconstructing the legal status and social role of persons with disabilities through a human rights model.

First, the CRPD defines equality and non-discrimination as composite norms encompassing both principles and rights. As principles, equality and non-discrimination permeate the entire process of legislation, judiciary, and administration in States Parties, requiring the elimination of systemic discrimination in policy-making. As rights, they directly provide persons with disabilities with legal tools to combat discrimination, covering all scenarios of rights exercise in both public and private spheres (para. 13 of the document<sup>15</sup>). For example, States Parties need to revise laws that permit compulsory medical interventions or guardianship systems, abolishing discriminatory norms that deprive persons with disabilities of their autonomy under the guise of “protection” (para. 30). Second, the normative framework of the CRPD innovatively constructs “discrimination based on disability,” systematically enumerating four prohibited categories through typological regulation: explicit differential treatment, implicit systemic exclusion, lack of necessary accommodations, and persistent harassment, thereby forming an anti-discrimination norm with progressive protective functions (para. 18). Direct discrimination typically manifests as direct denial of rights due to disability, such as schools refusing to admit children with disabilities (para. 18(a)). Indirect discrimination occurs through seemingly neutral policies that result in de facto exclusion, such as failing to provide easy-to-read materials indirectly hindering the right to education of students with intellectual disabilities (para. 18(b)). More groundbreakingly, the CRPD establishes “denial of reasonable accommodation” as an independent element of discrimination. “‘Reasonable accommodation’ means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”<sup>16</sup> This design marks the first time international human rights law has incorporated procedural exclusion into the anti-discrimination normative system, emphasizing the necessity of individualized adjustments for achieving substantive equality (paras. 24-27). For example, requiring employers to adjust workplace layouts for persons with physical disabilities or allowing autistic individuals to participate in

15. All documents under the section “Equality and Non-discrimination: The Cornerstone Principles of the Convention” refer to General Comment no. 6 (2018).

16. Liu Wenjing, “The Protection of the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities in China from the Perspective of the ‘Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’: Conceptual Changes and Institutional Innovations,” *Human Rights* 2 (2015): 112.

judicial proceedings through non-verbal means(para.52).Third,the CRPD innovatively constructs a rights protection system by distinguishing between“reasonable accommodation”and“accessibility.”Accessibility is a preemptive systemic obligation targeting all persons with disabilities,requiring the elimination of environmental barriers through universal design.In contrast,reasonable accommodation is a remedial measure tailored to individual needs,requiring immediate adjustments provided they do not impose a“disproportionate or undue burden”(paras.24-25).Together,they promote structural reforms while ensuring rights realization in specific contexts.For example,while progressively advancing the accessibility transformation of public transportation,requiring bus companies to temporarily provide guide services for passengers with visual impairments(para.42).Fourth,the CRPD requires States Parties to prohibit all forms of discrimination through anti-discrimination legislation(para.22),creating intersecting and urgent obligations for States Parties,including address-ing employment discrimination and exclusion from public services in the private sector(para.17).On the other hand,the CRPD requires States Parties to take positive measures to eliminate historical inequalities,such as increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities through quota systems(para.28).Regarding data monitoring and judicial remedies,States Parties must collect data on discrimination cases based on intersecting dimensions such as disability,gender,and age(para.34),and establish accessible judicial procedures allowing persons with disabilities to assert their rights through diverse communication methods(paras.51-55).

Through these norms,the CRPD achieves a paradigm shift from formal equality to substantive equality,and from singular prohibition to comprehensive protection.It establishes baseline standards for the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes the inclusive restructuring of social systems through a dynamic obligation framework,offering a global model for disability rights protection that combines principled rigidity with practical flexibility in international law.

### **B.The right to accessibility:core guarantee for eliminating barriers to social participation**

The right to accessibility serves as the core mechanism in the CRPD for ensuring the equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.Its scope encompasses four dimensions:the physical environment,transportation,information and communication,and public services.<sup>17</sup> Article 9 of the CRPD explicitly states that the establishment of an accessible system constitutes foundational support for enabling specific groups to achieve autonomous living capabilities and enhance social integration efficiency.This requires States Parties to eliminate structural barriers through systemic reforms and build an inclusive societal foundation.However,the principled declarations in the CRPD’s provisions must be interpreted normatively to translate into specific standards for fulfilling obligations.Against this backdrop,*General Comment No.2 on Accessibility*(CRPD/C/GC/2),adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on April 11,2014,focuses on the accessibility obligations under

17.Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,“General Comment no.2(2014)on Accessibility,”CRPD/C/GC/2,para.13.

Article 9 of the CRPD. For the first time, it provides a systematic interpretation of the immediate fulfillment requirements, applicable boundaries, and assessment indicators for States Parties' obligations, thereby establishing a legally binding unified benchmark and offering an authoritative interpretive framework for national legislation, enforcement, and adjudication.

Article 9 of the CRPD defines the right to accessibility as a composite right covering the "physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies, and systems" (see CRPD<sup>18</sup>), establishing a normative framework and multidimensional connotations for the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities. The CRPD's requirement for universal design represents a core preventive approach to accessibility. It mandates the integration of universal design principles into the initial stages of all new infrastructure and services (para. 15). Universal design emphasizes "design once, accommodate all," reducing retrofitting costs through forward-looking planning. Examples include building accessibility features (such as screen reader compatibility) into internet platforms during development and reserving space for tactile guidance systems and braille paths in urban planning (para. 15). The document specifically notes that universal design benefits persons with disabilities and enhances convenience for other groups, such as the elderly, reflecting the social benefits of inclusive development (para. 16).

Through a tiered implementation strategy, the CRPD systematically constructs an obligation system for States Parties regarding accessibility construction. First, it requires States Parties to establish mandatory national accessibility standards, clearly delineating the responsibilities of public and private sectors in accessibility construction. For example, Hungary was found in violation of the CRPD by the relevant committee for failing to ensure accessibility in banking services (para. 11). Second, in terms of re-source allocation and monitoring mechanisms, the CRPD stipulates that States Parties must allocate dedicated funds for accessibility facility upgrades, and establish independent monitoring bodies to scientifically evaluate policy implementation effectiveness (para. 33). Simultaneously, the CRPD emphasizes bridging the urban-rural gap in accessibility construction, particularly by promoting the simultaneous development of accessible transportation infrastructure and information and communications technologies in rural areas (para. 16). In capacity building and societal awareness cultivation, the CRPD proposes systematic training to enhance the application of accessibility technologies among architects, engineers, and public service providers, while advocating for the elimination of "unintentional discrimination" based on cognitive biases across society (paras. 6, 19). From the perspective of rights realization, the right to accessibility forms the foundational guarantee for the implementation of multiple core rights under the CRPD. In education, the accessibility retrofitting of school buildings and the adaptation of textbooks into easy-to-read formats are necessary prerequisites for building an inclusive education system (para. 39). In employment, accessibility optimizations in workplaces and disability-friendly modifications to commuting transportation create

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18. All documents under the section "The Right to Accessibility: Core Guarantee for Eliminating Barriers to Social Participation" refer to General Comment no. 2 (2014).



conditions for the equal integration of persons with disabilities into the labor market(para.41).In healthcare,the provision of accessible medical facilities and gender-sen-sitive services(such as accessible examination rooms in obstetrics and gynecology)effectively protect the life and health rights of persons with disabilities(para.40).In cultural participation,measures such as tactile exhibits in museums and sign language interpretation services in theaters actively promote equal participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life(para.44).

Through these norms and practices,the CRPD elevates the right to accessibility from a passive remedy to an active construction,driving society's transition from "segregated design" to "inclusion for all."It provides an operational technical frame-work and institutional model for the global protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

### **C.Interaction between the CRPD and global human rights governance**

The CRPD has facilitated a paradigm shift in international human rights law through its synergy with other conventions.It complements the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* by,for example,requiring States Parties to address the multiple vulnerabilities of girls with disabilities.Together with numerous other international conventions,it weaves a protective network for groups such as children and women.Simultaneously,the CRPD aligns with regional human rights mechanisms.For instance,the African Commission on Human and Peoples'Rights adopted the *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa*<sup>19</sup>,and the Organization of American States formulated the *Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*<sup>20</sup> to promote the implementation of the CRPD at the regional level.Through these mechanisms,the CRPD establishes global standards for the rights of persons with disabilities.Also it provides a replicable practical model for developing countries to implement international human rights treaties via a composite approach of "policy innovation and social participation."Despite challenges related to resources,attitudes,and mechanisms,the core concept of the CRPD—"the equal participation of persons with disabilities is a hallmark of human civilization progress"—is reshaping the agenda of global human rights governance.

### **III.Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment:A Domestic Legislative Model Embodying the Guiding Principles of the CRPD**

Amid the vigorous development of global human rights,the positive interaction between international treaties and domestic legal systems has become a key force driving human rights protection.As a specialized and comprehensive law in the field

19.*Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples'Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa*,[https://www.achpr.org/files/news/2016/04/d216/disability\\_protocol.pdf](https://www.achpr.org/files/news/2016/04/d216/disability_protocol.pdf).

20.*Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*(2006-2016),<http://www.oas.org/en/sla/docs/AG03738E14.pdf>.

of barrier-free environment construction, the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* represents a critical and significant step by China to translate the guiding principles of the CRPD into domestic legal practice. It serves as a key bridge connecting international standards with domestic implementation. The CRPD and the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* are deeply interconnected and interactive at the theoretical level, reflecting the two-way mutual construction of international human rights law and domestic legislation. To effectively fulfill the treaty obligations established by the CRPD, the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* provides detailed and targeted legislative provisions across multiple aspects, offering solid legal support for the equal participation and full integration of persons with disabilities in social life. Since its implementation, the law has achieved remarkable results in optimizing the living conditions of persons with disabilities and enhancing their social participation, thereby substantially improving their lived experience of human rights protection. An in-depth examination of China's specific actions in this process contributes to a thorough understanding of the evolution of disability rights protection in China. Also, it offers valuable lessons for the international community, advancing global human rights protection to new heights.

#### **A. From international commitment to domestic legislation: China's legal pathway to convention implementation**

The core essence of a human rights legal protection system lies in employing legal thinking and mechanisms to create an equitable institutional environment that enables all members of society to fully realize their individual potential. This institutional design establishes the principle of non-discrimination as a foundational norm for protecting the rights of special groups in the new era. Furthermore, it regards the principle as a critical pathway for deepening the rule of law in China. By systematically eliminating differential treatment based on identity, gender, ability, and other factors, the system achieves an organic unity between the concept of rights protection and the paradigm of legal practice.<sup>21</sup> As one of the earliest initiators of the CRPD, China played an important role in the drafting and negotiation processes, making significant contributions to the CRPD's eventual adoption and fully demonstrating its responsibility as a major country.<sup>22</sup> In 2007, China solemnly signed the CRPD and ratified it at the third session of the 11<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress Standing Committee in 2008, formally becoming a state party. This move underscored China's firm support for the international cause of disability rights protection. It also signified its commitment to integrating the guiding principles and requirements of the CRPD into domestic legal development and social progress through concrete actions. China's acceptance and commitment to the CRPD fully reflect the CRPD's main content and key guiding principles. Following ratification, China swiftly made proactive and effective adjustments at the policy level.

21. Liu Yuan and Zhang Wanhong, "The Theory of Protecting the Rights of Specific Groups in Xi Jinping's Thought on the Rule of Law," *Seeking Truth* 5(2022):21.

22. Xu Shuang and Xi Yawei, "The Transformation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in China": From the Perspective of China's Legal Protection System for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities," *Human Rights* 2(2014).

Within the realm of international law, transformation is a key method for States Parties to integrate international treaty provisions into their domestic legal systems. In the field of disability rights protection, China successfully translated the guiding principles and requirements of the CRPD into specific domestic legal norms through the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*. From the perspective of international law theory, States primarily adopt two approaches to incorporate international treaties: transformation and incorporation.<sup>23</sup> Under the transformation approach, a State enacts separate domestic legislation for each specific provision of a treaty, turning the treaty content into part of its domestic law. China's enactment of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* in implementing the CRPD is a typical example of transformation practice. According to Article 27 of the *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*, a state party may not invoke its domestic law as justification for failure to perform a treaty obligation.<sup>24</sup> In China, treaties are implemented through partial legislation.<sup>25</sup> In practice, China predominantly adopts the legislative transformation model, which involves specifying treaty obligations through the enactment or revision of domestic laws rather than applying treaties directly. China localizes treaty obligations through specialized legislation (such as the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*) and systematic legal revisions. From the perspective of clarity, this approach translates abstract human rights principles into concrete rights and obligations. For example, Articles 12 and 29 of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* refine the CRPD's requirements for barrier-free environment construction into specific construction standards and information accessibility norms, making rights and obligations clearer and more identifiable.

China's decision to sign and ratify the CRPD stemmed from its profound commitment to human rights principles and deep concern for the rights of persons with disabilities, and also from comprehensive strategic considerations. Domestically, this move vigorously promoted the development of China's disability cause, significantly elevated the level of social civilization, and advanced the realization of social fairness and justice. At the same time, China actively contributed to the CRPD's adoption through various channels, playing an indelible role in its creation and fully demonstrating its agency as a responsible major country engaged in international human rights endeavors. Furthermore, given China's large population and substantial number of persons with disabilities, its application of the CRPD will provide valuable experience for future revisions of the treaty, thereby contributing to the protection of the global disability community's interests.<sup>26</sup>

23. Jia Bingbing, *Public International Law: Interpretation and Application in Peacetime* (Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2015), 207.

24. Article 27 of *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*.

25. Xu Shuang and Xi Yawei, "The Transformation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in China," 209.

26. Li Jing and Qi Caiyun, "The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Birth, Interpretation, and China's Contribution," *Disability Research* 3 (2019): 85.

**B.Reconstruction of the normative system:comprehensive legalization of the right to accessibility****1.Localized path of core convention provisions:equality and non-discrimination principles(Article 3 of the CRPD)**

In accordance with international human rights standards,the“principle of non-discrimination”established in Article 3 of the CRPD constitutes the normative core of disability rights protection.This provision transcends the narrow interpretation of traditional equality rights by requiring States Parties to establish a comprehensive protection system encompassing legal norms,institutional frameworks,and social values.Within the jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee,<sup>27</sup> this protection obligation has been summarized as a“three-tier review standard”:First,eliminating discriminatory clauses from legal texts;second,rectifying institutional barriers embedded in public policies;and finally,reshaping inclusive social perceptions through educational advocacy.This progressive obligation framework reflects the evolution of international human rights law from formal to substantive equality,aiming to create a non-discriminatory opportunity structure for persons with disabilities to participate in social life.Its legal foundation is deeply rooted in the core value of“all human beings are born free and equal”as established in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

First,Article 4 of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* establishes the principles of“safety,convenience,practicality,ease of use,and broad benefit,”while Article 51 emphasizes the promotion of universal design concepts.In previous international human rights protection practices,traditional models of disability rights protection primarily focused on special protection,aiming to create disability-friendly living environments and address specific problems.However,this approach often resulted in several drawbacks:first,it reinforced the distinction between persons with disabilities and“normal people”;second,it sometimes impeded others from using facilities in certain contexts;third,it lacked market value;fourth,it yielded low economic returns;and fifth,it suffered from deficient aesthetic design.<sup>28</sup> The“principle of universal design”transcends these limitations by extending barrier-free environments to all members of society,embodying the expanded application of“reasonable accommodation.”The application of this principle represents an innovative development in international human rights concepts.Through universal design,diverse needs of various groups—including persons with disabilities,the elderly,pregnant women,and others—are fully considered during the initial design phase of environments and products.For instance,in architectural design,features such as level ground,wide passages,and easily operable door control systems benefit not only persons with disabilities but all users,thereby reducing environmental barriers.This design philosophy aligns with the internationally advocated concept of an inclusive society and represents China’s enhancement and expansion of international human rights principles based on domestic social development needs in implementing the

27.E.g.,*Rubén v.Spain*,2020;*Ștefan Stoian v.Romania*,2019.

28.Pan Haixiao,Xiong Jinyun,and Liu Bing,“Analysis of the Development Trend of the Holistic Concept of a Barrier-free Environment Construction,”*Urban Planning Forum* 2(2007).

CRPD.

Second, Article 2 of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* extends the scope of beneficiaries to “others with accessibility needs,” a provision that resonates with the dynamic definition of “reasonable accommodation” in Article 2 of the CRPD. The connotation of “reasonable accommodation” evolves dynamically alongside social progress and the deepening understanding of human rights. In its domestic legislation, China has broadened the range of beneficiaries to comprehensively include more groups with potential accessibility needs, such as passengers carrying large luggage or individuals with temporary mobility limitations. This approach aligns with trends in international human rights treaties and reflects a pragmatic decision based on China’s social structure and demographic characteristics. By incorporating these groups into the scope of legal protection and constructing a more inclusive rights framework, China demonstrates its thorough consideration of local realities and comprehensive understanding of human rights protection when translating the guiding principles of the CRPD into domestic law.

## **2. Localization path of core convention provisions: the right to education (Article 24 of the CRPD)**

Article 24 of the CRPD stipulates: “States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life long learning directed to the full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity; the development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential; and enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society. Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability. Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live.”<sup>29</sup> Article 24 prohibits discrimination in education and advocates for inclusive education, playing a pivotal guiding role in the field of international human rights in education. Article 27 of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* requires ordinary schools to equip necessary facilities such as braille textbooks and voice prompt systems, translating the principles of the CRPD into concrete measures. From the perspective of international treaty transformation, this legislative provision creates the hardware conditions for integrating Chinese students with disabilities into general education environments. In domestic educational practice, ordinary schools comply with legal requirements by providing braille textbooks for visually impaired students, enabling them to learn on an equal basis with others, and installing voice prompt devices to assist hearing-impaired students in accessing campus information. In conjunction with the *Regulations on the Education of Persons with Disabilities*, China prioritiz-

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29. Xu Qiaoxian and Wu Tian, “The UN *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the Protection of the Right to Education of Persons with Disabilities in China,” *Human Rights* 5 (2018).

es placing students with disabilities who can adapt to general education in ordinary schools, offering support such as special education teacher guidance and personalized learning plans. For students requiring special education, professional services are provided through specialized institutions. This system aligns with international trends in inclusive education while accommodating the individual differences of Chinese students with disabilities and the current state of educational resources. It represents an innovative approach to transforming the educational rights clause of the CRPD into domestic law, protecting the right to education for students with disabilities to the greatest extent. Furthermore, in the field of information and communication accessibility, China's compliance with and transformation of relevant international treaties are also evident, reflecting its comprehensive protection and respect for the rights of persons with disabilities. For instance, China's *Copyright Law* incorporates international legal achievements, such as the provisions of the *Marrakesh Treaty* regarding exceptions for beneficiaries like blind, visually impaired, and print-disabled persons, which are embodied in Article 24 of the *Copyright Law*.<sup>30</sup> This also contributes to the equal protection of the right to education for persons with disabilities.

The enactment of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* marks a new era in China's legal construction of accessibility, representing a milestone achievement. Currently, China has established a legal framework for the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities and the development of related causes, with the *Constitution* as its cornerstone, the *Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities* and the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* as its pillars, supplemented by provisions in the *Civil Code*, and specialized regulations such as the *Regulations on Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Regulations on the Education of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Regulations on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities*, and the *Regulations on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*.

### **C. Innovation in implementation mechanisms: a protection model of collaborative social participation**

"The construction of a barrier-free environment is a shared responsibility of the entire society."<sup>31</sup> The implementation of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* reflects the multi-departmental cooperation required to fulfill international treaty obligations. The law promotes collaborative efforts across various sectors to build a barrier-free environment, aligning with the principle of multi-stakeholder participation emphasized in international treaties. The division of labor and cooperation among departments in barrier-free environment construction demonstrate a government-led, multi-sector collaborative implementation model, effectively fulfilling international obligations. As the leading force, the government bears the critical responsibilities of providing legal protection, financial support, organizational frameworks,

30. Enqiao Gu, "Before and after the Barrier-free Law: Legal Implementation of Accessibility in China," *Tsinghua China Law Review*, vol. 16, no. 2 (2024): 330.

31. Zhao Guang, "Research on the Allocation and Implementation of Soft Law Norms in the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment," *Disability Research* 4 (2024).



and supervision mechanisms.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, the law encourages the participation of social forces as key actors in barrier-free environment construction. For instance, investments by industrial and commercial enterprises in the transportation sector serve as valuable supplements to urban public transportation systems, and also create diverse travel options for groups with special needs through innovative service models, highlighting the multidimensional value of collaborative governance by social forces in practice.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, enterprises developing barrier-free products and social organizations intensifying awareness campaigns expand the scope of participation, consistent with the concept of multi-party engagement in international treaties. At the supervision level, the law clarifies administrative oversight responsibilities, establishes inspection mechanisms aligned with international treaty monitoring requirements, and enhances supervision effectiveness through public interest litigation, thereby ensuring the domestic implementation of international treaties. On the societal level, advocacy of laws has raised public awareness of barrier-free environments, fostering a social atmosphere aligned with the guiding principles of international treaties and promoting the integration of China's barrier-free environment construction with global standards.

The *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* innovates and develops the guiding principles of the CRPD in light of China's national conditions. Moreover, the law may provide more detailed applicability, specifying requirements for different regions and types of barrier-free environments across China. In terms of protection measures, it may formulate more operable implementation rules and supervision mechanisms to ensure effective enforcement. Additionally, the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* embodies the domestic practice of international treaties in areas such as the promotion of universal design concepts, talent development, and supervision management.<sup>34</sup>

Thus, the interaction between the CRPD and the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* demonstrates a two-way mechanism of "internalization" of international human rights law and "externalization" of domestic experiences. China has translated the principles of the CRPD into operable institutional arrangements through legislation, enriching international human rights protection practices with local experiences. In summary, through the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*, China has comprehensively and deeply transformed the guiding principles of the CRPD into domestic legal practice across legislative purposes, specific provisions, and implementation mechanisms. In this process, China fully utilized the theories and methods of treaty transformation in international law, closely integrating CRPD provisions with domestic practical needs to construct a complete legal system

32. Li Weibing, "Government Responsibility in the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment," *Journal of Soochow University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)* 2 (2010).

33. Zhao Shukun, "The Three-Dimensional Construction of the Institutional Guarantee for the Convenient Travel of the Elderly," *Human Rights* 4 (2022): 98.

34. "Providing Strong Guarantees for Improving the Quality of Barrier-free Environment Construction: Relevant Official of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee Interprets the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*," National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, [http://www.npc.gov.cn/c2/c30834/202306/t20230629\\_430364.html](http://www.npc.gov.cn/c2/c30834/202306/t20230629_430364.html).

for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. This system creates an environment for their equal participation in social life, builds a solid legal framework for their equal development opportunities, establishes basic principles for protecting their rights, and lays the foundation for their social integration and self-realization. It also contributes Chinese experience and wisdom to the global cause of disability rights protection, demonstrating China's proactive attitude and firm commitment to fulfilling its obligations under international human rights treaties.

#### **IV. From Concept to Action: Achievements in China's Implementation of the CRPD and the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment***

In examining how China has translated the principles of the CRPD into concrete actions, we have observed remarkable accomplishments in legislation, enforcement, and supervision. These achievements reflect China's firm commitment to international human rights protection and demonstrate innovative practices in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Throughout this process, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have consistently adhered to their founding mission of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, vigorously promoting historic progress in China's human rights cause. By staying at the forefront of the times and closely integrating with national realities, China has successfully explored a human rights development path that aligns with the pulse of the era and is adaptable to its national conditions.

As a civilization with a profound people-oriented cultural tradition, China has always placed the people's principal position at the core of its social governance practices. This deep integration of cultural heritage and practical implementation is reflected in the historical inheritance of people-centered philosophy, and also in the systematic adherence to the value of people's subjectivity in governance practices.<sup>35</sup> Specifically, in the practice of international human rights law, China upholds the protection of fundamental human dignity and value as a core principle, ensuring that legal mechanisms effectively serve as institutional protection of individual rights and the well-being of the community.

##### **A. Guiding the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities through typical cases**

Within China's existing legal framework for protecting the rights of special groups, a perspective centered on these groups is adopted to deconstruct the institutional barriers formed during social interactions, thereby reexamining the social construction process, identity formation mechanisms, and rights realization pathways for persons with disabilities. On this basis, the institutional protection system for persons with disabilities as full subjects of rights is reconstructed, establishing their rightful

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35. He Zhipeng, "The Development of China's Theory of International Law in the New Era," *China Legal Science* 1(2023):288.

status as rights holders at the normative level.<sup>36</sup> The judicial field is also continuously advancing the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. On one hand, the Supreme People's Court and the China Disabled Persons' Federation issued the *Ten Opinions on Providing Higher-Quality Litigation Services for Persons with Disabilities*, offering directional guidance for handling disputes involving persons with disabilities in the judicial field and greatly facilitating their participation in litigation.<sup>37</sup> On the other hand, both the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate have released guiding cases to illustrate specific measures for protecting the equal rights, dignity, and value of persons with disabilities in legal practice, thereby providing judicial guidance.<sup>38</sup> For example, in the case of "Passenger A Injured in Traffic Accident Resulting in Second-degree Disability,"<sup>39</sup> the court fully considered the plaintiff's economic and physical conditions, held a court session at the plaintiff's residence, and facilitated a mediation agreement. The defendant provided immediate compensation, ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities to timely compensation and relief, as well as support for treatment and living expenses. This case demonstrated prompt legal redress for the personal rights and interests of persons with disabilities and served as a model for subsequent courts handling similar cases. The Supreme People's Procuratorate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the China Disabled Persons' Federation, released 12 typical cases of procuratorial public interest litigation related to barrier-free environment construction.<sup>40</sup> These actions reflect the proactive efforts and significant achievements of the judicial system in advancing the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities, thereby providing important references and adjudicative guidance for handling similar cases in the future.

## **B. Resolving daily challenges for persons with disabilities through administrative public interest litigation**

Procuratorates primarily protect the lawful rights and interests of unspecified persons with disabilities by initiating administrative public interest litigation, which serves as an efficient approach to addressing issues in the construction of barrier-free

36. Zhang Wanhong and Gao Wei, "The More, the Better: Multidisciplinary Research on Disability Rights," *Human Rights* 3 (2017): 37.

37. Supreme People's Court and China Disabled Persons' Federation, "Ten Opinions on Providing Higher-Quality Litigation Services for Persons with Disabilities," *Gazette of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China*, accessed February 28, 2025, <http://gongbao.court.gov.cn/Details/ae22a2de4dc93f37ffc2f98e271126.html>.

38. "Supreme People's Court and China Disabled Persons' Federation Release Ten Typical Cases on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities," website of Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, <https://www.court.gov.cn/zixun/xiangqing/334501.html>.

39. "Supreme People's Court Announces 10 Typical Cases on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities: Case of A XX v. Nanchang XX Service Co., Ltd. over Personal Injury Compensation Dispute," Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, <https://www.court.gov.cn/zixun/xiangqing/20871.html>.

40. "Supreme People's Procuratorate, Together with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the China Disabled Persons' Federation, Releases Typical Cases of Procuratorial Public Interest Litigation on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment," Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, [https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbh/202311/t20231113\\_633597.shtml](https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbh/202311/t20231113_633597.shtml).

environments and a fallback measure for supervision and management.<sup>41</sup> In the case of “Luodian County Procuratorate in Guizhou Province Urging the Protection of Safety of Tactile Paving for Persons with Disabilities through Administrative Public Interest Litigation,” the Luodian County Procuratorate discovered during its duties that multi-ple urban areas lacked,damaged,or had improperly designed tactile paving,severely compromising the traffic safety of persons with disabilities.In response,the Luodian County People’s Procuratorate issued pre-litigation procuratorial suggestions to the Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau,which held management responsibil-ity for road accessibility facilities.However,as the Bureau failed to implement timely rectifications,the Luodian County People’s Procuratorate filed a lawsuit after conduct-ing a public hearing.<sup>42</sup> Additionally,the medical emergency command center in Jiande City,Zhejiang Province,lacked text-based alarm functionality,hindering emergency assistance for individuals with hearing or speech impairments.Through public hear-ings and procuratorial suggestions,the procuratorial organ promoted system upgrades to ensure the emergency needs of specific groups and advance the construction of an information barrier-free environment.This initiative demonstrated how procuratorial organs achieved comprehensive coverage of text-based alarm functionality across the city’s emergency systems through case-specific supervision.<sup>43</sup> Simultaneously,procu-ratorial organs are actively fostering the innovative establishment of a specialized su-pervision mechanism for public interest litigation focused on environment adaptability construction.For example,from February to August 2024,a total of 1,616 related cases were filed,representing a surge of 165.79%year-on-year.<sup>44</sup> Thus,procuratorial suggestions and public hearings have become critical components in public interest litigation cases.

### C.Optimizing barrier-free environment construction through innovative practices

The *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* specifies detailed standards for the construction of barrier-free environments,accessible information exchange,and social services.Guided by this legal framework,a wave of innovative practices has emerged nationwide.For example,map navigation software has success-

41. Qiu Jinghui, “Understanding and Applying the Procuratorial Public Interest Litigation Provisions in the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment,” *People’s Procuratorial Semimonthly* 17(2023).

42. “Typical Case of Procuratorial Public Interest Litigation for Protecting the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities: Case of Luodian County People’s Procuratorate, Guizhou Province, Supervising and Urging the Protection of the Safety of Tactile Paving for Persons with Disabilities through Administrative Public Interest Litigation,” website of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the People’s Republic of China, accessed February 14, 2025, [https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbt/202205/t02220513\\_556792.shtml#2](https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbt/202205/t02220513_556792.shtml#2).

43. “Typical Case of Procuratorial Public Interest Litigation: Jiande City People’s Procuratorate, Zhejiang Province, Supervising and Urging the Improvement of the Text Alarm Function of the 120 Emergency Dispatch System through Administrative Public Interest Litigation,” website of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the People’s Republic of China, accessed February 14, 2025, [https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbt/202205/t02220513\\_556792.shtml#2](https://www.spp.gov.cn/xwfbh/wsfbt/202205/t02220513_556792.shtml#2).

44. “Improving the Effectiveness of the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment (People’s Daily Commentary),” *People’s Daily*, accessed February 7, 2025, [http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-09/18/nw.D110000renmrb\\_20240918\\_2-05.htm](http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-09/18/nw.D110000renmrb_20240918_2-05.htm).

fully introduced wheelchair-accessible routing functions, providing over 95 million barrier-free path planning services to users to date. Simultaneously, cinemas in multiple regions have equipped themselves with accessible screening devices, enabling visually impaired audiences to enjoy films through narrated descriptions.<sup>45</sup> In the provision of social services and the promotion of public interest litigation, the Capital Museum's exhibition "Powerful Witness to Chinese Civilization: Beijing General History Display" fully integrated barrier-free environment concepts in showcase height, label color and tilt angle, and exhibit explanations.<sup>46</sup> To bridge the digital divide and foster an accessible information exchange ecosystem, China Unicom, China Mobile, and China Telecom launched services such as "Gray Age Exclusive," "Heart-to-Heart Service Gray Guardian Plan," and "Love Wing Station," respectively, addressing the needs of elderly individuals.<sup>47</sup> Additionally, telephone-based ride-hailing services have been introduced in many regions, facilitating travel for older adults. Various areas are accelerating the development of age-appropriate transportation service networks, with the 95128 system already piloted and deployed in multiple provinces and cities. This service operates through a dual-track model combining intelligent dispatch platforms and traditional telephone calls, focusing on overcoming operational barriers faced by the elderly in digital mobility scenarios, thereby establishing a comprehensive transportation support system for groups with special needs across urban and rural areas. In regions such as Inner Mongolia and Yunnan, accessible 120 emergency alert systems have been developed for individuals with hearing impairments.

#### **D. Multi-department collaboration to jointly protect the lawful rights and interests of persons with disabilities**

The grand vision of universal enjoyment of all human rights can only be realized through the construction of an inclusive society built by all. By addressing opportunities, awareness, and capabilities across multiple levels, and engaging national, societal, and individual perspectives, a collaborative network for promoting and co-constructing the human rights of specific groups must be established. This network should support the efforts of various specific groups to realize their rights and pursue a fulfilling life, thereby achieving the comprehensive and integrated development of all members of society.<sup>48</sup> The construction of a barrier-free environment is not the responsibility of a single entity but requires the collaborative efforts of multiple departments. "In the transition from 'management' to 'governance,' it is essential to consolidate the strengths of government, market, social organizations, and citizens as actors in barrier-free environment construction. Through equal dialogue, coordinated integration, and shared responsibility should become the development pathway for

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45. Ibid.

46. Xu Hang, "Promoting the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment with the Warmth of the Rule of Law," *People's Congress of China* 17(2024).

47. Yin Limeng, "Promoting the High-Quality Development of the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment in the Process of Chinese Modernization," *Disability Research* 4(2024).

48. *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa*, [https://www.achpr.org/files/news/2016/04/d216/disability\\_protocol.pdf](https://www.achpr.org/files/news/2016/04/d216/disability_protocol.pdf).

China's barrier-free environment construction."<sup>49</sup> Courts primarily provide targeted protection for persons with disabilities in individual cases through the exercise of adjudicative functions. Additionally, courts are continuously improving their facilities and litigation processes to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in judicial activities. Procuratorates, on the other hand, primarily advance the overall construction and upgrading of barrier-free environments through administrative public interest litigation. Article 7 of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* explicitly states that the People's Government plays a coordinating and guiding role in barrier-free environment construction, while departments such as Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Civil Affairs are required to carry out barrier-free environment construction within their respective mandates. Currently, China has established a comprehensive education system for persons with disabilities, spanning from preschool to higher education. Students with disabilities can use braille test papers, customized desks and chairs, and other auxiliary facilities during examinations.<sup>50</sup> Initiatives such as "Beautiful Workshops" specifically established for women with disabilities and a rehabilitation assistance system for children with disabilities aimed at promoting rehabilitation and enhancing social integration reflect the protection and maintenance of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, organizations such as the China Disabled Persons' Federation and the China Association of the Aged are also playing their roles in assisting with the construction of a barrier-free environment. China has consistently encouraged social forces, including enterprises, public institutions, social organizations, and individuals, to participate in barrier-free environment construction through donations and volunteer activities. Today, social forces have become a significant driver of barrier-free environment construction. For example, Tencent, in collaboration with the China Disabled Persons' Federation, established an accessibility innovation laboratory, launching intelligent safety guardianship solutions and barrier-free entertainment products. These efforts continuously address various barriers in social life, practically advancing the steady development of China's human rights cause and enabling all members of society to equally enjoy the abundant fruits of social development.<sup>51</sup>

### E. Making China's voice heard through international cooperation

Under the global trend of barrier-free environment construction, China is deeply integrating into international exchanges and cooperation with a positive attitude and innovative models. Regarding policy exchange, China actively shares its experiences in technical standards, policy formulation, and supervision and enforcement of barrier-free environment construction. Through activities such as international seminars

49. Xu Qiaoxian, "Solving the Dilemma of the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment: From the Perspective of Social Governance Theory," *Journal of Hohai University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)* 6 (2015): 47.

50. "China's Implementation of the 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' Reviewed," Xinhua Net, accessed March 1, 2025, [https://www.news.cn/2022-08/23/c\\_1128940488.htm](https://www.news.cn/2022-08/23/c_1128940488.htm).

51. "Technology Companies Respond to Accessibility Legislation, Great Potential for Collaboration with China Disabled Persons' Federation and Public Welfare Organizations," [https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?\\_\\_biz=MzA4MjQxNjQzMA==&mid=2768845807&idx=2&sn=199798ae8e759fd240d6ecf74a5e5b91&chksm=bf7b9dae880c14b84c5867797abc95f398e21868111d88e754e3e2cffaf96efd605414755593&scene=27](https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzA4MjQxNjQzMA==&mid=2768845807&idx=2&sn=199798ae8e759fd240d6ecf74a5e5b91&chksm=bf7b9dae880c14b84c5867797abc95f398e21868111d88e754e3e2cffaf96efd605414755593&scene=27).



and training exchanges, it selflessly demonstrates to the international community its achievements in architectural barrier-free design, information accessibility technology R&D, and other areas. Many developing countries, drawing on China's experience, have accelerated their own processes of barrier-free environment construction, narrowed the gap with developed countries in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, and promoted in-depth discussion and cooperation within the international community on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In terms of international cooperation, China has facilitated multiple cooperation mechanisms, initiated the Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, co-hosted high-level intergovernmental meetings, and adopted the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.<sup>52</sup> China has implemented multiple innovative measures in promoting international disability human rights governance: it first proposed the "Asia-Pacific Framework for Inclusive Development for Persons with Disabilities," led the establishment of an intergovernmental multilateral dialogue platform, and promoted the adoption of the landmark *Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development*.<sup>53</sup> On February 26, 2024, during the thematic review on the rights of persons with disabilities at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Chinese delegation systematically demonstrated the country's breakthrough progress in its human rights protection system for people with disabilities: it has formed a cluster of rights protection norms covering over 90 laws and regulations; established a national governance embedding mechanism with the participation of over 6,000 representatives from the disability community, covering the political participation demands of 85 million people with functional impairments nationwide; implemented a dual-track system of livelihood security and nursing subsidies that has benefited 27 million people with special needs; completed an economic empowerment project for 7.1 million rural persons with disabilities; and established the world's first national-level higher education institution for rehabilitation, training over 5,000 professionals annually. On March 12, 2024, the Chinese Permanent Mission to Geneva, in collaboration with the Special Procedures on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and permanent missions of multiple countries including Mexico, jointly held a high-level side event to mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Special Procedures on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the meeting, China proposed to "construct a social cognition reconstruction project to eliminate ability-based discrimination, improve the adaptive environment support system to strengthen institutional guarantees, establish economic participation incentive mechanisms to promote opportunity equity, and systematically advance the realization of comprehensive equal rights for persons with disabilities in political, economic, and

52. "Equality, Participation and Sharing: 70 Years of Protecting the Rights and Interests of Persons with Disabilities in the PRC," White Paper, The State Council of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 15, 2025, [https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2019-07/25/content\\_5414945.htm](https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2019-07/25/content_5414945.htm).

53. "Beijing Declaration on Disability-inclusive Development," *Guangming Daily*, (June 9, 2012), accessed July 22, 2025, [https://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2012-06/09/nw.D110000gmrb\\_20120609\\_1-03.htm](https://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2012-06/09/nw.D110000gmrb_20120609_1-03.htm).

cultural fields.”<sup>54</sup>

In the process of Belt and Road cooperation, China has consistently maintained a proactive approach, vigorously promoting cooperation and exchange in disability affairs within the framework. Specific measures include actively advocating practical collaboration in areas such as social security for persons with disabilities, medical rehabilitation services, adaptive devices, public education, cultural and sports activities, among others.<sup>55</sup> Furthermore, China has facilitated capacity building for persons with disabilities and their organizations through initiatives like training programs for managers of disabled persons’ organizations, driving their continuous development. In terms of fulfilling international responsibilities, China strictly adheres to its inter-national obligations and has established a standardized reporting mechanism and an international oversight and response system. Under the state party reporting system outlined in Article 35 of the CRPD, China prepares national implementation reports through the coordinating mechanism of the State Council Working Committee on Dis-ability and relies on its Permanent Mission to the United Nations to build a review re-sponse system. For instance, during the 2022 review cycle, China submitted its report for review, fully demonstrating its remarkable achievements in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>56</sup>

These comprehensive measures have enabled China to achieve full protection of the rights of persons with disabilities domestically, and also positioned it as a strong advocate and active promoter of disability rights on the international stage, contributing significantly to the global development of disability affairs.

## **V. Future Prospects for Improving the Legal Framework of Barrier-free Environment Construction in China**

At present, China has made significant efforts in the formulation and implementation of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* and achieved a series of notable accomplishments. However, according to the Concluding Observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of China by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the “Observations”), there remains room for improvement in areas such as the standardization system, strategic planning and implementation of accessibility, and supervision of barrier-free environment construction in advancing the “accessibility” of disability rights protection. Furthermore, a range of emerging issues during the construction of barrier-free environments still need to be addressed and refined.

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54. “Jointly Promoting the Healthy Development of the World’s Human Rights Cause,” *People’s Daily*, accessed March 1, 2025, [http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-04/09/nw.D110000renmrb\\_20240409\\_1-03.htm](http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-04/09/nw.D110000renmrb_20240409_1-03.htm).

55. “Initiative on Promoting Cooperation and Exchange in Disability Affairs for the ‘Belt and Road,’” The State Council of the People’s Republic of China, accessed September 13, 2017, [https://www.gov.cn/fuwu/cjr/2017-09/13/content\\_5255279.htm](https://www.gov.cn/fuwu/cjr/2017-09/13/content_5255279.htm).

56. “Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Concludes Consideration of China’s Periodic Report on the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*,” United Nations, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2022/08/1108082>.

### A. Further improving the standardization system for barrier-free construction

The Observations pointed out that although China has established a basic legal framework in advancing the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*, it is still necessary to develop supporting implementation rules and specialized technical guidelines to establish a standardization system with dynamic adaptation capabilities.<sup>57</sup> Indeed, the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* currently serves as the programmatic legal document for barrier-free environment construction in China, occupying the position of an “overarching framework” within the legal system for barrier-free environment construction. “However, the principled and stable nature of the law presents certain limitations in the practice of barrier-free environment construction,”<sup>58</sup> Currently, to implement the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* more effectively, China has adopted multiple legal tools, including judicial interpretations, local regulations, and various types of guidance documents. Nevertheless, these efforts still need to be supplemented by standards characterized by flexibility, precision, and operational practicality. The standardization system serves as technical guidance for constructing barrier-free environments and acts as a critical tool for supervising, evaluating, and certifying the quality of such environments. It is also a prerequisite for the precise and efficient implementation of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*. The development of the standardization system should focus on the following issues:

First, clarify the progressive obligations for barrier-free construction and the immediate duty to provide reasonable accommodation (adjustments) for various types of obligated entities. This will facilitate the coordination of medium-to-long-term planning and short-term action plans for barrier-free construction by governments at all levels and relevant ministries.<sup>59</sup> Additionally, attention should be paid to coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders, as establishing a systematic implementation framework is a key pathway to enhancing the effectiveness of barrier-free environment construction. By creating a well-defined coordination mechanism with clear responsibilities, administrative resources across all levels of government can be effectively integrated, forming a cross-departmental collaborative governance network to ensure synergistic effects in the renovation of barrier-free facilities and the optimization of services.

Second, strengthen the development of standards in the field of digital services. The *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* aims to establish a comprehensive system of accessibility norms covering both physical spaces and digital platforms through the adoption of universal design principles. However, it is important to note that mandatory technical regulations are still lacking in digital service areas such as e-government and public communications. This absence of standards directly

57. “Concluding Observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of China by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” CRPD/C/CHN/CO/2-3.

58. He Bixian, “Research on the Status Quo, Problems, and Countermeasures of the Standardization of the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment in China,” *Standard Science* 11(2023).

59. Zhang Wanhong and Ding Peng, “Review and Prospect of Thirty Years of Legal Construction for the Cause of Persons with Disabilities in China,” *Disability Research* 1(2021):18.

impacts the right of vulnerable groups to equal access to information.

Third,improve the consistency and readability of standard documents.A universal guide applicable nationwide can ensure consistency and standardization in barrier-free environment construction and better adapt to local specific needs.Currently,the standards for barrier-free environment construction are not yet systematic and lack institutional synergy.<sup>60</sup> Moreover,most existing accessibility guidelines lack detailed illustrations and explanations,<sup>61</sup> with content that is often too broad and difficult to read.

It should also be noted that the construction of a barrier-free environment should not be rushed.Applying all standards comprehensively across all sectors of society at once is neither economical nor practical.A gradual approach should be adopted,starting with pilot programs in key areas and continuously refining the standards through evaluation mechanisms.

### **B.Continuously deepening strategic planning and implementation for accessibility**

Systematically advancing the construction of a barrier-free environment is a core pathway to protecting the right to social participation for persons with disabilities.The Observations indicate that current practices reveal structural shortcomings in the cross-sector application of inclusive design principles:disparities between urban and rural infrastructure result in significant gradients in the coverage of accessibility services—rural areas,constrained by weak transportation networks and public service facilities,lag in the construction of basic accessibility units such as platform ramps and information guidance systems.Meanwhile,urban renewal processes face challenges due to insufficient integration of technical standards,with accessibility adaptations in community healthcare and cultural venues yet to achieve full lifecycle coverage.This necessitates that government departments coordinate the development of a comprehensive blueprint for barrier-free development,focusing on addressing the dual challenges of rural service gaps and urban spatial renovations.By combining standardized technical guidelines with differentiated financial support mechanisms,the goal is to achieve a holistic enhancement of inclusive service capabilities in public spaces.<sup>62</sup>

Therefore,to better implement the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*,relevant legal tools and supporting documents should include detailed judicial interpretations and technical standards,as well as local regulations and operational guidance from governments at all levels,providing comprehensive support to all stakeholders and ensuring the effective progression of barrier-free environment construction.The strategic planning accompanying the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* also serves as a critical reference for policymakers,le-

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60.“Initiative on Promoting Cooperation and Exchange in Disability Affairs for the‘Belt and Road’,”The State Council of the People’s Republic of China,accessed September 13,2017,[https://www.gov.cn/fuwu/cjfr/2017-09/13/content\\_5255279.htm](https://www.gov.cn/fuwu/cjfr/2017-09/13/content_5255279.htm).

61.Sun Jiling,Suo Haoyu,and Chen Gong,“The Construction of a Barrier-free Environment in the Process of Chinese Modernization:Significance,Development,and Path,”*Disability Research* 3(2023):45.

62.Enqiao Gu,“Before and after the Barrier-free Law:Legal Implementation of Accessibility in China,”330.

gal enforcers, and related professionals, promoting the continuous improvement and development of the legal framework for accessibility, and enhancing the precision and adaptability of legal implementation.<sup>63</sup> In this way, the relevant legal tools offer specific operational guidance, and also foster societal understanding and support for barrier-free environment construction, thereby better adapting to the specific needs of different regions and social groups. It is important to note here that, following the Concluding Observations on China's second periodic report by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, China has continued to advance its efforts in barrier-free construction in response. For instance, it has issued technical standards such as the *Code for Accessibility Design* (GB 50763-2012)<sup>64</sup> and the *Code for Construction, Acceptance, and Maintenance of Accessibility Facilities* (GB 50642-2011),<sup>65</sup> covering construction, transportation, and information communication. Additionally, the national standard *Technical Requirements and Testing Methods for Web Content Accessibility of Information Technology* (GB/T 37668-2019)<sup>66</sup> has been implemented to promote website accessibility.

### C. Continuously enhancing collaborative regulatory effectiveness

In its Concluding Observations, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities emphasized that China's efforts to build an efficient barrier-free environment protection system require significant attention to improving regulatory effectiveness. Currently, issues such as inadequate post-construction management persist in barrier-free environment construction, necessitating strengthened supervision. In the future, efforts should focus on advancing the establishment and refinement of a multi-stakeholder collaborative supervision mechanism. First, the substantive participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in the evaluation of roads and public facilities should be strengthened. Consideration should be given to establishing a regular participation mechanism for persons with disabilities and their organizations, integrating their input into the entire process of planning, design, construction, and acceptance of roads and public facilities. Second, a comprehensive online and offline supervision and reporting mechanism accessible to persons with disabilities should be established. For example, in the United States, most states have dedicated complaint committees to handle inspections and complaints from users of accessibility facilities.<sup>67</sup> Third, the full-process regulatory responsibilities of administrative departments should be clarified, and investment in barrier-free environment construction should be increased. Fourth, the role of public interest litigation in rigidly

63. Ibid., 332-333.

64. *Code for Accessibility Design*, Anhui Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, accessed February 28, 2025, <https://zjj.ahsz.gov.cn/download/5bbe97c7b760b4e97150fcb8>.

65. *Code for Construction, Acceptance, and Maintenance of Accessibility Facilities*, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, accessed February 28, 2025, <https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-03/30/5682480/files/136d6deb037942068a290c9d2c28789f.pdf>.

66. *Technical Requirements and Testing Methods for Web Content Accessibility of Information Technology*, accessed February 28, 2025, [http://wza.isc.org.cn/static/upload/202207/0720\\_171301\\_557.pdf](http://wza.isc.org.cn/static/upload/202207/0720_171301_557.pdf).

67. Zhao Lizhi, Yang Ge, Zhou Qing, et al., "Comparison and Reflection on the Construction of Accessible Urban Environments in China and Foreign Countries," *Urban Studies* 4(2014).

constraining acts that infringe upon the rights of persons with disabilities should be fully leveraged, and the feasibility of allowing disabled persons' organizations to serve as plaintiffs in public interest litigation should be considered.

#### **D. Focusing on improving barrier-free environment construction in key areas**

First, optimize the barrier-free coverage network of public transportation and build an accessible travel environment. On the one hand, hardware facility construction should focus on both infrastructure and information systems, innovating accessibility features with emphasis on technical details such as wheelchair securement devices, while establishing information management systems, broadening information supply channels, and creating a signage system for accessible facilities in rail transit. On the other hand, software development should improve service models, balancing the protection of persons with disabilities with operational costs, and adhering to human-centered design and optimal principles.<sup>68</sup>

Second, prioritize barrier-free construction in community environments. "The goal of community accessibility is to reduce or eliminate travel necessitated by obtaining essential daily necessities and services."<sup>69</sup> To achieve this, efforts should be made in functional land-use planning, street planning and design, and the distribution of travel facilities to ensure persons with disabilities can reach their destinations quickly and conveniently.<sup>70</sup> Currently, China has established strict standards for barrier-free environment construction in the building sector, ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy convenient access routes from large urban public buildings to small community activity spaces.

#### **E. Accelerating the digitalization of barrier-free environment construction**

Advancing digital inclusion and eliminating barriers to information access represent critical future trends in the protection of persons with disabilities in China. With the advent of the digital era, the internet and smart devices have become essential tools for accessing information and participating in social life. However, for persons with disabilities such as visual or hearing impairments, the information "gap" remains significant. In response, future efforts should prioritize barrier-free environment construction in the digital age, addressing both new challenges and leveraging the unique role of digital technologies in this process. On one hand, governments and enterprises should collaborate to promote the accessibility transformation of websites and mobile applications. This includes incorporating accessibility standards into algorithm design specifications, adding features such as font enlargement and high-contrast modes for accessible reading, integrating text-to-speech functionality for web content, and providing real-time captions and sign language interpretation for video materials. On the other hand, it is essential to strengthen digital skills training for persons with disabili-

68. Pan Haixiao, Zou Wei, Zhao Ting, et al., "Rethinking the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment for Shanghai Rail Transit," *Shanghai Urban Planning Review* 2(2013).

69. Pan Haixiao, Hua Xia, and Shi Yaolu, "Construction of a Barrier-free Transportation Environment Based on the Concept of Inclusive Development," *Transport Research* 3(2021).

70. Ibid.



ities. Through community services and online courses, they should be empowered to use smart devices effectively, enabling them to enjoy the conveniences of the digital era and truly realize the vision of a digitally inclusive society where “no one is left behind.”

## VI. Conclusion

The *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment*, as a significant achievement in China’s legislative practice, demonstrates remarkable synergy with the philosophy and objectives of the *CRPD*, effectively bridging international legal norms with domestic legal implementation. It reflects China’s faithful fulfillment of its obligations as a responsible major country under international treaties.<sup>71</sup> Also, it precisely applies the core tenets of human rights protection to multiple dimensions of the daily lives of persons with disabilities. By comprehensively constructing an institutional framework for their equitable participation in social life, it underscores the state’s firm stance and proactive actions in protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. In the evolution of international human rights law, it also holds exemplary significance, contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to the global cause of human rights. This further embodies China’s consistent adherence to the concept of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind—a vision deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture and imbued with profound humanistic spirit. It also provides dual-dimensional guidance for both the practical work and value orientation of international law: offering a value framework for concrete practices while outlining a clear ethical direction for the development trajectory of international law at the macro level.<sup>72</sup>

In the future, as society continues to develop and progress, China should persist in using the *CRPD* as a guide, continually expanding and deepening the scope and substance of barrier-free environment construction. Dynamic adjustments and optimizations of the *Law on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment* and its supporting policies and measures are essential to meet the growing and diverse needs of persons with disabilities. China is keenly aware that its development is closely intertwined with that of the international community. Its sustained efforts in the field of human rights protection represent a responsibility to its domestic population and an active contribution to building an inclusive, equitable, and harmonious global Community with a Shared Future for Mankind. By advancing the development of global barrier-free environments and the cause of human rights, China is infusing continuous momentum and warmth into this community, fostering shared global development achievements.

(Translated by CHEN Feng)

71. Sun Jiling, “Characteristics and Innovations of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Construction of a Barrier-free Environment,” *Modern Special Education* 16(2024).

72. He Zhipeng, “The Modern Leap of China’s Philosophy of International Law,” *Jurists Review* 1(2025):38.