

Building a China-Latin American and Caribbean States Community with a Shared Future and the Development of Human Rights

— A Review of the Second China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights

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Abstract: *On July 25, 2025, the second China-Latin American and Caribbean States (China-LAC) Roundtable on Human Rights was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. More than 130 participants from 20 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, conducted in-depth discussions centering on the theme of “China-Latin American and Caribbean States Community with a Shared Future and the Development of Human Rights”. The forum published the Sao Paulo Consensus on China-Latin American and the Caribbean States Human Rights Communication and Cooperation, and launched the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Human Rights Research and Cooperation Network. Participants spoke highly of the development and progress of the human rights cause since the founding of the People’s Republic of China. In particular, in recent years, based on the existing high-level economic and trade cooperation, China-LAC exchanges and cooperation in the field of human rights have made rapid progress and remarkable achievements, effectively enhancing bilateral mutual trust. Looking ahead, efforts should be made to advance the joint building of a China-Latin American and Caribbean States Community with a Shared Future and the development of the human rights cause of both sides, build on development cooperation, strengthen governance coordination and exchanges and mutual learning, carry out more joint actions in the field of human rights, so as to make greater joint contributions to the advancement and development of the world’s human rights cause.*

Keywords: China-Latin American and Caribbean States roundtable on human rights ♦ human rights ♦ China-Latin American and Caribbean States community with a shared future ♦ digital human rights ♦ climate and human rights

As an important member of the Global South, Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as “LAC”) is a key participant in the international human rights system and has played an important role in advancing human rights concepts and contributing to the formation of international human rights norms.¹ In recent years, a growing number of LAC states have begun to pay close attention to and acknowledge the progress achieved in China’s human rights cause, and exchanges and cooperation between China and LAC states in the field of human rights have become

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¹ Jiang Kai, “The Construction of Latin American Human Rights Protection Mechanisms and Their Constraints,” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 2 (2022): 124-126.

increasingly frequent. In 2025, in the *Beijing Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum*, China and LAC states unanimously expressed their “commitment to jointly promote the cause of human rights,” laying an important foundation for promoting bilateral human rights exchanges and cooperation.

Following the establishment of a mechanism-based platform for dialogue and exchanges on human rights between China and LAC states at the first China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights, the second Roundtable was held on July 25, 2025, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Over 130 participants — including senior government officials, experts and scholars in the field of human rights, as well as representatives from social organizations, think tanks, media outlets, and enterprises — from 20 countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile attended the meeting. Centered on the theme of “China-Latin American and Caribbean States Community with a Shared Future and the Development of Human Rights,” participants engaged in focused discussions on topics including “Human Rights Protection in the Digital and Intelligent Era,” “Environment, Climate, and Human Rights,” and “China-LAC Contributions to Global Human Rights Governance.” The meeting adopted and released the *Sao Paulo Consensus on China-Latin American and Caribbean States Human Rights Communication and Cooperation* and launched the “China-Latin American and Caribbean States Human Rights Research and Cooperation Network.” Closely aligned with the evolving theme of China-LAC relations, the forum discussed human rights issues within the broader context of development cooperation and global governance, demonstrating a clear concern for real-world challenges and a strong problem-oriented approach.

Many participants noted that the second China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights was convened at a critical moment marked by global geopolitical turbulence and intensifying ethnic conflicts, rendering it a particularly significant event. The forum bore witness to the growing influence of voices from the Global South and articulated a new vision for global human rights governance that calls for cooperation rather than confrontation, coordination rather than hegemony. It was described as a political declaration, a moral statement, and a call for solidarity among peoples, representing another breakthrough in China-LAC exchanges and cooperation in the field of human rights.

I. Broad Recognition of China’s Human Rights Concepts and Practices

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has emphasized that “Democracy is not an ornament, nor is it something to be put on display. Human rights are also not ornaments, nor are they something to be put on display.”² For a considerable period of time, exchanges and cooperation between China and LAC states focused primarily on trade and investment, particularly on China’s economic impact on the region. However, with the increasing

² Xi Jinping, “Unsparingly Advancing China’s Human Rights Development Path and Better Promoting the Development of China’s Human Rights Cause,” *Qiushi* 12 (2022).

frequency of people-to-people exchanges and the deepening of cultural and social interactions, and profound adjustments in the global governance landscape, a growing number of observers from LAC states have begun to turn their attention to the development of China's human rights cause. They have closely followed China's breakthrough achievements in human rights protection, and have also shown a growing interest in exploring China's human rights philosophy and its potential implications and reference value for LAC states. Participants generally agreed that China has provided a measurable, referable, and shareable approach to human rights development, one with strong practical relevance that merits broader international recognition and study.

A. Recognition of China's people-centered human rights development path grounded in national conditions

General Secretary Xi Jinping has profoundly observed that "human rights are historical, concrete, and realistic; they cannot be discussed in abstraction apart from the social and political conditions and historical and cultural traditions of different countries."³ China has consistently integrated the Marxist view of human rights with its concrete realities and with the fine traditions of Chinese culture, upholding a people-centered human rights philosophy that emphasizes that "a happy life for the people is the greatest human right."⁴

Chen Chao, research fellow at the Human Rights Research Center of Nankai University and Professor at the Zhou Enlai School of Government, emphasized that China's human rights concepts, institutions, and practices have taken shape through long-term exploration characterized by "learning through practice and practicing through learning," in accordance with Marxist practical philosophy and firmly grounded in China's national realities. In China's understanding of human rights, rights are not static "pre-existing entitlements," but rather a dynamic process of continuous generation and development through labor, learning, and social participation. Human needs and human practice constitute the source of rights, rather than the abstract presupposition of "natural rights" in Western thought. Zhang Shuguang, vice dean of the School of Law at Xinjiang University, further emphasized that China's human rights philosophy adheres to the principle of putting the people first, meaning that the interests of the people as a whole take precedence over those of any particular class, group, or individual. It prioritizes the right to development, focuses on strengthening the material foundations of human rights through economic development, and systematically enhances human rights protection by improving institutional safeguards, promoting employment, eradicating poverty, advancing coordinated regional development, and strengthening social security systems.

This practice-oriented path rooted in national conditions is increasingly resonating with perceptive figures in LAC states. They recognize that the realization of human rights requires a dialectical unity between universality and particularity, and that LAC states likewise need to explore development paths suited to their own realities. Daniel Rodríguez Bozzani, professor at the National University of Lanús in

³ Ibid.

⁴ Gao Changjian, "The 'Substantive' Nature of Contemporary China's Concept of Human Rights and Its Theoretical Development," *Human Rights* 3 (2025): 5-6.

Argentina, pointed out that while similarities in how countries define human rights reflect their universal value and create possibilities for coexistence and integration among different civilizations, national conditions vary widely, and there is no universally applicable or simple formula for realizing human rights at the global level. There is no “secret recipe” for achieving effective human rights protection; the key lies in grounding efforts in national conditions and using constitutions and laws as the fundamental means for protecting human rights.

B. Recognition of China’s practice of prioritizing the rights to subsistence and development as primary basic human rights

Subsistence is the foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights; without the right to subsistence, no other rights can be meaningfully realized. Hunger and extreme poverty, which pose threats to human survival, have long been global challenges spanning history and nations and have yet to be fully eradicated. In recent years, against the backdrop of economic difficulties in many LAC states and persistently high poverty rates in some of them, the view that “the rights to subsistence and development are the primary basic human rights” has gained increasing recognition in LAC states, and China’s achievements and experience in eliminating absolute poverty have been highly praised.

Luis González, professor of Political Science at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, emphasized that without a stable social environment, adequate material guarantee, and sustainable economic growth, other rights are like water without a source. Guided by this philosophy, China has achieved remarkable economic and social development. LAC states, he argued, should reassess the substance of human rights protection and prioritize ensuring that their citizens enjoy basic rights to subsistence, adequate food and clothing, education, healthcare, and the ability to raise future generations.

Elias Jabbour, director of the Instituto Pereira Passos of Rio de Janeiro, believes that China has become an example for the development of the global human rights cause in many aspects. Discussions of human rights, he argued, should transcend a Western-centric perspective. China’s more than seventy years of rapid development since the founding of the New China — particularly its integration of poverty eradication into the national development system and its “scientific” approach to poverty alleviation through sustained resource input and institutional safeguards — has provided LAC states and the world with a tested and effective path. Isis Paris Maia, a young scholar at Brazil’s Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, conducted in-depth research on China’s systems for registering impoverished households, providing targeted assistance, and conducting follow-up monitoring, illustrating how China has translated poverty alleviation into concrete practice — standing in sharp contrast to the “talk without action,” or even indifference, observed in some Western countries. Juan Carlos Moraga, President of the Chilean human rights NGO Human Rights Without Borders, stated that China’s success in poverty alleviation represents a monumental achievement in human history. By continuously advancing the rule of law in social governance and strengthening protections for citizens’ property rights, social rights, and political rights, China has gained the political and moral authority to

engage in and promote global human rights initiatives, enabling it to actively advocate related proposals and actions and to effectively protect the lives and fundamental rights of the world's most vulnerable populations.

C. Recognition of China's exploration of expanding human rights protection through digital-intelligent transformation and green development

Against the backdrop of the intertwined technological revolution and ecological transformation, digital-intelligent technologies and green development have emerged as two key dimensions for expanding the substance of human rights protection. China's concepts and practices in these two areas provide important reference points for Global South countries seeking to explore human rights development paths suited to their own national conditions.

On the one hand, China has actively taken the lead in innovating human rights protection approaches in the digital-intelligent era. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized the principle of "people-centered development and intelligent technology for good."⁵ In the face of the fifth wave of technological revolution, China has taken meeting the people's needs for a better life as the ultimate goal of scientific and technological innovation, attaching great importance to the protection of human rights in the process of digitalization and intelligent transformation. At the institutional level, Liu Xiaomei, research fellow at the Institute of International Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, noted that, based on the non-exclusive and non-rivalrous nature of data resources, China has introduced a series of legislative measures to innovatively protect data property rights, digital rights, and algorithmic rights, effectively balancing personal privacy and the public interest. With regard to the protection of the rights of specific groups, Shen Qian, assistant research fellow at the same institute, explained that through the refinement of legal norms, the promotion of barrier-free infrastructure projects, and requirements for age-friendly adaptations of internet applications, China has significantly enhanced the capacity of persons with disabilities, older persons, and other groups to adapt to the digital era. In the judicial field, Duan Junshang, research fellow at the Human Rights Research Center of Shandong University, emphasized that China has coordinated technological application with effective oversight in criminal justice by regulating the use of big data and artificial intelligence in criminal investigations through legislation, exercising prudence in the use of AI-assisted adjudication and surveillance-based law enforcement tools, and leveraging intelligent technologies to reduce practices such as prolonged pretrial detention in non-custodial cases, thereby ensuring that the application of technology in criminal justice enhances rather than undermines human rights protection.

On the other hand, China stands as a practitioner and exemplar in addressing climate change and advancing green development. In July 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13, which recognized the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as an inalienable human right, further highlighting the global significance of China's green

⁵ "Xi Jinping Delivers Video Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development," *People's Daily*, June 13, 2024, 1st edition.

development path. Marta Fernández, director of the BRICS Policy Center at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, emphasized that China has not followed the path of “high consumption plus resource exploitation” pursued by some Western developed countries, such as the United States, but has instead explored a sustainable path to modernization that enriches the connotation of modernization itself. This experience, she argued, is worthy of reference for LAC states in formulating localized and sustainable green development strategies. Hugo Cavieres, former vice minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources at Peru’s Ministry of Environment, observed that China has sound environmental planning and comprehensive natural resource management policies, and has also actively promoted environmental practices in its overseas projects through documents such as the *Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Protection Cooperation Plan*. These efforts provide important reference for LAC states, including Peru, in strengthening awareness of environmental rights and formulating green development policies. Anne Luise de Amorim, ESG manager at State Grid Brazil Holding S.A., cited corporate practice as an example, reviewing the company’s fifteen years of operations in Brazil during which it has consistently integrated environmental protection and respect for human rights into project implementation, thereby making positive contributions to the building of a just and sustainable society in Brazil.

D. Recognition of China’s experience in rights protection in a multi-ethnic society

China has achieved a favorable situation in frontier regions with concentrated ethnic minority populations characterized by political stability, ethnic unity, economic development, social harmony, religious concord, environmental friendliness, and people living and working in contentment. These governance experiences provide useful reference for regions such as Latin America that feature multi-ethnic and multi-racial social structures. Zhang Qingren, professor at Minzu University of China, pointed out that China adheres to the basic principle of ethnic unity and mutual assistance, and emphasizes integrating the protection of political rights of residents in ethnic minority areas with economic and social development. By fostering local characteristic industries and implementing paired assistance programs, China ensures that ethnic minority groups share the fruits of modernization. Meanwhile, China attaches great importance to the preservation and inheritance of ethnic minority cultures by establishing bilingual education systems in ethnic minority regions that cover all levels from basic education to higher education, using both minority languages and the national common language as languages of instruction, and setting up special funds to support the digitalization of minority languages and scripts, thereby ensuring their continued vitality in the digital era. Zhang Jianjiang, dean of the School of Law at Xinjiang University, noted that Xinjiang has made full use of its legislative authority under the system of regional ethnic autonomy to creatively incorporate the green development wisdom embedded in traditional local cultures into local legislation, and has systematically protected the environmental rights of all ethnic groups living in Xinjiang through measures such as improving the ecological

and living environment, strengthening law enforcement oversight, and enhancing judicial protection.

E. Recognition of China’s pragmatic contributions to the healthy development of global human rights governance

Participants from LAC states generally agreed that China practices genuine multilateralism and provides new ideas and approaches for global human rights governance. Shaira Downs, chair of the Indigenous Peoples’ Committee of the National Assembly of Nicaragua and a Member of Parliament, emphasized that Nicaragua cherishes the brotherly friendship and equal respect extended by China. China, she noted, never imposes cooperation on others, but instead builds partnerships based on equality and mutual benefit. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has demonstrated a new paradigm of inter-state cooperation to the world — one based on mutual assistance and win-win outcomes rather than hegemonic dominance or hierarchical dependency — in stark contrast to the long-standing logic of colonialism and enslavement that has shaped the region’s historical experience. Javier Alberto Vadell, a professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, further observed that the cooperation options provided by China to LAC states are “development-oriented”, distinguishing them from traditional Western aid models. China’s efforts to advance human rights globally do not rely on empty political rhetoric, but instead on concrete projects implemented through mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights, thereby promoting local development and achieving an organic integration of economic development and human rights protection.

II. Human Rights Reflection and Critique of Global Human Rights

Governance from a LAC Perspective

Since the modern era, Western countries have long dominated the international human rights discourse system. Through representative narratives such as “natural rights,” “all people are born free,” and “inalienable human rights,”⁶ they have promoted their human rights concepts worldwide via media outlets, non-governmental organizations, domestic legislation, and supporting sanction mechanisms — demonstrating strong penetrative power and a high degree of misleading appeal.⁷ More seriously, some countries have politicized and weaponized human rights issues, converting them into diplomatic tools for suppressing competitors and instruments of geopolitical maneuvering.⁸ In the aftermath of World War II, the LAC region also became one of the arenas in which the United States pursued its so-called “human rights diplomacy” and tested its global hegemony, imposing heavy pressure on the

⁶ Mao Junxiang, “The Internationalization of China’s Human Rights Discourse from the Perspective of Expanding Western Human Rights Narratives,” *Legal Forum* 2 (2021): 121-123.

⁷ Zhao Yonghua and Liu Juan, “The Construction and International Communication of China’s Human Rights Discourse,” *Journal of Renmin University of China* 5 (2021): 118.

⁸ *U.S. Politicization of Human Rights Erodes Foundation of Human Rights Governance* (Beijing: China Society for Human Rights Studies, 2021).

region's human rights protection capacity and shaping a burdensome human rights discourse framework.⁹

A. Reflection on the imbalance in global human rights governance

Article 28 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states: "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized". At present, unreasonable institutional arrangements within the global governance system have become potential human rights development traps for Global South countries. One of the primary concerns raised by Latin American participants is that certain major powers have long politicized, instrumentalized, and weaponized human rights, undermining the universality and fairness of human rights principles, while in practice constituting interference in the internal affairs of other states and violations of their peoples' fundamental rights. Katerin Alejandra Fruguletti Hernández, researcher in International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, emphasized that Venezuela is currently subjected to more than 1,000 illegal, unilateral, and coercive sanctions. These sanctions systematically violate human rights and have caused severe damage to the basic rights of the Venezuelan people. Fernando Estenssoro Saavedra, director of the PhD Program in American Studies at the University of Santiago de Chile, stressed that developed countries have long pursued environmental geopolitics, attempting to curb the development of Global South countries by politicizing and instrumentalizing environmental issues. Building an ecological civilization that ensures social justice and national sovereignty is a shared demand of Global South countries, and China-LAC cooperation should be strengthened to address climate change on a genuinely scientific basis, rather than falling into climate issue traps constructed by developed countries. André Aroux, co-coordinator of the Geopolitics and Regional Integration Working Group of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), pointed out that under the U.S.-dominated global financial system, the United States has the right to access all U.S. dollar payment and receipt records and financial transaction records involving U.S. companies, and frequently uses this leverage to impose unilateral financial sanctions. This has become a major factor preventing the normal functioning of sanctioned economies and has resulted in systematic human rights violations in those countries.

B. Critique of western-centered human rights discourse

China's continued rise has further prompted LAC scholars and policymakers to reflect on both their own human rights situations and the global human rights order. Victoria Analia Donda Perez, president of the Citizenship and Human Rights Commission of the MERCOSUR Parliament, argued that Global South countries must reconsider the true meaning of "human rights" and the appropriate means of safeguarding them, and re-examine global human rights evaluation systems and standards in order to break away from concepts and research paradigms rooted in specific Western traditions. She noted that international human rights monitoring

⁹ Pan Miqi, "U.S. 'Human Rights Diplomacy' under Cold War Thinking: A Constructivist Reexamination of the Carter Administration's Response to the 1980 El Salvador Human Rights Crisis," *Latin American Studies* 5 (2023): 157.

organizations guided by traditional Western human rights concepts often focus excessively on so-called “major events” such as torture and enforced disappearances, while relatively neglecting everyday and structural rights issues such as poverty, discrimination, and shortages in education and healthcare resources. This one-sided focus, she argued, exposes inherent limitations in their epistemological foundations, political positions, and research methodologies. Martin Unzué, director of the Gino Germani Research Institute at the University of Buenos Aires, similarly emphasized that due to historical factors, many LAC states have long prioritized preventing authoritarian threats from governments in their human rights agendas, while overlooking new forms of human rights violations such as hunger, homelessness, and inadequate access to healthcare and education. Addressing these widespread deficiencies has now become an urgent task for the region. In this context, China’s successful practices in poverty eradication and in improving universal access to education and healthcare provide important references and valuable models.

C. China as an important enabling factor for human rights development in LAC States

Based on extensive empirical evidence, participants widely agreed that pragmatic cooperation with China offers an effective pathway for enhancing human rights protection in the LAC region. Pablo Vommaro, executive director of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), emphasized that Latin America once again stands at a crossroads: whether to rely on hollow promises and a single value narrative and risk marginalization, or to become a new pole of growth through autonomous cooperation. Cooperation platforms such as the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights are opening up an entirely new development path. Choosing to cooperate with China provides a crucial opportunity for LAC states to achieve autonomous development. Arley Nichaul Salimbi Gill, chair of the Grenada National Reparations Committee, stressed that China, as a pragmatic development partner, has promoted the implementation of numerous projects that have taken root and delivered tangible results, effectively advancing poverty reduction, improving living standards, and improving the accessibility of public health and medical services in the Caribbean region, thereby strongly promoting the development of human rights in the region. Rodrigo Biva, associate professor at the Uruguay branch of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), shared Uruguay’s experience of digital technology cooperation with China in the field of urban surveillance, noting that Chinese digital technologies have been well integrated with Uruguay’s regulatory and governance frameworks. LAC states, he argued, can fully leverage Chinese digital technologies while maintaining autonomy. Uruguay’s practice has already formed a replicable model whose experience merits wider sharing.

III. Building a China-LAC Community with a Shared Future Oriented toward Achieving Higher-level Human Rights for Both Sides

As noted by Daniela Llanos, director general of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, China has already become critically important to Latin America in areas such as investment, trade, and infrastructure development. At present, the two sides should not be merely satisfied with economic cooperation, but should instead take human rights protection as a shared guiding principle and inject new consensus into bilateral cooperation. Mo Jihong, research fellow at the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out that China and LAC states share similar historical experiences, common development goals, compatible human rights concepts and sound bilateral relations, and are both important members of the Global South. As important members of the Global South, the two sides should strengthen cooperation to jointly promote global human rights governance toward greater fairness, justice, and rationality, and contribute to the building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

A. Promoting China-LAC human rights progress through development-oriented cooperation

To provide adequate material foundations for the realization of human rights, China and LAC states should adhere to the principle of promoting development through cooperation and advancing human rights through development. First, strengthening scientific and technological cooperation to empower human rights development. Xiao Junyong, professor at the School of Law of Beijing Institute of Technology, suggested that China and LAC states should leverage science and technology cooperation to advance the construction of a “human rights community”. Concrete measures include jointly building the Digital Silk Road, jointly strengthening the training of high-level scientific and technological talents, and sharing resources such as vaccines and satellite data, thereby unleashing the multiplier effect of technology to enhance human rights protection. Second, enhancing cooperation in the digital and intelligent fields to address emerging human rights challenges. Michel Sharon, senior policy advisor at the Human Rights Office of the Judicial Police Department of Suriname, suggested that China could provide Suriname with digital infrastructure and service support to facilitate its digital transformation, thereby improving social security levels and the efficiency of government administration and business operations. Third, intensifying cooperation in green development. Manoel Severino Moraes de Almeida, professor at the Catholic University of Pernambuco in Brazil, pointed out that agricultural expansion, mining, and urbanization are destroying the Amazon rainforest — the “lungs of the world” — resulting in biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and social crises in Brazil, and also posing serious threats to the global climate. He expressed the hope of deepening cooperation with China in environmental governance to jointly promote the revision and effective implementation of global climate policies. Captain Natalie James, director of the Human Rights Affairs Division of the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs of Jamaica, expressed her expectation of strengthening cooperation with China to study the impact of environmental changes — especially sea-level rise — on the right to survival of small island states.

B. Addressing new human rights challenges through governance coordination

Building upon development cooperation, China and LAC states should further enhance governance coordination and promote interconnectivity of human rights-related institutions and rules. Xu Chi, deputy director of the Law Library Branch and Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, suggested strengthening judicial cooperation to protect key human rights concerns shared by both sides. For example, in the environmental field, the two sides could begin with criminal law by jointly defining “climate damage crimes” at the level of substantive law and negotiating sentencing standards; at the procedural level, they could establish blockchain-based evidence exchange platforms and explore the creation of joint investigative mechanisms. Meanwhile, capacity building could be strengthened through judicial training and enhanced public participation, thereby innovating South-South cooperation mechanisms. This cooperation model — which deeply integrates the coercive force of criminal law with the objectives of climate governance — would effectively deter transnational environmental crimes and safeguard regional ecological security and sustainable development, and also provide Global South countries with a viable criminal law-based cooperation framework for combating cross-border environmental crimes and improving climate governance. César Ríos, director of the Migration Agenda Association of El Salvador, expressed hope that China could provide digital technologies for crime prevention, and also assist Central American countries in addressing lagging legal frameworks and the lack of independence among regulatory bodies, in order to prevent the misuse of digital technologies that could infringe upon human rights. He specifically noted that, at present, Costa Rica is the only Central American country with a dedicated digital regulatory authority and comprehensive data protection legislation, while other countries have, in practice, ceded data governance dominance to the United States and other Western countries — often against their own intentions.

C. Deepening human rights understanding and consensus through exchange and mutual learning

Although dialogue and cooperation between China and LAC states in the field of human rights began later than in other regions, progress has been rapid. Participants unanimously agreed that strengthening related exchanges and cooperation is both necessary and urgent. Zhang Donggang, secretary of the Party Committee of Renmin University of China, emphasized that exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and LAC civilizations should be leveraged to deepen the cognitive dimensions of human rights, consolidate development consensus, and jointly protect human rights. Rodrigo Martín Viva Nieves, an associate professor from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Uruguay, proposed that China and LAC states should further strengthen academic exchanges on human rights issues and jointly assume this responsibility of all humanity through dialogue, cooperation, and solidarity. Bai Long, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Global Times*, argued that China and LAC states should enhance cooperation in human rights communication and publicity by telling each other’s human rights stories in a comprehensive and truthful manner. He suggested establishing regularized “fast-track” media cooperation

mechanisms to bypass Western media intermediaries, directly source materials from each other's reporting, and jointly identify representative human rights narratives, thereby fostering a more authentic understanding of each other's human rights development.

D. Promoting reform of global human rights governance with a focus on good global governance

China and LAC states are all important members of the Global South and, as a whole, enjoy relatively strong development momentum. In the face of injustice, unfairness, and exclusion within global human rights governance that constrain the full realization of human rights in Global South countries, the two sides should proactively work together to promote the improvement of global human rights governance. Dai Ruijun, research fellow at the Institute of International Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, emphasized that China and LAC states should jointly inject positive energy into the construction of a fair, just, rational, and inclusive global human rights governance system, promote a return to the basic principles of international relations established by the *Charter of the United Nations*, and uphold democracy and genuine multilateralism in global human rights governance. Micaela Del Cor, professor at the Bolivarian University of Venezuela, firmly expressed her belief that China is a great non-imperialist country with a civilization spanning thousands of years. Through mutually beneficial and pragmatic cooperation, China and LAC states — standing from the perspective of the Global South — can fully advance human rights without engaging in aggression, blockades, or unilateral sanctions, while respecting the rights of peoples and sovereign states. Such cooperation, she argued, will inevitably become a global model for jointly building a shared future for human society.

Conclusion

General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that “the full enjoyment of human rights by all is the great dream of human society”.¹⁰ Amid profound changes unseen in a century, advancing the global human rights cause requires greater attention to the perspectives of Global South countries and a stronger commitment to listening to Global South voices. Through more pragmatic South-South cooperation, the human rights development of the vast number of Global South countries can be advanced, bringing the goal of universal enjoyment of human rights closer to realization. As proposed by Jones Seferlis, former secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama and Professor at the University of Panama, the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights should be developed into a long-term dialogue and cooperation mechanism. Each year, it should identify achievements and commitments in human rights protection, and in the future, promote the establishment of a strong and transparent regional human rights governance framework. With the continuous enhancement of mutual human rights protection as a shared pursuit, China and LAC states can jointly build a community with a shared

¹⁰ Xi Jinping, *Excerpts from Xi Jinping's Discourse on Respecting and Protecting Human Rights* (Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2021), 3.

future characterized by respect for diversity and the promotion of sustainable development. All sectors in China and LAC states should continue to advance mutual human rights progress through common development and foster the building of a China-LAC Community with a Shared Future through human rights dialogue and cooperation, thereby contributing greater China-LAC strength to the advancement of the global human rights cause.

Appendix:

**São Paulo Consensus on China-Latin American and
Caribbean States (LAC) Exchanges and Cooperation in the
Field of Human Rights**

July 25, 2025

I. Currently, the world is undergoing accelerated evolution amid major changes unseen in a century, with multiple risks intertwined and overlapping. Hidden undercurrents of geopolitical tensions and bloc confrontations persist, while unilateralism and protectionism are resurging as retrogressive trends. The protection of human rights and global human rights governance are facing new challenges. On July 25, 2025, representatives from 20 countries gathered in São Paulo, Brazil, for the Second China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights. Centering on the theme of “China-LAC Community with a Shared Future and the Development of Human Rights Cause”, in-depth exchanges were conducted, and broad consensus was reached.

II. We reaffirm our basic understanding of human rights: human rights are both universal and relative. The development of each country's human rights cause must be based on its own historical and cultural background and development stage, and a path and model of human rights development and protection suitable for its national conditions should be chosen. We advocate the simultaneous advancement and coordinated development of civil and political rights alongside economic, social, and cultural rights, ensuring that all groups enjoy human rights on an equal basis. A peaceful and stable environment, as well as appropriate economic and social conditions, should be created for the development of human rights, and various obstacles hindering the progress of human rights cause should be eliminated.

III. We hold the view that scientific and technological progress and the application of new technologies should always serve to enhance people's well-being, dignity, and freedom. Digital technology and artificial intelligence present both opportunities and challenges for the protection of human rights. It is essential to ensure that the fruits of scientific and technological development benefit the general public to a greater extent, rather than being monopolized by a few, so as to avoid potential new social inequalities and injustices. Efforts should be made to build digital capacity across society and improve people's digital literacy. We should promote the development of

international ethical norms for the application of artificial intelligence, advance the sound development of digital and intelligent technologies, and ensure that the application of artificial intelligence better protects human rights rather than causing human rights disasters.

IV. We recognize that a sound ecological environment constitutes the most inclusive well-being for people's livelihood. Climate change, environmental pollution, and other issues directly affect everyone's right to survival, right to development, and the realization of various human rights. We should promote high-quality economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and expand and deepen the development of the green industry to benefit present and future generations. Strengthen coordinated governance to effectively address the impact of climate change on the poor and vulnerable groups, and ensure that the achievements of environmental governance benefit all people. We should acknowledge the dual needs of developing economies in the Global South to develop their economies while protecting the environment, and respect their right to formulate climate change response and green development plans in light of their own development stages and bearing capacities.

V. We believe that it is necessary to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, promote development through cooperation, and advance human rights through development, so as to promote the building of a China-LAC Community with a Shared Future. In the process of China-LAC economic and industrial cooperation, full consideration should be given to the needs of human rights protection, the legitimate rights and interests of workers should be safeguarded in accordance with the law, and more cooperative achievements should be made between China and LAC in poverty alleviation, green development, scientific and technological innovation, and other fields. We should vigorously promote the mutual learning between Chinese and LAC civilizations, give play to the role of academic circles as bridges for communication, and encourage and facilitate high-level exchanges and cooperation among universities, think tanks, and academic institutions in China and LAC.

VI. We advocate the practice of true multilateralism, joint maintenance of global fairness and justice, and support developing economies in the Global South to actively participate in global human rights governance. We call on all countries to uphold the common values of all mankind, including peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, and strive to form a more fair, just, reasonable, and inclusive global human rights governance system, so as to jointly build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind. We oppose the politicization of human rights issues and the abuse of human rights topics to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. We support the United Nations as the core platform for global governance and multilateral cooperation, and support the UN Human Rights Council in playing a more fair and impartial role.

VII. We commend the efforts made by the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights in promoting cooperation in the field of human rights and mutual learning between Chinese and LAC civilizations. We advocate the establishment of long-term mechanisms and platforms for promoting China-LAC

human rights exchanges and cooperation, such as the “China-Latin American and Caribbean States Human Rights Research and Cooperation Network”, and actively promote cooperative research in the field of human rights between China and LAC. We welcome representatives from more countries and regions to participate in the China-Latin American and Caribbean States Roundtable on Human Rights, so as to continuously enhance consensus between China and LAC on human rights issues.

(Translated by *CHEN Feng*)