

Research on Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans Formulated by Different Countries

CHANG Jian* & LYU Zhijie** & WEI Hui*** & GAO Jiexin****

Abstract: *A comprehensive national human rights action plan is a planned, integrated, and time-sensitive expression of political will and action arrangement. As of October 2025, at least 93 UN member states have formulated 198 phases of comprehensive national human rights action plans, with each phase covering an average period of approximately 4.55 years. Based on an analysis of 36 collected texts of national human rights action plans, these plans mainly involve 14 categories of measures, with an average of 9.69 categories per plan; they cover 34 rights in total, with an average of 17.83 rights per plan. Comprehensive national human rights action plans focus on national priorities in promoting human rights, concentrate on particularly intractable issues that have long remained unresolved in the field of human rights, pave the way for the legal protection of human rights, bridge the “last mile” that is difficult to reach via the legal protection of human rights, and thus play a unique and irreplaceable role in advancing human rights development.*

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In Article 71 of the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, it is recommended that “each State consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that State would improve the promotion and protection of human rights.”¹ In response to this recommendation, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established and released the *Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action* in 2002, encouraging countries to formulate national human rights action plans. The handbook points out that formulating a national human rights action plan involves evaluating a country’s human rights needs, enhancing awareness of human rights issues among government officials, security agencies, civil society organizations, and the general public. It will also extensively mobilize the efforts of all sectors of society in a collaborative environment, put forward realistic action plans, establish attainable goals, foster connections with other national initiatives, especially those in the field of

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¹ *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, official website of the United Nations, <https://www.un.org/zh/documents/treaty/A-CONF-157-23>.

development and education, and fulfill commitments to taking concrete actions for promoting human rights.²

A comprehensive national human rights action plan is an expression of political intent and an arrangement for action that is planned, integrated, and time-bound. It differs from legally binding instruments and policy documents with explicit provisions.

Firstly, a comprehensive national human rights action plan represents the country's expression of political intent and arrangements for action in the field of human rights. It provides guidance for government work but does not have legal binding effect, which distinguishes it from legally binding laws and regulations formulated by the state.

Secondly, a comprehensive national human rights action plan is a planned scheme and comprehensive action deployment aimed at promoting the development of human rights. It points out the direction and approaches for advancing human rights and facilitates the formulation of relevant laws and policies. However, it is not a specific policy or regulation itself. The goals set therein are not necessarily achievable as scheduled; they are often only partially accomplished, and in some cases, may even remain largely unfulfilled.

Last but not least, a comprehensive national human rights action plan is a phased task arrangement for the development of human rights, with specific time frames. Upon the expiration of one phase of the national human rights action plan, a new phase will be formulated based on the completion of tasks and the new work tasks to be addressed, ensuring continuity in work. This distinguishes it from action plans for specific tasks.

In this sense, a comprehensive national human rights action plan represents the country's expression of political intent and sustainable phased action arrangements for promoting the overall development of the national human rights cause. It differs from laws and regulations, policy schemes, and specific action plans for human rights protection, but can generally facilitate the formulation and continuous improvement of laws and regulations, policy schemes, and specific action plans for human rights protection.

Since 1993, an increasing number of countries have formulated or are preparing to formulate national human rights action plans, which have played a significant positive role in promoting and protecting human rights.

I. Overview of Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans

Formulated by Different Countries

The data for this study are derived from the OHCHR website for National Human Rights Action Plans,³ national human rights reports of various countries

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action*, August 19, 2002.

³ Official website of OHCHR for National Human Rights Action Plans, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/national-plans-action-promotion-and-protection-human-rights>

available on the OHCHR website,⁴ the “*National human rights action plans: An inventory*” compiled by the Danish Institute for Human Rights,⁵ information compiled in the book *Research on the Formulation, Implementation, and Evaluation of National Human Rights Action Plans*,⁶ as well as relevant data collected from other channels. The cutoff date for data compilation is October 2025.

The number of human rights action plans varies among countries. According to the collected data, at least 41 countries have formulated one comprehensive national human rights action plan, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Countries That Have Formulated One Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan

| No. | Country | Name of National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1 | Egypt | National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) (2021-2026) |
| 2 | Angola | National Human Rights Strategy and its Implementation Plan (2019-2022) |
| 3 | Pakistan | Action Plan for Human Rights (2016-2020) |
| 4 | Bahrain | National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026) |
| 5 | Belarus | Interagency Action Plan (2016-2019) |
| 6 | Dominican Republic | National Human Rights Plan (2018-2022) (Later extended to 2024) |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | Name of National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------------|--|
| 7 | Gambia | National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan (2021-2025) |
| 8 | Colombia | National Strategy for Guarantees of Human Rights (2014-2034) Action Guidelines of the Colombian Government for Respecting and Protecting Human Rights (2021-2022) |
| 9 | Guinea-Bissau | National Strategy and Action Plan for Human Rights and Citizenship (2022-2026) |
| 10 | Cameroon | National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2015-2019) (renewed in 2020) |
| 11 | Kenya | National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights (2015) |
| 12 | Lebanon | National Action Plan for Human Rights (2014-2019) |
| 13 | Lithuania | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2002-2004) |
| 14 | Rwanda | National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2020) |
| 15 | Malaysia | National Human Rights Action Plan (2018-2023) |

⁴ Official website of OHCHR for national human rights reports of various countries, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/documentatin>.

⁵ Danish Institute for Human Rights, “National human rights action plans: An inventory”, <https://www.ey.gov.tw/hrtj/46C3C5EBC8010A8>

⁶ Xu Yao, *Research on the Formulation, Implementation, and Evaluation of National Human Rights Action Plans* (Shanghai: Shanghai Joint Publishing Company, 2021), 34-38.

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|----|------------------------------|---|
| 16 | Mali | Action Plan of the National Human Rights Policy (2017-2021) |
| 17 | Mauritius | National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2020) |
| 18 | United States | National Action Plan on Human Rights (2011) (Updated in 2016) |
| 19 | Democratic Republic of Congo | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2000) |
| 20 | Morocco | National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights (2018-2021) |
| 21 | Namibia | National Human Rights Action Plan (2015-2019) |
| 22 | South Africa | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1998) |
| 23 | South Sudan | South Sudan Human Rights Strategic Plan (2022-2024) |
| 24 | Niger | Ten-year National Action Plan for Human Rights |
| 25 | Senegal | National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2018) |
| 26 | Cyprus | National Strategy for the Promotion of Human Rights (2021) |
| 27 | Seychelles | National Action Plan for Human Rights (2015-2020) |
| 28 | Slovakia | National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2015) |
| 29 | Sudan | National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2013-2023) |
| 30 | Tuvalu | National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020) |
| 31 | Türkiye | Action Plan on Human Rights (2021-2023) |
| 32 | Cote d'Ivoire | National Action Plan for Human Rights (2022) |
| 33 | Guatemala | National Plan of Action for Human Rights (2007-2017) |
| 34 | Uruguay | National Human Rights Action Plan (2023-2027) |
| 35 | Uzbekistan | Roadmap for the Implementation of the National Strategy on Human Rights (2020-2025) |
| 36 | Greece | Human Rights National Action Plan (2014-2016) |
| 37 | Yemen | National Human Rights Strategy (2013) |
| 38 | Jordan | Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights (2016-2025) |
| 39 | Zambia | National Human Rights Action Plan (2022) |
| 40 | Chad | National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2012-2015) |
| 41 | Central African Republic | National Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights |

At least 24 countries have formulated two national human rights action plans, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Countries That Have Formulated Two Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Argentina | National Program for the “National Human Rights Plan” (2010) First National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2017-2020) |
| 2 | Ethiopia | National Human Rights Action Plan (2013-2015) The Ethiopian National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020) |
| 3 | Paraguay | National Human Rights Plan (2010-2011) National Human Rights Plan (2013) |
| 4 | Burundi | Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Human Rights Policy (2012-2017) Joint Human Rights Plan (2024-2027) |
| 5 | Ecuador | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1998) National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2025-2030) (Begin to be formulated)* |
| 6 | Cape Verde | National Action Plan for Human Rights and Citizenship (2003) Second National Plan for Human Rights and Citizenship (2017-2022)** |
| 7 | Congo (Brazzaville) | National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2000-2002) Strategic Plan for Human Rights (2025-2028) |
| 8 | Netherlands | National Action Plan on Human Rights: The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Netherlands (2013) National Action Plan on Human Rights: Access to Services (2019) |
| 9 | Honduras | First Public Policy on Human Rights and National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2013-2022) Public Policy and National Action Plan for Human Rights (2025-2035) |
| 10 | Kosovo | Strategy and Action Plan on Human Rights (2009-2011) Action Plan for the Implementation of the Program for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (2021-2025) |
| 11 | Latvia | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1995) National Action Plan for Human Rights (2020-2025) |
| 12 | Malawi | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1995-1996) National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2004-2011) |
| 13 | Mauritania | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2003) National Human Rights Strategy (2023-2027) |
| 14 | Mongolia | National Human Rights Action Programme (2003) National Human Rights Action Programme (2023) |
| 15 | Norway | Human Rights Plan (1999-2000) National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human |

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|----|--------------|--|
| | | Rights (2000-2005) |
| 16 | Somalia | Action Plan for the Implementation of the Human Rights Roadmap (2015-2016) Human Rights Transition Plan (2025-2026) |
| 17 | Sri Lanka | National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2011-2016) National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2017-2022) |
| 18 | Tanzania | National Human Rights Action Plan (2013-2017) National Human Rights Action Plan (2021) (Commitment) *** |
| 19 | Turkmenistan | National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020) National Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025) |
| 20 | Venezuela | National Plan for Human Rights (1999-2004) National Human Rights Plan (2016-2019) |
| 21 | Uganda | National Action Plan for Human Rights (2014) National Action Plan for Human Rights (2021) |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------|--|
| 22 | Ukraine | National Human Rights Strategy (2015-2020) Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Human Rights (2015-2020) Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Human Rights (2021-2023) |
| 23 | Spain | Human Rights Plan (2009-2012) Second National Plan on Human Rights (2023-2027) |
| 24 | Chile | First National Human Rights Action Plan (2018-2021) Second National Human Rights Action Plan (2022-2025) |

Notes:

* Ecuador announced that it would formulate the National Human Rights Action Plan 2025-2030 in 2025, with the completion status unknown.

** It is reported that Cape Verde formulates a national human rights action plan annually, but relevant information remains to be verified.

*** In its National Human Rights Report submitted in 2021, Tanzania made a commitment to formulate its second national human rights action plan, with the completion status unknown.

At least 14 countries have formulated three national human rights action plans, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Countries That Have Formulated Three Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|------------|---|
| 1 | Azerbaijan | National Action Plan on Protection of Human Rights (2006-2011) National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms (2012-2015) National Human Rights Action Plan (Outline) (2022-2025) |
| 2 | Australia | National Action Plan (1996) (Updated in 1997) Australia's National Framework for Human Rights: National Action Plan (2004) Australia's National Human Rights Action Plan (2012) |
| 3 | Brazil | National Programme for Human Rights (1996) National Programme for Human Rights (2002) National Programme for Human Rights (2009) |
| 4 | Finland | National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (2012-2013) National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (2017-2019) National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (2020-2023) |
| 5 | Kyrgyzstan | Human Rights Action Plan (2019-2021) Human Rights Action Plan (2022-2024) Human Rights Action Plan (2025-2027) |
| 6 | Croatia | National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2008-2011) National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2013-2016) National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination (2023-2027) and the accompanying Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for the period up to 2025 |
| 7 | Liberia | National Human Rights Action Plan (2013-2018) National Human Rights Action Plan (2019-2024) National Human Rights Action Plan (2025-2030) (Under formulation) |
| 8 | Bangladesh | Five-year Strategic Plan for Human Rights (2012-2016) Five-year Strategic Plan for Human Rights (2017-2021) Five-year Strategic Plan for Human Rights (2022-2026) |
| 9 | Peru | National Plan for Human Rights (2006-2010) National Plan for Human Rights (2014-2016) National Plan for Human Rights (2018-2021) |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 10 | Moldova | National Human Rights Action Plan (2004-2008) National Human Rights Action Plan (2011-2014) National Human Rights Action Plan (2018-2022) |
| 11 | Sweden | A National Human Rights Action Plan (2002-2004) National Action Plan for Human Rights (2006-2009) Human Rights Development Strategy (2016) |
| 12 | Tajikistan | National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Field of Human Rights Protection for the period up to 2030 (2023) Human Rights Plan (2013-2020) Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2023) Human Rights Action Plan (2023-2025) |
| 13 | New Zealand | New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights (2005-2010) National Plan of Action (2015-2019) National Human Rights Action Plan (2019-2023) |
| 14 | Iraq | National Human Rights Plan (2012-2014) Human Rights National Action Plan (2017-2020) Human Rights National Action Plan (2021-2025) |

Notes:

* According to Liberia's National Human Rights Report submitted in November 2025, the National Human Rights Action Plan (2025-2030) is currently under formulation, with the completion status unknown.

At least 14 countries have formulated four or more comprehensive national human rights action plans, as shown in Table 4. Among them, seven countries, namely, Bolivia, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Armenia, and China, have formulated four action plans. Six countries, namely, Georgia, Mexico, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom, have formulated five action plans or programs. Since 1991, the German government has submitted a *Report on the Federal Government's Human Rights Policy* to the Bundestag every two years. Starting from 2005, the German government has included a human rights action plan for the next two years in its submitted *Report on the Federal Government's Human Rights Policy*, and has thus far successively formulated nine editions of the *Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government*.

Table 4 Countries That Have Formulated Four or More Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|---------|---|
| 1 | Bolivia | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1999) Human Rights Action Plan (2006-2010) National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2013) National Human Rights Action Plan (2014-2018) |

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|---|-------------|---|
| 2 | Philippines | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1996-2000) Second National Human Rights Action Plan (2010-2014) The Philippine Human Rights Plan (2018-2022): An Agenda for Protecting Human Lives, Uplifting Human Dignity, and Advancing People's Progress National Human Rights Action Plan (2024-2028) |
| 3 | Kazakhstan | National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2012) Plan of Priority Measures on Human Rights (2021) Action Plan on Human Rights and the Rule of Law (2023) National Human Rights Development Strategy (2023-2027) (Announced for formulation)** |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 4 | Republic of Korea | National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2007-2011) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2012-2016) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2018-2022) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2023-2027) |
| 5 | Nigeria | National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2006) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2009-2013) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2017-2022) National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria (2022-2026) |
| 6 | Armenia | National Strategy for Human Rights Protection (2012) National Strategy for Human Rights Protection (2019) Plan of Action for the National Strategy on Human Rights Protection (2014-2016) Action Plan of Human Rights Protection (2017-2019) Action Plan for 2020-2022 deriving from the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection of the Republic of Armenia Action Plan 2023-2025 for the National Strategy on Human Rights Protection |

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 7 | China | National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2010) National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2015) National Human Rights Action Plan (2016-2020) Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025) |
| 8 | Georgia | National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia (2014-2020) National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia (2022-2030) Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights (2014-2015) Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights (2016-2017) Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights (2018-2020) Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2023) National Human Rights Action Plan (2024-2026) |
| 9 | Mexico | National Human Rights Programme (1998) National Program for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2004-2008) National Human Rights Program (2008-2012) National Human Rights Program (2014-2018) National Human Rights Program (2020-2024) |
| 10 | Nepal | National Human Rights Action Plan (2004-2008) National Human Rights Action Plan (2007-2010) National Human Rights Action Plan (2010-2013) National Human Rights Action Plan (2015-2019) National Human Rights Action Plan (2020-2025) |
| 11 | Thailand | First National Human Rights Plan (2001-2005) Second National Human Rights Plan (2009-2013) Third National Human Rights Plan (2014-2018) Fourth National Human Rights Plan (2019-2022) Fifth National Human Rights Plan (2023-2027) |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|----------------|--|
| 12 | Indonesia | National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1998-2003) National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2004-2009) National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2011-2014) National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2015-2019) National Plan of Action on Human Rights (2021-2025) |
| 13 | United Kingdom | Human Rights Strategic Plan (2009-2012) Human Rights Strategic Plan (2013-2016) Human Rights Strategic Plan (2017-2020) Human Rights Strategic Plan (2021-2024) |

| | | |
|----|---------|--|
| | | Human Rights Strategic Plan (2025-2028) |
| 14 | Germany | Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2005-2006) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2008-2010) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2010-2012) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2012-2014) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2014-2016) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2017-2018) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2019-2020) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2021-2022) Human Rights Action Plan of the Federal Government (2023-2024) |

Notes:

* There is an overlap in the years of the second and third editions of the national human rights action plans. The data is sourced from the “List of National Human Rights Action Plans of Countries Worldwide” published by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the actual situation requires further verification.

** Kazakhstan announced in its national human rights action plan its intention to formulate the National Human Rights Development Strategy for 2023-2027, with the completion status unknown.

To summarize the above data based on the collected information, at least 93 United Nations Member States had formulated 198 national human rights action plans as of October 2025. Among them, Tanzania, Liberia, Ecuador, and Kazakhstan indicated in their submitted national human rights reports that they are formulating the next national human rights action plan, but whether it has been completed remains to be verified.

Besides, Palestine has also formulated the *National Plan of Action for Human Rights 1999-2003*. As of September 2025, 158 United Nations Member States had recognized the State of Palestine, accounting for over 81% of the total membership of the United Nations. However, Palestine has not yet become a full member of the United Nations to date.

Some countries have also indicated in their national human rights reports that they are preparing to formulate or are currently formulating national human rights action plans, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Countries Indicating Preparation for or Ongoing Formulation of National Human Rights Action Plans

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1 | Papua New Guinea | Announced the initiation of formulating the Human Rights Strategic Plan (2024-2029) in 2025. |
| 2 | Botswana | Stated in its 2023 National Human Rights Report that “the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (Draft) was completed in December 2021.” |

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| 3 | Fiji | Indicated in its 2025 National Human Rights Report that “consideration is being given to formulating a National Human Rights Action Plan.” |
| 4 | Gabon | Reported in its 2025 National Human Rights Report that preparations are underway to formulate a national human rights action plan. |

Continued Table

| No. | Country | National Human Rights Action Plan |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 5 | Ghana | Stated in its 2017 National Human Rights Report that “the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice is formulating a national human rights action plan.” |
| 6 | Kuwait | Kuwait: Indicated in its 2025 National Human Rights Report that “efforts are underway to formulate a comprehensive national human rights plan.” |
| 7 | Lesotho | Announced in its 2021 National Human Rights Report that “the government will also formulate a human rights action plan.” |
| 8 | Maldives | Reported in its National Human Rights Report in February 2020 that the National Human Rights Action Plan had entered the final drafting stage. |
| 9 | Marshall Islands | Stated in its 2025 National Human Rights Report that “a national human rights action plan is currently being formulated.” |
| 10 | Saudi Arabia | Reported in its 2023 National Human Rights Report that the National Human Rights Strategy (Draft) had been formulated. |
| 11 | Tunisia | Stated in its 2022 National Human Rights Report that “benchmarks for the national human rights strategy have been set since the end of 2020.” |
| 12 | India | Reported in its 2022 National Human Rights Report that “the National Human Rights Commission has set up a working group to prepare a national human rights action plan.” |

Additionally, Ireland is said to periodically formulate the *Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Strategy Statement*, though no relevant materials have been found to confirm this information, and further verification is required.

Some countries have also formulated action plans to implement recommendations put forward during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations Human Rights Council. For instance, Tajikistan has developed the National Plan on implementation of the recommendations provided by the countries-members to the *United Nations Human Rights Council within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review for 2013-2015* and the *National Plan on implementation of the recommendations provided by the countries-members to the United Nations Human Rights Council within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (Second Period) for 2017-2020*. Uzbekistan has also formulated a

National Plan of Action for the Period 2014-2016 for the Implementation of Recommendations of the Human Rights Council and of the United Nations Treaty Bodies Following Their Consideration of the Periodic Reports of Uzbekistan On Human Rights And Freedoms and a National Plan of Action for the Implementation of Recommendations From the Review of Uzbekistan's Fourth National Report by the United Nations Human Rights Council (2016-2019). Haiti stated in its 2022 *National Human Rights Report* that it had formulated a *Draft National Action Plan* for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations for the period 2019-2022. Mozambique mentioned in its 2021 *National Human Rights Report* the adoption of a national action plan in response to recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (Third Period). Türkiye has also formulated the *Action Plan on Prevention of European Court of Human Rights Violations (2014-2019)*.

Overall, the total number of countries that have formulated national human rights action plans is close to half of the United Nations Member States. Among these countries, developing nations have been relatively proactive. Although 10 developed countries, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea, have also developed national human rights action plans, the majority of developed countries have not responded to the UN calls and requirements for formulating such plans.

II. Forms and Characteristics of National Human Rights Action

Plans Formulated by Different Countries

National human rights action plans formulated by various countries share certain common features in form but exhibit significant differences in their specific structures and contents.

A. Names of national human rights action plans

There are variations in the names adopted for national human rights action plans across countries. Most countries opt for the standard name “National Human Rights Action Plan,” while others choose names with similar meanings, such as “Human Rights Program,” “Human Rights Strategic Plan,” “Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan,” “Strategic Action Plan for Human Rights,” and “National Human Rights Strategy Roadmap.”

B. Content structure of national human rights action plans

Based on the collected texts, national human rights action plans formulated by different countries primarily cover the following five aspects:

1. Introduction

This section mainly outlines the significance, guiding principles, and specific methods of formulating the national human rights action plan. When elaborating on the formulation methods, it typically details which government departments and social organizations participated in the process, how opinions and suggestions from various sectors of society were solicited, and how the collected feedback was summarized and screened.

2. Analyzing needs and setting objectives

This section focuses on analyzing the existing human rights issues in the country, identifying the most urgent needs for human rights protection, and, based on this analysis, determining the primary objectives of the action plan and their priority levels. Many countries' action plans include discussions and analysis of the issues and recommendations raised during the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of human rights, and respond accordingly.

3. Defining objectives, measures, and key performance indicators for the action plan

This section constitutes the core of the action plan, primarily focusing on defining strategies for advancing human rights, outlining work tasks, specific measures, and the desired objectives and key performance indicators.

4. Making organizational arrangements for implementing the action plan

This section mainly covers the establishment of organizational institutions for implementing the action plan, the division of labor and coordination among government departments, and the mobilization of social forces. It involves the establishment of national human rights institutions, the participation of social organizations, and more.

5. Assessment and supervision

This is typically the final section of the action plan, primarily addressing the specific methods of government assessment and social supervision during the implementation of the action plan.

It should be noted that in national human rights action plans formulated by different countries, these five aspects are not always clearly outlined in separate chapters; some content may intertwine.

C. Time span of national human rights action plans

Among the 198 collected national human rights action plans, 35 do not specify their time spans. The time spans indicated in the remaining 163 action plans are as follows:

- 19 action plans cover a 2-year period;
 - 25 action plans cover a 3-year period;
 - 32 action plans cover a 4-year period;
 - 55 action plans cover a 5-year period;
 - 23 action plans cover a 6-year period;
 - 2 action plans cover an 8-year period;
 - 1 action plan covers a 9-year period;
 - 3 action plans each cover a 10-year and an 11-year period;
- The average time span is approximately 4.55 years.

D. Continuity of national human rights action plans

In terms of the continuity of national human rights action plans, 41 countries have formulated only one action plan, 24 countries have formulated two, and 14 countries have formulated three or more, including seven countries that have formulated four plans, six countries that have formulated five plans, and one country that has formulated nine plans. This indicates that the continuity of formulating national human rights action plans needs further improvement.

Among the countries that have formulated three or more consecutive national human rights action plans, seven are developed countries, namely, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea, accounting for 70% of the 10 developed countries that have formulated such plans. Additionally, 21 developing countries have formulated three or more consecutive plans, representing 25.3% of the 83 developing countries that have done so. This shows that developed countries generally exhibit greater continuity in formulating national human rights action plans.

III. Key Measures Included in Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans of Various Countries

National human rights action plans should demonstrate a country’s political intent to promote and protect human rights and outline specific actions to be taken to safeguard them. From the 36 collected texts of comprehensive national human rights action plans, we have identified 14 main categories of measures, as illustrated in Table 6. Among them, “identifying existing issues and needs,” “setting priorities,” and “defining objectives and indicators” primarily relate to the strategies for formulating the action plans; “human rights legislation,” “human rights protection through law enforcement,” “judicial protection and reform for human rights,” “policy measures for human rights protection,” and “human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere” involve concrete measures to promote human rights; “establishing human rights protection institutions,” “coordination among government departments,” and “participation by social organizations” mainly involve the organizational structures for promoting human rights; while “ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions,” “cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms,” and “participating in global human rights governance” primarily involve connections with the international community.

Table 6 Key Initiatives Included in the National Human Rights Action Plans of Various Countries

| No. | Reporting Country | Measures Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------|---|--|
| | | Identifying existing issues and needs | Setting priorities | Defining objectives and indicators | Human rights legislation | Human rights protection through law enforcement | Judicial protection and reform for human rights | Policy measures for human rights protection | Establishing human rights protection institutions | Coordination among government departments | Human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere | Participation by social organizations | Ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions | Cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms | | Participating in global human rights governance | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | Bahrain ⁷ | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 14 |
| 2 | Ukraine ⁸ | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 13 |
| 3 | China ⁹ | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | 12 |
| 4 | Lebanon ¹⁰ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | 12 |

Continued Table

| No. | Reporting Country | Measures Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|
| | | Identifying existing issues and needs | Setting priorities | Defining objectives and indicators | Human rights legislation | Human rights protection through law enforcement | Judicial protection and reform for human rights | Policy measures for human rights protection | Establishing human rights protection institutions | Coordination among government departments | Human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere | Participation by social organizations | Ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions | Cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms | Participating in global human rights governance | |
| 5 | Moldova ¹¹ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 12 |
| 6 | Iraq ¹² | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 12 |

⁷ The National Human Rights Plan of The Kingdom of Bahrain 2022-2026, <https://www.mofa.gov.bh/newyork/en/national-plan-2022-2026>.

⁸ The National Human Rights Strategy of Ukraine 2015-2020, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Ukraine2015_2020.doc.

⁹ The Information Office of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, *Human Rights Action Plan 2021-2025* (Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2021).

¹⁰ The National Action Plan for Human Rights in Lebanon 2014-2019, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Is-sues/NHRA/Lebanon_en.pdf.

¹¹ National Human Rights Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova for 2004-2008, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Docu-ments/Issues/NHRA/moldova.pdf>.

¹² The Iraqi National Human Rights Plan Adopted by Council of Ministers on 27-09-2011, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/NAPIraq2011.pdf>.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 7 | Nepal ¹³ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 12 |
| 8 | Somalia ¹⁴ | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | 12 |
| 9 | South Africa ¹⁵ | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | 12 |
| 10 | Democrati c Republic of Congo ¹⁶ | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | 12 |
| 11 | Honduras ¹⁷ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | | 11 |
| 12 | Mauritani a ¹⁸ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | | 11 |
| 13 | Finland ¹⁹ | • | • | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | 11 |
| 14 | Sweden ²⁰ | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | 11 |

¹³ National Human Rights Action Plan, His Majesty's Government Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal, April 2004, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Nepal_NHRAP.pdf.

¹⁴ Action Plan for the Implementation of the Human Rights Roadmap (HRRM) Somalia 2015-2016, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Somalia_en.pdf.

¹⁵ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-South Africa, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/SoutAfrica.doc>.

¹⁶ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Democratic Republic of Congo, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/drc.pdf>.

¹⁷ Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, PRIMERA POLÍTICA Pública en Derechos Humanos y PLAN NACIONAL DE ACCIÓN EN DERECHOS HUMANOS, 2013. https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Honduras1_sp.pdf.

¹⁸ PLAN NATIONAL D'ACTION POUR LA PROMOTION ET LA PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME EN REPUBLIQUE IS-LAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/mauritanie_nhrap.doc.

¹⁹ Ministry of Justice of Finland, National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/NAPFinland2017_2019.pdf.

²⁰ A National Action Plan for Human Rights 2006-2009, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Swedish2.pdf>.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 15 | Tanzania 21 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 11 |
| 16 | Cape Verde ²² | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 10 |
| 17 | Lithuania 23 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 10 |

Continued Table

| No. | Reporting Country | Measures Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|
| | | Identifying existing issues and needs | Setting priorities | Defining objectives and indicators | Human rights legislation | Human rights protection through law enforcement | Judicial and reform for human rights | Policy measures for human rights protection | Establishing human rights institutions | Coordination among government departments | Human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere | Participation by social organizations | Ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions | Cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms | Participating in global human rights governance | |
| 18 | Mexico ²⁴ | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | 10 |
| 19 | Nigeria ²⁵ | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | 10 |
| 20 | Sri Lanka ²⁶ | • | | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | | 10 |

²¹ Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania National Human Rights Action Plan 2013-2017, December 2013, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Tanzania_en.doc.

²² PLAN NATIONAL D'ACTION POUR LES DROITS HUMAINS ET LA CITOYENNETÉ AU CAP-VERT-PNADHC, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/capeverde_nhra.doc.

²³ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Lithuania, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Lithuania.doc>.

²⁴ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Mexico, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/mexico_en.doc. PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS 2014-2018, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Mexico2014_2018_sp.pdf.

²⁵ National Action Plan for the Promotion & Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria 2006, National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria 2009-2013, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Nigeria09-13.doc>.

²⁶ Sri Lanka National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2011-2016, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/NPASriLanka2011_2016.pdf.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|
| 21 | Peru ²⁷ | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | • | | • | • | | 10 |
| 22 | Bolivia ²⁸ | • | | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | 9 |
| 23 | Guatemala ²⁹ | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | 9 |
| 24 | Kazakhstan ³⁰ | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | | | | 9 |
| 25 | Latvia ³¹ | • | | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | 9 |
| 26 | Liberia ³² | • | | • | | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | 9 |
| 27 | New Zealand ³³ | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | | • | • | | | 9 |
| 28 | Thailand ³⁴ | • | | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | • | | • | | 9 |
| 29 | Germany ³⁵ | | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | | • | • | | 9 |
| 30 | Australia ³⁶ | • | | • | • | • | | • | | | | • | • | | | 7 |

Continued Table

²⁷ Justicia Y Derechos Humanos, Aprueban Plan Nacional de Derechos Humanos 2014-2016, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Peru_sp.pdf.

²⁸ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Bolivia, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/bolivia_en.doc.

²⁹ El Gobierno de Guatemala sobre la Polica de Derechos Humanos Presenta, EL PLAN DE ACCIÓN NACIONAL EN DERECHOS HUMANOS 2007-2017, Guatemala, Septiembre del 2007, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Guatemala2007-2017.pdf>.

³⁰ National Human Rights Action Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2009-2012, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Kazakhstan2009-2012.pdf>.

³¹ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Latvia, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Latvia.doc>.

³² National Human Rights Action Plan of Liberia 2013-2018, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Liberia_en.pdf.

³³ The New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights, Priorities for Action: 2005-2010, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/New_Zealand.pdf.

³⁴ แผนสิทธิมนุษยชนแห่งชาติ ฉบับที่ 2 (พ.ศ.2552-2556), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Thailand2009-2013_thai.pdf.

³⁵ Fifteenth Report by the German Government on its Human Rights Policy, Reference period: October1, 2020 until September 30, 2022, <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/human-rights-report-15/2567970>.

³⁶ Australia's National Human Rights Action Plan 2012, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/NHRPAustralia2012.pdf>.

| No. | Reporting Country | Measures Included | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|
| | | Identifying existing issues and needs | Setting priorities | Defining objectives and indicators | Human rights legislation | Human rights protection through law enforcement | Judicial protection and reform for human rights | Policy measures for human rights protection | Establishing human rights protection institutions | Coordination among government departments | Human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere | Participation by social organizations | Ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions | Cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms | Participating in global human rights governance | |
| 31 | Philippines ³⁷ | • | | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | | | | | 7 |
| 32 | Brazil ³⁸ | • | • | | | | | | | | | • | • | • | | 5 |
| 33 | Indonesia ³⁹ | | | | | | | • | • | | • | | • | • | | 5 |
| 34 | Republic of Korea ⁴⁰ | | | • | • | | | | | • | • | | | • | | 5 |
| 35 | Azerbaijan ⁴¹ | | | | • | • | | | | | • | • | | • | | 5 |
| 36 | Spain ⁴² | | • | | | | • | | | | • | • | | | • | 5 |
| | Total | 31 | 23 | 31 | 30 | 17 | 22 | 30 | 22 | 23 | 32 | 27 | 26 | 30 | 5 | 349 |
| | Percentage (%) | 86.11 | 63.89 | 86.11 | 83.33 | 47.22 | 61.11 | 83.33 | 61.11 | 63.89 | 88.89 | 75.00 | 72.22 | 83.33 | 13.89 | |

Source: The website of the UN OHCHR on National Human Rights Action Plans, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/national-plans-action-promotion-and-protection-human-rights>

As shown in Table 6, among the 36 national human rights action plans, 29 have

³⁷National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Philippines, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Philippines.pdf>.

³⁸National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Brazil, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Brazil_en.doc.38

³⁹ National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights-Indonesia, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Indonesia.doc>.

⁴⁰ The National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Republic of Korea, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Korea_Summary_NHRAP.doc.

⁴¹ National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/NPAAzerbaijan.pdf>.

⁴²PLAN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS Gobierno de España, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/NHRA/Spain_NHRAP.pdf.

incorporated nine or more of the 14 categories of measures, while seven have adopted seven or fewer categories, with an average of 9.69 categories included in each plan. The ranking of the 14 categories of measures based on their degree of inclusion in the texts, from the highest to the lowest, is as follows:

(1) 32 plans include “human rights education and fostering a cultural atmosphere”;

(2) 31 plans include “identifying existing issues and needs” and “defining objectives and indicators”;

(3) 30 plans include “human rights legislation,” “policy measures for promoting human rights,” and “cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms”;

(4) 27 plans include “participation by social organizations”;

(5) 26 plans include “ratifying and acceding to international human rights conventions”;

(6) 23 plans include “setting priorities” and “coordination among government departments”;

(7) 22 plans include “judicial protection and reform for human rights” and “establishing human rights protection institutions”;

(8) 17 plans include “human rights protection through law enforcement”;

(9) 5 plans include “participating in global human rights governance”.

Judging from the aforementioned ranking, the national human rights action plans of various countries exhibit certain common characteristics: First, there is a widespread emphasis on identifying existing issues and needs during the formulation process and, based on this, defining objectives and indicators for action. Second, there is a general focus on promoting and protecting human rights through human rights education, fostering a human rights cultural atmosphere, human rights legislation, and policy measures. Third, there is a prevalent emphasis on cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms, with most of the reports responding to issues and recommendations raised during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations Human Rights Council. Fourth, there is a relatively high emphasis placed on the participation of social organizations and promoting the ratification and accession to international human rights conventions.

The above ranking also reveals some differences in the national human rights action plans formulated by different countries: First, in terms of strategies for implementing the action plans, some countries prioritize setting key priorities. Rather than covering all aspects, they highlight key priorities. In contrast, the human rights action plans of other countries are relatively comprehensive in content without identifying priorities. Second, although most countries’ action plans involve establishing human rights protection institutions and coordination among government departments, one-third of them do not address the establishment of and coordination among organizational institutions. Third, despite a widespread emphasis on human rights legislation and policy measures in the national human rights action plans, there are differences in how they mention judicial protection and reform. Most references to judicial protection and reform for human rights are made by developing countries, possibly because their judicial systems are still being established and improved, while

those of developed countries have become relatively stable after a longer period of development. Fourth, less than half of the action plans mention human rights protection through law enforcement. Fifth, only four action plans involve participating in global human rights governance, indicating that most countries' human rights action plans primarily focus on enhancing domestic human rights protection.

IV. Rights Covered in Comprehensive National Human Rights Action

Plans of Various Countries

The rights covered in the national human rights action plans of different countries exhibit certain variations. From the texts of comprehensive national human rights action plans developed by 36 countries that we have collected, we have identified 34 primary rights, as illustrated in Table 7. These rights can be classified into four categories: (1) Economic, social and cultural rights, which mainly include the right to an adequate standard of living, right to work, right to health, right to social security, right to education, and cultural rights; (2) Civil and political rights, primarily including the right to life, right to liberty and security of person, freedom of movement and residence, right to be free from torture and inhumane treatment, right to fair trial, right to privacy and the security of personal data, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, right to know and freedom of expression, right to vote and political participation, and right to equality and non-discrimination; (3) Rights of specific groups, which mainly include rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, rights of women, rights of children, rights of the elderly, rights of the disabled, rights of refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons, rights of immigrants and foreigners, rights of detainees and inmates in prison, rights of sexual minorities, and rights of persons with HIV/AIDS and special infectious diseases; (4) Emerging rights, primarily including the right to self-determination, right to poverty reduction and development, environmental rights, right to peace, business and human rights, and human rights in the digital and intelligent age.

Table 7 Rights Covered by Comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plans of Various Countries

| No. | Country | Right |
|-----|---------|--|
| | | Right to an adequate standard of living |
| | | Right to work |
| | | Right to health |
| | | Right to social security |
| | | Right to education |
| | | Cultural rights |
| | | Right to property |
| | | Right to life |
| | | Right to liberty and security of a person |
| | | Freedom of movement and residence |
| | | Right to be free from torture and inhumane treatment |
| | | Right to fair trial |
| | | Right to privacy and security of personal data |
| | | Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion |
| | | Right to know and freedom of expression |
| | | Right to vote and political participation |
| | | Right to equality and non-discrimination |
| | | Rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples |
| | | Rights of women |
| | | Rights of children |
| | | Rights of the elderly |
| | | Rights of the disabled |
| | | Rights of refugees, displaced persons, and stateless persons |
| | | Rights of detainees and inmates in prison |
| | | Rights of immigrants and foreigners |
| | | Rights of sexual minorities |
| | | Right to self-determination |
| | | Right to poverty reduction and development |
| | | Environmental rights |
| | | Right to peace |
| | | Business and human rights |
| | | Human rights in the digital and intelligent age |
| | | Total |

The 34 rights mentioned above are ranked in descending order of their degree of inclusion in national human rights action plans across countries as follows:

- (1) Rights of children (36 plans);
- (2) Rights of women (34 plans);
- (3) Right to health (32 plans);
- (4) Rights of the disabled (30 plans);
- (5) Right to work (29 plans), right to education (29 plans), right to liberty and security of person (29 plans), right to fair trial (29 plans);
- (6) Rights of refugees, displaced persons, and stateless persons (26 plans);
- (7) Rights of detainees and inmates in prison (25 plans), right to equality and non-discrimination (25 plans);
- (8) Right to an adequate standard of living (24 plans);
- (9) Rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples (23 plans), rights of the elderly (23 plans), rights of immigrants and foreigners (23 plans);
- (10) Right to know and freedom of expression (21 plans);
- (11) Right to vote and political participation (20 plans);
- (12) Right to social security (19 plans), freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (19 plans);
- (13) Right to life (18 plans), environmental rights (18 plans);
- (14) Right to poverty reduction and development (15 plans);
- (15) Cultural rights (14 plans), right to privacy and security of personal data (14 plans);
- (16) Right to be free from torture and inhumane treatment (13 plans), right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (13 plans);
- (17) Right to peace (8 plans), rights of sexual minorities (8 plans);
- (18) Right to property (7 plans);
- (19) Human rights in the digital and intelligent age (5 plans), rights of persons with HIV/AIDS and special infectious diseases (5 plans);
- (20) Business and human rights (4 plans);
- (21) Freedom of movement and residence (3 plans);
- (22) Right to self-determination (1 plan).

From the ranking of the extent to which various rights are covered in national human rights action plans across countries, it is evident that economic, social, and cultural rights, along with rights of specific groups, are given more attention. Twelve out of the top 15 rights fall into these two categories. They are followed by civil and political rights, with nine of the rights ranked between 7th and 26th falling into this category. Emerging rights come last, ranking after the 20th position.

The economic, social and cultural rights covered in national human rights action plans, ranked from the most to the least frequently included, are as follows: right to health (32 plans), right to work (29 plans), right to education (29 plans), right to an adequate standard of living (24 plans), right to social security (19 plans), cultural rights (14 plans), and right to property (7 plans).

The rights of specific groups covered in national human rights action plans, ranked from the most to the least frequently included, are as follows: rights of

children (36 plans), rights of women (34 plans), rights of the disabled (30 plans), rights of refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons (26 plans), rights of detainees and inmates in prison (25 plans), rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples (23 plans), rights of the elderly (23 plans), rights of immigrants and foreigners (23 plans), rights of sexual minorities (8 plans), and rights of persons with HIV/AIDS and special infectious diseases (5 plans).

The civil and political rights covered in national human rights action plans, ranked from the most to the least frequently included, are as follows: Right to liberty and security of person (29 plans), right to fair trial (29 plans), right to equality and non-discrimination (25 plans), right to know and freedom of expression (21 plans), right to vote and political participation (20 plans), freedom of thought, conscience and religion (19 plans), right to life (18 plans), right to privacy and security of personal data (14 plans), right to be free from torture and inhumane treatment (13 plans), right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (13 plans), and freedom of movement and residence (3 plans).

The emerging rights covered in national human rights action plans, ranked from the most to the least frequently included, are as follows: environmental rights (18 plans), right to poverty reduction and development (15 plans), right to peace (8 plans), human rights in the digital and intelligent age (5 plans), business and human rights (4 plans), and right to self-determination (1 plan).

V. Functions and Development Trends of National Human Rights

Action Plans

The rule-of-law guarantee for human rights is the most authoritative, stable, and sustainable approach to promoting human rights. However, national human rights action plans can serve as a crucial supplement to the rule-of-law guarantee for human rights, playing a unique and irreplaceable role in promoting and protecting human rights.

A. Functions of national human rights action plans

A comprehensive national human rights action plan represents a country's political intent to promote the overall development of the national human rights cause and outlines sustainable, phased actions for its development. It differs from laws and regulations, policy schemes, and specific action plans for human rights protection, but can generally facilitate the formulation and continuous improvement of laws and regulations, policy schemes, and specific action plans for human rights protection. Its unique functions in promoting human rights development can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, a comprehensive national human rights action plan focuses on a country's priorities for promoting human rights. Rather than attempting to cover every aspect of human rights, most such plans concentrate on the most pressing human rights issues that require immediate resolution. Many countries undergoing social transformation focus on the construction of the rule of law for human rights, while numerous developing countries focus on enhancing economic and social rights as well as the

right to development. Countries with acute domestic ethnic tensions pay more attention to protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, whereas some developed countries focus on protecting the rights of specific groups.

Secondly, national human rights action plans concentrate on tackling particularly challenging and long-standing human rights issues. Some of them have developed over time due to various complex reasons, which makes them extremely difficult to address. In order to achieve fundamental changes in such issues, governments need to mobilize national and social resources and adopt a unified action plan to shake and eradicate the foundations of these issues, creating necessary social pressure and a public opinion atmosphere.

Thirdly, national human rights action plans can pave the way for the rule-of-law guarantee for human rights. Sustained and stable human rights protection relies on the rule of law, but effective laws do not emerge overnight. Instead, they require a clearer understanding of the issues they address, a sufficiently in-depth perception of the conditions for their implementation, and corresponding anticipation and response plans for potential problems arising from their implementation. Therefore, many countries often explore and experiment through national human rights action plans before they enact relevant human rights laws and proceed with formal legislation when the time is right.

Fourthly, national human rights action plans can cover the “last mile” that is difficult for the rule-of-law guarantee for human rights to reach, providing supporting public policy measures for legal implementation. As a mandatory norm, laws have general characteristics. On the one hand, it cannot regulate the details, yet the effectiveness of human rights protection is often manifested in these details. For instance, while laws can clearly stipulate various forms of equality, national human rights action plans can be more compatible and effective in addressing matters related to enhancing the ability to exercise rights and achieve substantive equality than general legal provisions. On the other hand, it is not appropriate to regulate certain rights-related issues that require specific promotional actions by the government through legal means. Therefore, we can see that in the comprehensive national human rights action plans formulated by various countries, the coverage of economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the rights of specific groups, is greater than that of civil and political rights.

B. Development trends of national human rights action plans

In general, the number of countries that have formulated comprehensive national human rights action plans is steadily increasing, and many countries that have not yet done so are proactively embarking on the process. This is in line with the trend of mainstreaming human rights promoted by the United Nations.

In terms of the content covered by national human rights action plans, some issues will be removed from the priority list as the legal protection of human rights in a country gradually improves. Additionally, new human rights issues that have emerged with the changing times are being increasingly addressed in these plans, such as environmental rights related to climate change, business and human rights linked to economic globalization, and human rights issues associated with the digital and

intelligent age.

It is particularly noteworthy that, in addition to comprehensive national human rights action plans, countries have also formulated a series of specialized human rights action plans. Based on a review and analysis of national human rights reports submitted by countries during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations, it is found that all 193 UN Member States have, to varying degrees, formulated some specialized human rights action plans. They mainly cover 25 types of human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living, right to work, right to health, right to social security, right to education, cultural rights, right to life, right to liberty and security of person, right to be free from torture and inhuman treatment, right to fair trial, political rights, right to equality and non-discrimination, rights of ethnic minorities, rights of women, rights of children, rights of the elderly, rights of the disabled, rights of refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons, rights of migrants, rights of prisoners, rights of sexual minorities, right to development, environmental rights, right to peace, and business and human rights. This represents another important form of formulating national human rights action plans, and our research findings will be elaborated in detail in a separate paper.

Research on national human rights action plans formulated by different countries is constrained by the availability of documents and the level of understanding of their implementation processes. As research progresses, it is hoped that more relevant research results will emerge. With ongoing in-depth research, we look forward to more valuable research findings coming to light.

(Translated by *LI Chunyan*)