The Practical Path of the "People-Centered" Human Rights Concept in the Construction of Common Prosperity: Based on an Examination of Zhejiang Province's Experience

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Abstract: *The "people-centered" human rights concept serves as the core ideological framework guiding the construction of common prosperity. From a human rights perspective, common prosperity represents a systematic social practice at a specific historical stage in China, aimed at realizing the people's economic, social, cultural, and political rights. As a demonstration zone for common prosperity, Zhejiang province has transformed the concept of common prosperity into concrete outcomes through practical mechanisms such as consolidating the foundation of human rights through high-quality development, promoting rights sharing through institutional innovation, advancing all-round human development through spiritual enrichment, and expanding rights participation channels through grassroots governance. Zhejiang's exploratory practices have achieved phased results, but also face challenges in areas such as resource assurance, improvement of the rights system, and equalization of public services. To construct a "people-centered" practical path for human rights in common prosperity, coordinated efforts need to be made in terms of fundamental premises, core drivers, institutional guarantees, cultural support, and implementation mechanisms.*

Keywords: people-centered ♦ common prosperity ♦ Zhejiang's practice ♦ human rights protection

I. Introduction: Common Prosperity from a Human Rights Concept to Practice

In 2021, China announced the completion of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, thereby historically resolving the problem of absolute poverty and achieving the First Centenary Goal.[1] Against this backdrop, how to ensure that prosperity is shared by all has become a new development challenge. To this end, China has put forward the strategic objective of "steadily advancing common prosperity."[2] Common prosperity is an essential requirement of socialism, a shared aspiration of the people, and a goal that the Communist Party of China (CPC) pursues with unwavering commitment.[3]

From a human rights perspective, common prosperity is essentially concerned with the sharing of rights. Steadily advancing common prosperity is an inherent requirement of practicing the "people-

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[1] Xi Jinping, *Speech at a Ceremony Marking the Centenary of the Communist Party of China* (Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2021), 2.

[2] Xi Jinping, *Selected Readings from the Works of Xi Jinping, vol. I* (Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2023), 38.

[3] Editorial Team, *Twelve Lectures on the Spirit of the 20th CPC National Congress* (Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2023), 286.

centered" development philosophy.[4] At present, scholarly discussions of the "people-centered" human rights concept largely remain at the level of broad value advocacy and lack a micro-analytical framework for translating it into specific categories of rights, policy instruments, and governance mechanisms. Meanwhile, in the process of advancing common prosperity, how institutional innovation can bridge the "last mile" in turning rights on paper into reality remains in need of in-depth case analysis.

As a demonstration zone for common prosperity through high-quality development, Zhejiang Province's reform explorations over the past five years provide an important prism through which to observe these issues. From income distribution reforms aimed at expanding the size of the middle-income group and raising the incomes of low-income groups, to livelihood initiatives such as "Zheli Health" and "Zheli Housing," and grassroots governance innovations exemplified by the "Houchen Experience," Zhejiang has explored a feasible path for transforming abstract human rights concepts into concrete livelihood policies and governance mechanisms. Taking Zhejiang as a case study, this paper seeks to address the following questions: under the guidance of the "people-centered" human rights concept, how can the rights-based implications of common prosperity be realized through specific institutional arrangements? What practical logic and generalizable experience underpin this process? Addressing these questions will not only contribute to developing an independent knowledge system of human rights theory with Chinese characteristics, but also provide practical guidance for steadily advancing common prosperity nationwide.

II. The Jurisprudential Convergence between the "People-Centered" Human Rights Concept and Common Prosperity

A. The "people-centered" approach: the core position of China's human rights discourse

The "people-centered" approach constitutes the core position running through China's human rights theory, legislation, and practice. It has shaped a distinctively Chinese model of human rights across three dimensions: subject, content, and objective. First, at the level of subject, the "people-centered" human rights concept affirms the principal status of the people and clarifies who the holders of human rights are. The *Constitution* of China explicitly stipulates that "the State respects and protects human rights." "The people-centered orientation is the most salient feature of China's path of human rights development."[5] The people's principal status means that human rights are not privileges enjoyed by a few, but universal rights that extend to all members of society.

Second, in terms of content, the "people-centered" human rights concept emphasizes that the rights to subsistence and development are the primary basic human rights. "China combines the principle of the universality of human rights with its national conditions and upholds the rights to subsistence and development as the primary basic human rights."[6] The right to subsistence is the foremost human right, encompassing, in the new era, rights such as the right to health and the right

[4] Zheng Qingdong, ed., *Collected Studies on Xi Jinping's Economic Thought (2022)* (Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2023), 112.

[5] Xi Jinping, *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China IV* (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2022), 270.

[6] Institute of Party History and Literature of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, ed., *Xi Jinping on Respecting and Protecting Human Rights* (Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2021), 21.

to housing.[7] The right to development extends and deepens the right to subsistence and encompasses political, economic, cultural, and social dimensions.[8] It entails that all people have the right to participate in development on an equal basis, to share its outcomes, and to achieve continuous self-development across various domains.

Finally, at the level of objective, "Living a happy life is the primary human right."[9] This proposition grounds the human rights concept in the concrete realities of people's everyday lives and represents a practical advancement of the "people-centered" human rights position. Common prosperity embodies the people's right to pursue a happy life and is consistent with the proposition that "living a happy life is the primary human right."[10]

B. The rights framework of common prosperity: from distributive justice to intergenerational equity

"As we speak of common prosperity, we mean prosperity shared by all the people, encompassing both material and spiritual well-being; it is neither prosperity for a select few nor egalitarianism."[11] The advancement of common prosperity is, in essence, a systematic process of realizing the fundamental rights of the people.[12]

First, basic equality: the baseline logic of distributive justice. John Rawls argues that social justice comprises the "principle of equal liberty" and the "difference principle," the latter requiring that social and economic inequalities be arranged to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged.[13] The baseline fairness embedded in common prosperity resonates with this framework. Common prosperity emphasizes ensuring that every individual enjoys basic human dignity and conditions of subsistence through institutional arrangements such as the equalization of basic public services, minimum livelihood guarantees, and social assistance. This constitutes the foundational rights guarantee of common prosperity, corresponding to the rights to subsistence and social security.

Second, participation and sharing: the active dimension of social rights. According to Amartya Sen's capability approach, poverty is not merely low income but the deprivation of basic capabilities.[14] The "common" in common prosperity implies that individuals should not only be free from poverty but also possess equal opportunities to participate in economic and social life. This

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[7] Guo Ye, "The Human Rights Path to a Better Life in the New Era: Human Rights Theory in Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law," *Journal of East China University of Politics and Law* 5 (2021): 94-95.

[8] Wang Xigen, "A Jurisprudential Analysis of the Right to Development," *Chinese Journal of Law* 4 (1999): 22.

[9] Institute of Party History and Literature of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, ed., *Xi Jinping on Respecting and Protecting Human Rights* (Beijing: Central Party Literature Press, 2021), 7.

[10] Wang Dezhi and Wang Bixing, "The Rights Logic of Common Prosperity: Structure, Evolution, and Realization Path," *Human Rights* 3 (2023): 50.

[11] Xi Jinping, *Selected Readings from the Works of Xi Jinping, vol. II* (Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2023), 501.

[12] Zhang Han, "All-Round Human Development: The Value Orientation of Common Prosperity in the New Era," *Human Rights* 3 (2023): 79.

[13] John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, He Huaihong et al. trans. (Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 1988), 6.

[14] Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Ren Ze and Yu Zhen trans. (Beijing: China Renmin University Press, 2002), 85.

requires that social rights — such as the rights to education, health, and work — move beyond formal equality toward substantive equality.

Third, development and advancement: the right to development as a third-generation human right. The right to development was first affirmed as an inalienable human right in the *Declaration on the Right to Development*, with its core premise being that every individual and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development. In the context of common prosperity, the right to development extends beyond income growth to encompass accessible pathways for individuals in areas such as occupational mobility, skills enhancement, and upward social mobility.

Fourth, intergenerational equity: the extension of rights in sustainable development. Intergenerational equity and sustainable development are also referred to as "green rights."[15] Common prosperity must take into account the interests of future generations. As a rights-based expression of sustainable development, intergenerational equity requires that rights such as environmental rights and rights to resource utilization be incorporated into the rights framework of common prosperity.

These four dimensions of rights form a hierarchical and progressive structure: basic equality constitutes the baseline, participation and sharing represent the starting point for fairness, development and advancement reflect process-oriented fairness, and intergenerational equity provides the guarantee for sustainability. Together, they constitute the rights matrix of common prosperity.

C. The value integration of the "people-centered" human rights concept and the rights framework of common prosperity

The "people-centered" human rights concept inherits and develops the Marxist view of the people, and has been continuously enriched through long-term practice in China.[16] It serves not only as the value orientation of common prosperity, but also shapes the logic guiding its advancement.

First, the integration of subjects. The "people-centered" human rights concept aligns John Rawls's notion of the "least advantaged" with groups in the Chinese context — such as low-income populations, rural residents, and people in less developed regions — thereby clarifying priorities in rights protection. The essence of achieving common prosperity lies in addressing the problem of unbalanced and inadequate development, including disparities in income distribution, as well as urban-rural and regional inequalities.[17] A "people-centered" approach requires that limited resources be first directed toward addressing the most pressing concerns of the people, with policy priorities shifting toward rural areas, grassroots communities, less developed regions, and disadvantaged groups. Through measures such as rural revitalization and coordinated regional development, it promotes the equalization of basic public services.

Second, the integration of content. The British philosopher Isaiah Berlin distinguished between

[15] Tu Yunxin, *On Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights* (Beijing: China Legal Publishing House, 2020), 6.

[16] Huang Gang, "A Study of Xi Jinping's Important Expositions on the People-Centered Value Orientation of Reform," *Studies on Marxism* 10 (2024): 49.

[17] Wang Sangui et al., *China's Path to Rural Modernization: From Poverty Alleviation to Rural Revitalization* (Beijing: China Yanshi Press, 2023), 267.

positive liberty and negative liberty.[18] Building on this dichotomy, many Western scholars have categorized rights into negative and positive rights. However, the development of modern society has increasingly undermined this dichotomy, as many rights — such as the right to health — possess both negative and positive dimensions.[19] The "people-centered" human rights concept transcends the traditional Western dichotomy between negative and positive rights by integrating the rights to subsistence, development, social rights, and environmental rights into the overarching right to a happy life for the people.

Third, integration across the temporal dimension. This approach emphasizes the unity of present development and long-term safeguards, embedding intergenerational equity within the contemporary realization of the right to development. The "people-centered" human rights concept is concerned not only with the realization of rights for the present generation, but also extends the horizon of rights protection to future generations, underscoring intergenerational equity. Common prosperity thus constitutes an evolving process of rights realization that is sustainable over time and across generations. It inherently encompasses rights with intergenerational dimensions, such as environmental rights and rights to resource utilization. It is precisely this integrative function that enables the rights framework of common prosperity to transcend the traditional framework of distributive justice and to form a rights discourse with Chinese characteristics.

III. Zhejiang's Practice: A Pioneering Exploration of Common Prosperity under the Guidance of the "People-Centered" Human Rights Concept

In May 2021, the *Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Supporting Zhejiang in Building a Demonstration Zone to Achieve Common Prosperity through High-Quality Development* were officially issued, calling on Zhejiang to take the lead in exploring high-quality development, reform of the income distribution system, and coordinated urban-rural and regional development. In essence, Zhejiang's exploration represents a process of translating the "people-centered" human rights concept into the concrete practice of common prosperity through systematic innovation and reform.

A. High-quality development and the material foundation of human rights

High-quality development constitutes the foundation of common prosperity. In advancing common prosperity, Zhejiang has emphasized converting economic growth into stronger guarantees for the right to work and the right to development. First, the optimization of the business environment. In the course of economic and social development, Zhejiang adheres to the principle that "the rule of law is the best business environment," and has continuously deepened reforms to streamline administration, delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services. Through the comprehensive implementation of the *Regulations of Zhejiang Province on Optimizing the Business Environment*, the property rights of all types of market entities have been strictly protected, with particular emphasis on the judicial protection of the lawful rights and interests of private entrepreneurs.[20] At the same time, a fair competition review system has been enforced to eliminate local protectionism and administrative monopolies. These measures safeguard the property rights of

[18] Isaiah Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty*, Hu Chuansheng trans. (Nanjing: Yilin Press, 2003), 195-200.

[19] Lu Yan'e, *Research on the Right to Health as a Social Right* (Nanjing: Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 2021), 115.

[20] Zheng Qing, "Work Report of the High People's Court of Zhejiang Province," *Zhejiang Daily*, January 27, 2026, 4.

market actors, stimulate entrepreneurial and innovative vitality across society, and lay a solid foundation for common prosperity. According to the survey "Business Environment Evaluation by Ten Thousand Private Enterprises" conducted by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce in 2025, Zhejiang ranked first nationwide in four major categories: the market environment, the rule-of-law environment, the innovation environment, and government services.[21]

Second, innovation-driven development and industrial upgrading. Zhejiang has vigorously advanced the "No. 1 Project" for developing the digital economy, fostering manufacturing champions and specialized, sophisticated, distinctive, and innovative SMEs.[22] In 2024, Zhejiang's digital economy recorded the fastest growth rate nationwide, accounting for more than 50% of its GDP.[23] Empirical studies indicate a significant positive correlation between the digital economy and common prosperity.[24] This evolution of the industrial structure has not only enhanced total factor productivity, but also created a large number of high-skilled and high-income jobs, thereby enabling workers to better realize their rights to work and development and allowing economic growth to be directly translated into opportunities for higher incomes. For instance, through digital transformation, the Yiwu Small Commodity Market has enabled merchants to integrate online and offline operations, forming a stable causal chain of "industrial upgrading — better-quality employment — rights protection." At the end of 2025, Yiwu launched a three-year AI skills enhancement initiative for about 10,000 merchants, actively creating opportunities for digital skills to contribute to income growth. While expanding revenue, this initiative has also driven the development of over 2.1 million medium-sized, small and micro enterprises nationwide and supported employment for more than 32 million workers.[25]

Third, coordinated regional development. Zhejiang has continuously advanced the "Mountain–Sea Cooperation Project". Building on the "Double Eight Strategy," the project has been aligned with strategies such as urban-rural integration and has generated synergies with other policies, effectively promoting leapfrog development in less developed regions.[26] The urban-rural income ratio in Zhejiang has long remained among the lowest in China, laying the foundation for advancing common prosperity across the province.[27] Through institutionalized arrangements, the "Mountain–Sea

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[21] Zhu Cheng, "Zhejiang Ranks First Nationwide in Four Key Business Environment Indicators," *Zhejiang Daily*, January 12, 2026, 1.

[22] *Notice of the General Office of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government on Implementing the Eagle Action to Cultivate Globally Competitive World-Class Enterprises* (Zhe Zheng Ban Fa [2018] no. 121).

[23] Economy and Information Technology Department of Zhejiang, "Comprehensive Evaluation Report on Zhejiang's Digital Economy Development (2024)," accessed February 12, 2026, https://jxt.zj.gov.cn/art/2025/4/15/art_1229893033_2568657. html.

[24] Li Chunlin et al., "Empirical Study on Digital Economy, Industrial Structure Upgrading, and Common Prosperity in Zhejiang," *Economic Geography* 10 (2024): 136.

[25] Wu Yilin, "Yiwu, Zhejiang: Skill Enhancement Empowers Merchants to Expand Global Markets," *China Labor and Social Security News*, February 14, 2026, 3.

[26] Qiu Yi and Gong Yu, "'Mountain–Sea Cooperation': A Regional Coordinated Development Institution with Chinese Characteristics," *Governance Studies* 4 (2024): 17.

[27] Lai Yichen and Song Binbin, "Zhejiang's Rural Areas Open New Space for 'Narrowing Gaps and Achieving

Cooperation Project" combines the capital and technological strengths of more developed areas with the land and ecological endowments of less developed regions, safeguarding the right to development of underdeveloped areas, narrowing intra-provincial development disparities, and promoting fairness in development opportunities.

B. Institutional innovation and the fair sharing of rights

The "people-centered" approach serves as a guiding principle across all sectors and is also a core principle in the field of social governance.[28] Social rights — including the rights to subsistence, work, and social security — aim to protect vulnerable groups and provide the institutional foundation for their progress toward common prosperity.[29] Through a series of landmark institutional innovations, Zhejiang has worked to build a distribution system and public service system conducive to social equity.

First, the "expanding the middle-income group and raising the incomes of low-income groups" initiative serves as the key instrument of income distribution reform. Zhejiang formulated the *Action Plan for Expanding the Middle-Income Group and Raising the Incomes of Low-Income Groups*, targeting key groups such as technical workers as well as low-income rural households and outlining measures focused on employment promotion, capacity building, and targeted assistance.[30] Through comprehensive measures such as enhancing human capital and improving factor-based distribution, the plan optimizes the distribution structure in the course of development, representing a concrete practice of the rights to social equity. For example, Ningbo has established a system integrating flexible social insurance, occupational injury protection, skills training, and income support for ride-hailing drivers, food delivery riders, and other groups, while clearly defining the responsibilities of platform enterprises and effectively addressing ambiguities in the determination of employment relationships.[31] Data show that in 2025, the per capita disposable income of low-income rural households in Zhejiang reached 26,439 yuan, representing an increase of 10.9%.[32]

Second, advancing the equalization of basic public services through a branding approach. In the new era, advancing common prosperity requires making the equalization of basic public services a key priority.[33] The equalization of basic public services respects and safeguards citizens' equal right

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Common Prosperity,'" *Zhejiang Daily*, November 20, 2025, 3.

[28] Zhang Wenxian, "Theoretical, Institutional, and Practical Innovations in Social Governance in Contemporary China," *Studies in Law and Business* 2 (2020): 5.

[29] Fan Jinxue, "The Constitutional Expression of Common Prosperity: Freedom, Equality, Sharing, and the Rule of Law State," *SJTU Law Review* 6 (2022): 49.

[30] Zhejiang Economic Information Center, "See Vivid Practices and Explore Effective Paths! Expanding the Middle-Income Group and Raising the Incomes of Low-Income Groups: Targeted Measures for Advancing Common Prosperity," accessed February 12, 2026, https://zjic.zj.gov.cn/ywdh/qyfz/202307/t20230731_20345358.shtml.

[31] Website of Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, "Ningbo Builds a 'Ten-Haves' Comprehensive Protection System for Flexible Employment," accessed May 9, 2026, https://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/dfdt/202203/t20220308_437636.html.

[32] National Bureau of Statistics Zhejiang Survey Team, "Statistical Communiqué on Zhejiang's National Economic and Social Development (2025)," accessed March 16, 2026, https//zjzd.stats.gov.cn/zwgk/xxgkml/tjxx/tjgb/202603/t20260304_113951.html.

[33] Wang Liejun, "Promoting Equalization of Basic Public Services," *Economic Daily*, March 30, 2022, 10.

to development.[34] Zhejiang has creatively developed livelihood-oriented brands such as "Zheli Health," "Zheli Housing," and "Zheli Longevity," integrating scattered public service projects into systematic livelihood programs. For instance, "Zheli Housing" encompasses affordable housing, renovation of old residential communities, and optimization of housing provident funds.[35] This brand-oriented approach not only improves the efficiency of public service provision, but also promotes equalization between urban and rural areas and across regions through standardized implementation, safeguarding social rights such as the rights to health, housing, and social security.

Third, deepening the Green Rural Revival Program and promoting urban-rural integration. The Green Rural Revival Program has evolved from a focus on environmental improvement to comprehensive rural revitalization. The program promotes both common prosperity and rural beautification, making Zhejiang a national model for the development of beautiful countryside initiatives and rural vitalization.[36] Data indicate that the Green Rural Revival Program has had a significant positive impact on advancing common prosperity in rural areas. Since its implementation, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in Zhejiang has ranked first among all provinces (autonomous regions) in China for many consecutive years, increasing from 5,594 yuan in 2003 to 42,786 yuan in 2024, a 7.65-fold increase. Meanwhile, the urban-rural income ratio declined from 2.43 to 1.83, representing a substantial narrowing of the urban-rural income gap.[37]

C. Spiritual enrichment, cultural rights, and all-round human development

Cultural common prosperity refers to the enjoyment of equal cultural rights by all members of society, together with a sustained and abundant supply of cultural goods and services.[38] Zhejiang has embedded cultural development into the overall framework of common prosperity, aiming to safeguard citizens' cultural rights and promote all-round human development.

First, implementing the Cultural Zhejiang Program in the new era to promote the equalization of public cultural services and safeguard citizens' right to cultural participation. In 2021, Zhejiang issued the *Implementation Opinions on Building a Pilot Province for Modernized Public Cultural Services through High-Quality Development* (Zhe Wei Ban Fa [2021] No. 64), extending public cultural facilities to villages and communities, setting a target of 100% coverage for integrated urban-rural "15-minute quality cultural life circle," and using digital technologies to enable the targeted

[34] Li Ruolan and Liu Xinyi, "The Rule-of-Law Logic and Rights Framework of the Equalization of Basic Public Services under Relative Poverty Governance," *Hebei Law Science* 9 (2023): 114.

[35] Zhejiang Provincial Urban–Rural Housing Coordination Committee Office, *Opinions on Promoting High-Quality Development, Building a Demonstration Zone for Common Prosperity and Creating the "Zhejiang Housing Security" Brand* (Zhe Zhufangwei Ban [2021] No. 32).

[36] Publicity Department of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee and Party School of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, eds., *One Hundred Methods and One Hundred Cases of the Double-Eight Strategy* (Hangzhou: Zhejiang People's Publishing House, 2023), 228-230.

[37] Luo Zhenjun, "Theory and Practice of the Green Rural Revival Program in Promoting Rural Common Prosperity: Evidence from Twenty-Two Years of Evidence in Zhejiang," *Southwest Finance* 11 (2025): 66.

[38] Shanghai Research Center for Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Shanghai Research Center for the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, eds., *Chinese Modernization: Theoretical Logic and Practical Innovation* (Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2024), 350.

delivery and cloud-based sharing of cultural resources.[39] This allows the public convenient access to libraries, exhibitions, performances and other cultural services, thereby effectively safeguarding citizens' cultural rights. For example, Quzhou has established the "Smart Cultural Space Station," a digital integration platform providing a full-cycle, closed-loop management of public cultural services, enabling the targeted delivery and cloud-based sharing of cultural resources, ensuring that rural residents enjoy access to cultural services comparable to that of urban residents, and promoting a shift from basic coverage to high-quality fulfillment of cultural rights.[40]

Second, promoting the "Courtesy Zhejiang" provincial initiative for civic advancement. Zhejiang issued the *Implementation Plan for Advancing the New Provincial Civilization Practice of "Courtesy Zhejiang"*, integrating core socialist values into daily life through initiatives such as yielding at pedestrian crossings, and thereby fostering a social atmosphere of mutual respect. This new civil practice provides strong spiritual motivation for advancing common prosperity.[41] It represents a further development of the right to a social environment and aims to foster a social environment characterized by mutual care and respect.

Third, building a lifelong education system accessible to all. Zhejiang has taken the lead in issuing the *Standards for the Construction of Micro-Credentials in Lifelong Learning (Trial)*, breaking down barriers between formal education and vocational training and establishing a "credit bank."[42] This initiative aims to ensure continuous learning opportunities for people of different ages and occupations, provide institutional pathways for workers to adapt to industrial transformation, and serve as an important support for translating the concept of "all-round human development" into practice.

D. Grassroots democracy expanding channels for the realization of rights

Common prosperity is a process characterized by broad public participation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. Zhejiang's innovations in grassroots governance provide effective approaches to safeguarding citizens' political rights and expanding channels for the realization of rights. Through initiatives such as "Village Deliberation" and the "Houchen Experience," combined with digital platforms such as "Zheliban" and the "Four Platforms for Grassroots Governance," Zhejiang has strengthened the protection of citizens' rights to information, participation, and supervision.

First, deepening the reform of "integration of counties and townships and management of all areas". Advancing pilot reforms in this area is an inherent requirement of building a demonstration zone for common prosperity.[43] The reform aims to restructure the allocation of powers and responsibilities between counties and townships, channel resources and capacities downward, and

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[39] Chu Ziyu, "Public Cultural Services Should Target 'Three Transformations'," *Zhejiang Daily*, September 14, 2021, 7.

[40] Yu Shan et al., "One-Click Access and Smart Services: Quzhou's 'Zheliban · City Channel' Marks Two Years Online," *Zhejiang Daily*, August 29, 2023, 9.

[41] Zhang Yan, "Promoting the New Provincial Civilization Practice of 'Courtesy Zhejiang'," *Zhejiang Daily*, July 25, 2022, 6.

[42] Xu Xinyi et al., "Addressing the Recognition Challenges of Non-Degree Education: Zhejiang Launches Lifelong Learning 'Micro-Credentials'," *Hangzhou Daily*, December 8, 2025, A6.

[43] Zhang Guofeng, "Advancing the Pilot Reform of 'Integration of Counties and Townships and Management of All Areas,'" *Policy Outlook* 2 (2022): 43.

address challenges such as mismatches between authority and responsibility and difficulties in county–township coordination.[44] This enables grassroots governments to respond more effectively to public needs and put the "people-centered" concept into governance practice. Second, promoting grassroots democratic practices such as the "Houchen Experience" and "Village Deliberation." The "Houchen Experience" establishes village supervisory committees to improve grassroots oversight mechanisms in rural areas.[45] "Village Deliberation," by contrast, constructs a closed-loop process of "discussion, consultation, implementation, and evaluation," ensuring villagers' rights to information, participation, decision-making, and supervision in village affairs.[46] These grassroots practices embed citizens' rights — particularly the rights to information and participation — into everyday governance processes, constituting a vivid manifestation of whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots level. Third, empowering rights realization through digital reform. Digital technology has become a key driver of innovation in government systems and mechanisms and maintains a dynamic, mutually constitutive relationship with bureaucratic organizational structures.[47] The "Zheliban" government service platform integrates a wide range of public and business services, enabling "one-stop integrated services," while the "Four Platforms for Grassroots Governance" consolidate functions such as comprehensive social governance, market supervision, integrated law enforcement, and public services, achieving "one-network services." Digitalization not only enhances the accessibility and convenience of public services, but also lowers barriers to public participation in governance through data openness and participatory module design, thereby providing technological pathways for the exercise of rights. In Wenling, Taizhou, democratic consultation has been integrated with digital deliberation. Since its inception in 1999, more than 120,000 participants have taken part in over 2,400 democratic consultation sessions on various budgetary matters, institutionalizing whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots level.[48]

In sum, Zhejiang's practice demonstrates that the "people-centered" human rights concept can generate incremental gains in rights through systematic efforts in economic, social, cultural, and political development. The province's exploratory practices present a pathway for realizing common prosperity that is grounded in high-quality development, driven by institutional innovation, sustained by public participation, and encompassing the full spectrum of basic human rights.

IV. Assessing Practice: Achievements, Challenges, and the Limits of Replicability of Zhejiang's Experience

As the nation's first demonstration zone for common prosperity, Zhejiang's five-year

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[44] Liu Lingling and Yu Meili, *A Study of Rural Governance under the Rural Revitalization Strategy* (Shenyang: Northeastern University Press, 2023), 150.

[45] Yan Zhaozhu, "Profound Insights from the 'Houchen Experience,'" *People's Tribune* 22 (2014): 68.

[46] Liu Ju et al., eds., *Ningbo's Practice in Building a Leading City for Common Prosperity* (Shanghai: SDX Joint Publishing Company, 2024), 85.

[47] Yu Jianxing and Zhou Xingyu, "The Mutual Shaping of Digital Technology Application and Government Innovation: An Analysis of Zhejiang's 'Three Lists' Digital Reform," *Comparative Economic & Social Systems* 1 (2023): 133.

[48] Jiang Yingying and Wang Ping, "At the Forefront of Reform: Twenty Years of Participatory Budgeting in Wenling," *Wenling Daily*, November 12, 2025, 2.

exploratory practice has achieved notable results and developed features that combine local characteristics with broader relevance, while also facing challenges in areas such as resource support, the improvement of the rights framework, and the equalization of public services.

A. Preliminary Achievements in Building Zhejiang into a Demonstration Zone for Common Prosperity

The construction of Zhejiang's demonstration zone for common prosperity has achieved notable results, which are reflected in four main aspects. First, residents' income has continued to grow, and urban-rural disparities have further narrowed. In 2024, the per capita disposable income of Zhejiang residents reached 67,013 yuan, while the urban-rural income ratio stood at 1.83, down by 0.03 from the previous year.[49] Second, public services have improved in quality and coverage, with the level of equalization continuing to rise. Since 2023, the equalization of basic public services across the province has significantly improved.[50] By 2025, among 101 provincial-level basic public service standards, 96 had no urban-rural differences.[51] This indicates that social rights such as the rights to education and health are being advanced from formal enjoyment toward substantive and universal access. Third, social governance has become more effective, and people's well-being continues to increase. By 2024, Zhejiang had established 10,530 provincial-level "good-governance demonstration" villages and 15,515 "clean and honest villages," both ranking first nationwide.[52] Zhejiang ranks among the provinces with the highest levels of public security perception and judicial civility.[53] The enhancement of people's sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security reflects the implementation of the "people-centered" human rights concept in governance. Fourth, Zhejiang has also explored institutional achievements that are replicable and scalable. The province has built the country's first common prosperity basic database, aggregating 4.79 billion data records and providing a quantifiable analytical tool for reforming the income distribution system.[54] Zhejiang also took the lead in issuing the first comprehensive local regulation on common prosperity, and the National Development and Reform Commission has twice promoted Zhejiang's demonstration practices

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[49] Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics, "Statistical Communiqué on Zhejiang's National Economic and Social Development (2024)," accessed February 13, 2026, https://tjj.zj.gov.cn/art/2025/3/1/art_1229129205_5469690.html.

[50] Fang Wenyu et al., "Delivering Livelihood Improvements through Common Prosperity," *Xinhua Daily Telegraph*, December 1, 2025, 1.

[51] Shen Jingjing et al., "The Enduring Driving Force Behind Zhejiang's Development," *Zhejiang Daily*, February 24, 2026, 1.

[52] Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics, "Statistical Communiqué on Zhejiang's National Economic and Social Development (2024)," accessed February 13, 2026, https://tjj.zj.gov.cn/art/2025/3/1/art_1229129205_5469690.html.

[53] Yang Jiayin, "Zhejiang Shares Its Experience in Exploring Common Prosperity: More Low-Income Groups Move into the Middle-Income Bracket," accessed February 13, 2026, https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_28828297.

[54] Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Statistics, "Statistical Reform in Zhejiang: The Common Prosperity Database Supports 'Expanding the Middle-Income Group and Increasing the Incomes of Low-Income Groups'," accessed February 13, 2026, https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_28826462.

nationwide.[55] These institutional achievements indicate that Zhejiang's pioneering experience has moved beyond the local level and is contributing a "Zhejiang Approach" to the nationwide pursuit of common prosperity.

B. Contemporary challenges in Zhejiang's experience

Despite its significant achievements in advancing common prosperity, Zhejiang still faces challenges that constrain the further advancement of human rights protection and common prosperity. First, tension exists between institutional innovation and fiscal sustainability. Ensuring and improving people's well-being is key to steadily advancing common prosperity, which requires sustained fiscal investment by the state.[56] The prominent tension between institutional innovation and fiscal sustainability essentially reflects an imbalance between the state's positive obligation to protect rights and its financial capacity. In practice, some institutional innovations are constrained by fiscal limitations, weakening the stability and continuity of human rights protection.

Second, structural shortcomings remain in the rights framework, and new challenges to human rights protection have emerged in the digital era. Zhejiang's human rights protection still focuses primarily on traditional rights, such as the rights to subsistence and development, while gaps persist in safeguarding the rights of workers in new forms of employment. Rigid standards for recognizing labor relations exclude many workers in emerging sectors from the protection system, resulting in a form of institutionalized rights deprivation.[57] For example, the labor relations of ride-hailing drivers and other new-employment groups are ambiguous, and rights such as rest and leave lack clear legal regulation. Meanwhile, while digitalization enhances human rights protection, it also generates new human rights risks. The construction of a digital human rights system lags behind the rapid development of digital technologies, and risks of digital capital infringing on rights are increasing.[58] Frequent incidents of personal data breaches and algorithmic price discrimination have emerged, and vulnerable groups, including the elderly, face the risk of rights marginalization in the digital era. The system for the protection of digital human rights therefore remains to be further improved.

Third, gaps persist in the equalization of public services, and substantive equality has not yet been fully realized. The realization of human rights requires the state to allocate public resources in a coordinated manner and provide high-quality, affordable public services.[59] Although Zhejiang ranks among the top provinces in public service equalization, resource allocation remains uneven across

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[55] Yang Jiayin, "Zhejiang Shares Its Experience in Exploring Common Prosperity: More Low-Income Groups Move into the Middle-Income Bracket," accessed February 13, 2026, https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_28828297.

[56] Fu Yiyao, "The Rule-of-Law Regulatory Path for Social Actors to Engage in Public Welfare: Taking the Coordination between Public Welfare and Profit-Making as the Point of Departure," *Zhejiang Social Sciences* 4 (2025): 81.

[57] Ai Lin, "A Study on Optimizing the Occupational Injury Protection System for Workers in New Forms of Employment," *China Journal of Applied Jurisprudence* 2 (2025): 75.

[58] Liu Quan, "The Integration of Digitalization and the Rule of Law in Digital Government Development," *Contemporary Law Review* 6 (2023): 15.

[59] Xu Lin, "A Legislative Interpretation of the Principle of Free Public Services under Common Prosperity," *Journal of Central South University (Social Sciences)* 6 (2024): 82.

urban-rural areas, regions, and population groups. The social security rights of rural residents are an intrinsic requirement for achieving equalization of public services between urban and rural areas, yet rural areas still suffer from insufficient quantity and quality of services such as pensions.[60] Educational and healthcare resources in 26 mountainous counties remain significantly below those in core urban areas such as Hangzhou and Ningbo. These gaps in public service equalization essentially reflect substantive inequality in rights protection and constrain the comprehensive advancement of common prosperity.

C. The uniqueness of Zhejiang's experience and the limits of its replicability

As a demonstration zone for common prosperity, Zhejiang's human rights practices and its pathway toward common prosperity encompass both generalizable institutional experiences that can be promoted nationwide and unique conditions shaped by local endowments.

1. Distinctive Supporting Conditions. Zhejiang's practice of common prosperity and human rights protection is deeply embedded in its distinctive economic and social structure as well as its historical and cultural context. These factors are long-term, historically accumulated, and region-specific, making them difficult for other regions to fully replicate through short-term policy transfer. First, the foundation of the private economy. Zhejiang has a high proportion of private enterprises, creating an initial distribution pattern characterized by broad wealth ownership among the population. Per capita fiscal revenue in Zhejiang ranks among the top in the nation, and sustained public service investment relies on strong fiscal support. This unique economic foundation, shaped by location, history, and institutional environment, is difficult for other regions to replicate in the short term. Second, the first-mover advantage in the digital economy. Zhejiang leads the nation in the scale of its digital industry, with high coverage of digital infrastructure and strong digital literacy among residents. Digital empowerment of public services and human rights protection is built on long-term technological accumulation, representing an industrial advantage. Regions lacking a corresponding digital industrial cluster and talent base may face a situation of "platforms without effective application" if they simply introduce digital tools. Third, cultural traditions and a reform-oriented ethos. Zhejiang exhibits a strong reform and innovation consciousness. From the "One-Trip-at-Most" reform to digital government initiatives, Zhejiang has accumulated extensive experience in optimizing the business environment and innovating social governance, cultivating a culture of exploration and experimentation. This reform culture is the product of long-term historical accumulation and is difficult to replicate through short-term administrative mobilization. Fourth, public willingness to participate in public affairs. Grassroots democratic practices such as the "Houchen Experience" and "Village Deliberation" have decades of accumulation in Zhejiang, with citizens demonstrating strong habits and capacity for participation in public affairs. This enables a relatively smooth implementation of a virtuous interaction characterized by government leadership, society participation, and public responsiveness in advancing common prosperity. Regions lacking this social capital must first cultivate a culture of participation, organizational platforms, and trust networks.

2. Generalizable Institutional Elements for Wider Application. First, the logic of integrating human rights protection with common prosperity. During its development, Zhejiang has transformed the "people-centered" human rights concept into a rights protection framework and embedded it throughout the implementation of common prosperity, which has broad practical significance. Other

[60] Liu Tongjun, "On the Value Objectives of Preferential Protection of Farmers' Rights," *Law Science* 2 (2022): 32.

regions promoting common prosperity should clarify the transformation chain of "rights — institution — policy," establish localized catalogues of rights related to common prosperity, and specify protection standards and responsible actors for rights such as education, labor, and housing, ensuring that the human rights concept can be realized. Second, promotion of grassroots democratic participation mechanisms. Zhejiang's grassroots practices of whole-process people's democracy, represented by "Village Deliberation" and "Democratic Consultations," rely on organizational innovation and procedural norms, making them highly transferable. Regions can establish localized democratic consultation platforms based on their governance foundations, safeguarding citizens' rights to information, participation, and supervision. Third, the model of digitally enabled targeted protection. Zhejiang has integrated digital reforms throughout the human rights protection process, creating a new model for digitally enabled human rights protection. Utilizing big data for livelihood profiling, targeted support, and equalization of public services,[61] this technical governance approach can be implemented in varying degrees depending on local digital infrastructure. Fourth, the systematic "expanding the middle-income group and raising the incomes of low-income groups" initiative. Zhejiang has constructed an income distribution adjustment mechanism for key groups built around the framework of "income growth — empowerment — basic protection," providing practical tools for nationwide income distribution reform to achieve common prosperity. Regions can adapt this approach according to their industrial structure and fiscal capacity, combining policy instruments such as tax adjustments, skills training, and creation of public-interest positions to develop a localized plan to expand the middle-income group and raise the incomes of low-income groups.

V. Improving the Human Rights Practice Path for "People-Centered" Common Prosperity

Building on Zhejiang's practice, improving the human rights practice path for people-centered common prosperity requires coordinated efforts across five dimensions: the fundamental premise, core drivers, key levers, cultural support, and implementation mechanisms.

A. Fundamental premise: upholding the unity of the party's overall leadership and the "people-centered" approach to human rights protection

First, upholding the overall leadership of the Communist Party of China provides the political guarantee for achieving common prosperity.[62] In the process of building the demonstration zone, the Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government established a "1+7+N" key task system and a "1+5+N" major reform system, providing a systematic top-level design for the construction of the demonstration zone.[63] For nationwide practice, top-level design should further

[61] Zhejiang Provincial Department of Civil Affairs, "Reply to Proposal No. 166 of the Third Session of the 13th CPPCC Zhejiang Provincial Committee," accessed March 15, 2026, https://mzt.zj.gov.cn/art/2025/7/7/art_1229266091_5542278. html.

[62] Cai Wencheng and Wang Huan, "A Holistic Understanding of Common Prosperity for All: A Dialectical Analysis," *Journal of Guangxi University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)* 4 (2024): 11.

[63] "1" represents a set of target indicator systems, and "7" refers to specific action plans focusing on seven key areas including high-quality economic development, income distribution, urban-rural and regional coordination, and public services. "N" represents a series of supporting policies. In the major reform system of "1+5+n", "1" refers to the major reform of expanding the middle-income group and raising the incomes of low-income groups. "5" refers

improve coordination mechanisms under Party leadership for advancing common prosperity, incorporate human rights protection requirements into the entire process of regional development planning, and strengthen strategic guidance in key areas such as coordinated urban–rural development and equalization of public services, thereby promoting synergy between human rights protection and common prosperity. In designing government performance evaluation systems, human rights indicators should be incorporated into the common prosperity assessment framework, establishing a linkage mechanism between "rights realization" and "common prosperity outcomes."

Second, the Party's mass line should be integrated throughout the entire process of implementing common prosperity policies, thereby highlighting the people's principal status. The mass line is the Party's lifeline and fundamental working line.[64] Grassroots democratic practices in Zhejiang, such as "Village Deliberation" and the "Houchen Experience," position the people as active participants in common prosperity, representing a concrete manifestation of the people's principal status in human rights practice. In advancing "people-centered" common prosperity, top-level design should establish regularized mechanisms for public opinion solicitation, democratic consultation, and democratic supervision, fully incorporating public input and taking public satisfaction as a key criterion for evaluating policy effectiveness, thereby achieving the unity of the subjectivity and practical realization of human rights.

B. Core drivers: high-quality development and innovation-driven growth to resolve fiscal sustainability challenges

First, innovation-driven industrial upgrading should be used to expand market-based channels for income growth and reduce the exclusive reliance of rights protection on fiscal resources. High-quality employment is a key foundation for steadily advancing common prosperity, with employment scale, structure, and quality serving as key indicators.[65] Zhejiang's experience shows that industrial upgrading, represented by the digital economy and "specialized, sophisticated, distinctive, and innovative SMEs", has created a large number of high-income jobs, enabling workers to achieve income growth through market mechanisms and thereby expand the realization of their rights. This "market-oriented rights protection" approach effectively alleviates the tension between institutional innovation and fiscal sustainability. For nationwide practice, top-level design should adhere to the new development philosophy, promote the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries alongside the growth of emerging industries, and build a virtuous cycle of "technological upgrading — job quality improvement—income growth — rights protection," ensuring that different social groups can share the dividends of high-quality development.

Second, a diversified financing mechanism integrating "fiscal investment — social capital — public welfare and philanthropy" should be established to enhance the sustainability of public services. Improving the distribution system for common prosperity requires the market, government, and social

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to five major areas such as narrowing the gap in regional development and urban-rural development. "n" represents a series of special reforms. See Zhu Weijiang, ed., *A Solid Start in Building a Demonstration Zone for Common Prosperity through High-Quality Development: Zhejiang Livelihood Development Report 2021* (Beijing: Research Press, 2022), 3.

[64] Xu Yaotong, *A Century of the CPC's Mass Line* (Hefei: Anhui People's Publishing House, 2023), 1.

[65] Tao Zhiyong, *Common Prosperity: Concept, Goals, and Implementation Path* (Beijing: China Workers Press, 2022), 131.

organizations to play their respective roles.[66] In response to fiscal pressures in human rights protection and public service provision, the government should strengthen its foundational and bottom-line responsibilities while innovating funding approaches and expanding financing channels. Through institutional arrangements such as public–private partnerships, government procurement of services, public welfare venture capital, and charitable trusts, social actors — including enterprises, social organizations, and individuals — can be guided to participate in public service provision in an orderly manner. Primary distribution should remain market-led, secondary distribution should rely on government regulation, and tertiary distribution should encourage voluntary social participation and establish sound institutional frameworks for philanthropy and charity.[67] Supporting policies — such as tax incentives, donation deductions, and transparent project operations — should be improved to ensure the standardized and efficient functioning of the three distributions, forming a diversified financing structure characterized by government leadership, market operation, and social collaboration, thereby alleviating rigid fiscal pressures and enhancing the long-term sustainability of public services and human rights protection.

Third, fiscal allocation mechanisms should be improved and risk assessment strengthened. On the one hand, a "fiscal affordability assessment for common prosperity" should be established at national and provincial levels to evaluate the medium- and long-term fiscal impacts of major livelihood policies and to formulate phased implementation roadmaps, thereby preventing fiscal risks. On the other hand, an evaluation system should be established to improve the efficiency of fiscal resource allocation and utilization. For instance, Zhejiang may take the lead in exploring a "performance evaluation system for livelihood expenditures," linking fiscal allocations to the effectiveness of human rights protection — such as the actual benefits received by low-income groups and public satisfaction with services — so as to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending.

C. Key levers: improving the human rights protection framework

First, protecting the rights of workers in new forms of employment. Safeguarding workers' rights is essential to ensuring their status as the principal participants in development and to advancing common prosperity.[68] In this regard, the concept of workers in new forms of employment could be incorporated into the *Labor Law*, bringing platform workers who do not fall fully within the scope of traditional employment relationships under legal protection, and clarifying their entitlement to basic rights such as occupational injury protection, a minimum wage, and the right to rest. At present, Zhejiang has issued the *Measures of Zhejiang Province for Safeguarding the Labor Protection Rights and Interests of Workers in New Forms of Employment*. On this basis, a *Regulation on Platform Employment Responsibilities* could be further formulated to clarify the rights and obligations of platforms and workers, and to establish a flexible protection model based on "payment per task and insurance coverage per task." At the same time, the legal-aid experience of the "Zhejiang Digital

[66] Yu Haijun, *Implementation and Realization of the Common Prosperity Strategy* (Beijing: Guangming Daily Publishing House, 2023), 9.

[67] Zhang Zhanbin, ed., *In-Depth Interpretations of Common Prosperity by Experts* (Beijing: The Eastern Publishing Co., Ltd, 2022), 248.

[68] Shao Liuyi, "Political–Legal Interaction in the Legislative Process: A Case Study of Common Prosperity Legislation," *Rule of Law Society* 3 (2022): 74.

Trade Union" can be promoted nationwide by establishing green channels for rights protection for workers in new forms of employment.

Second, addressing risks to digital human rights. First, efforts should be accelerated to formulate a *Regulation on the Protection of Digital Human Rights*, clarifying the legal status of data rights as an emerging category of rights. An algorithm impact assessment system should be implemented to conduct ex ante evaluations of algorithmic models in areas such as employment and public services, preventing algorithmic discrimination. Second, a digital inclusion action plan should be implemented. For digitally disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, necessary offline service channels should be retained, and public digital service platforms should be required to meet accessibility standards. Finally, a public-interest litigation mechanism for the protection of digital human rights should be established, enabling procuratorial organs or consumer organizations to initiate litigation in cases involving large-scale personal data breaches or algorithmic discrimination.

Third, upholding the unity of green development and inclusive growth to safeguard the people's environmental rights and intergenerational equity. Green development requires treating a sound ecological environment as the most inclusive form of public well-being, achieving coordinated development between the economy, society, and the environment.[69] Inclusive growth requires breaking institutional barriers and narrowing income disparities so that the benefits of economic development are shared by all.[70] In advancing "people-centered" common prosperity, top-level design should integrate the concept of green development throughout the entire process of economic and social development, ensuring the coordinated protection of environmental rights and the right to development.

D. Cultural support: cultivating rights awareness through spiritual common prosperity and strengthening the cultural foundation of the "people-centered" approach

Zhejiang's integration of the "Courtesy Zhejiang" provincial initiative for civic advancement and the equalization of public cultural services into the pursuit of common prosperity demonstrates that "people-centered" common prosperity entails the unity of material and spiritual well-being. Spiritual enrichment serves as the cultural foundation for cultivating public awareness of rights and ensuring the steady and sustained advancement of common prosperity. Nationwide practice should be guided by the goal of spiritual common prosperity, safeguarding citizens' cultural rights and ensuring that the "people-centered" human rights concept takes root throughout society.

First, developing public cultural services, safeguarding the people's equal cultural rights, and consolidating the cultural foundation of common prosperity. Cultural rights constitute an important component of basic human rights, and the government bears obligations to respect, protect, and promote their realization.[71] A rational and well-designed cultural institutional framework is an important driving force for advancing common prosperity.[72] At the national level, the government

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[69] Wang Mingyue and Pang Changwei, *Explorations on the Development of Ecological Civilization and Governance Modernization* (Beijing: Guangming Daily Publishing House, 2024), 116.

[70] Tong Hongzhi, *Research on Multi-Actor Linkage Mechanisms for Targeted Poverty Alleviation in Deeply Impoverished Areas* (Wuhan: Wuhan University Press, 2021), 46.

[71] Song Huixian, "On the Composition and Attributes of Cultural Rights," *Journal of China University of Political Science and Law* 5 (2017): 5.

[72] Tang Haiyan, "The Ethical Construction of Cultural Institutions: A Paradigmatic Reflection on Advancing Common Prosperity," *Journal of Guangxi University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)* 4 (2024): 1.

should promote the equalization of public cultural services, establish a modern public cultural service system covering both urban and rural areas, and utilize digital technologies to enable the targeted delivery and sharing of cultural resources, thereby ensuring inclusive protection of cultural rights.

Second, strengthening human rights education to cultivate citizens' awareness of rights, obligations, and participation. The *Human Rights Action Plan of China (2021-2025)* calls for the extensive development of human rights education to foster a social atmosphere of respect for and protection of human rights. Human rights education serves as foundational education concerning the rights to which individuals are entitled and is of great significance for advancing the cause of human rights.[73] Zhejiang's practice of integrating human rights concepts into grassroots governance also demonstrates that enhancing citizens' awareness of rights is a key driver for stimulating public participation in the construction of common prosperity and promoting human rights protection. In response to current challenges such as weak rights awareness and insufficient participation in public governance among some groups, the state should incorporate human rights education into the national education system, popularize the "people-centered" human rights concept and the rights connotations of common prosperity, and promote the effective implementation of human rights concepts in practice, enabling the people to become both participants in and beneficiaries of common prosperity.

E. Implementation mechanisms: upholding collaboration, participation, and shared benefits, and leveraging digital governance to expand practical channels for human rights protection

People-centered common prosperity is not only about sharing the fruits of development, but also a vivid practice in which the people participate throughout the process and engage in collaboration and governance. Drawing on both the achievements of digital governance and the shortcomings in the protection of digital human rights revealed by Zhejiang's experience, efforts at the national level should be guided by the principle of collaboration, participation, and shared benefits, while leveraging digital governance to broaden the practical channels for human rights protection. First, developing whole-process people's democracy and improving mechanisms that encourage the participation of multiple stakeholders. Whole-process people's democracy and common prosperity are mutually reinforcing.[74] In advancing people-centered common prosperity, top-level design should further expand channels for participation by different social groups, ensuring that the public can effectively participate in key processes such as policy formulation and performance evaluation. The online solicitation for the *15th Five-Year Plan* collected over 3.113 million suggestions and introduced dedicated sections such as "common prosperity," reflecting a governance philosophy that integrates top-level design with public consultation.[75] For nationwide practice, institutionalized mechanisms for democratic consultation, decision-making, and supervision should be further improved in top-level design, with public satisfaction serving as a key indicator for evaluating the outcomes of common prosperity, thereby ensuring the effective realization of democratic rights.

Second, using digital technologies to facilitate the realization of rights and enhance the precision

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[73] Hou Bo, "Human Rights Education in China: Policy Evolution and Prospects Based on Four Editions of the 'Human Rights Action Plan of China'," *Human Rights* 4 (2025): 139.

[74] Zhang Aijun, *Strategic Planning and Practical Pathways of Whole-Process People's Democracy* (Wuhan: Central China Normal University Press, 2024), 170.

[75] Tang Ying, "Democratic Practice Reflected in 3.113 Million Public Suggestions," accessed February 15, 2026, https://www.rmlt.com.cn/2025/0813/737624.shtml.

of human rights protection, while safeguarding fundamental human rights standards and the rule of law. Zhejiang's practices, such as "Zheliban" and the "Four Platforms for Grassroots Governance," demonstrate that digitalization is an effective tool for improving public service efficiency and expanding channels for rights realization. However, the new risks introduced by digital technologies may marginalize certain groups in the process of advancing common prosperity. In response to issues observed in Zhejiang — such as insufficient protection of data rights and the digital divide — the government should further promote the deep integration of digital technologies with common prosperity and human rights protection. On the one hand, technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence should be used to develop profiles of public needs, thereby enhancing the precision of human rights protection. On the other hand, the legal framework for digital human rights protection should be accelerated, improving laws and regulations on the protection of personal information and data property rights, and ensuring that all people can equally enjoy the right to development in the digital era.

VI. Conclusion

The "people-centered" human rights concept provides the fundamental value orientation and methodological guidance for the construction of common prosperity. Zhejiang's practice demonstrates that through high-quality development, institutional innovation, cultural guidance, and governance empowerment, human rights principles can be effectively translated into tangible outcomes of common prosperity. However, Zhejiang's achievements in advancing common prosperity rely heavily on its first-mover advantages in areas such as private economic development and digital governance. When drawing on Zhejiang's experience, other regions should focus on incorporating the people-centered approach throughout the policy process, promoting grassroots democratic participation mechanisms, and adopting a range of measures that combine baseline fairness with diversified provision, while adapting these approaches to local conditions and addressing shortcomings in areas such as private economic development and digital infrastructure.

Looking ahead, at the theoretical level, it is necessary to further construct a scientific human rights indicator system for common prosperity to provide a quantitative basis for policy optimization and performance evaluation. At the practical level, close attention should be paid to the evolving rights claims of different groups in the process of advancing common prosperity, fiscal affordability assessments should be used to prevent welfare risks, and emerging challenges — such as digital human rights protection — should be proactively addressed, ensuring the steady and sustainable advancement of common prosperity.

(Translated by *CHEN Feng*)