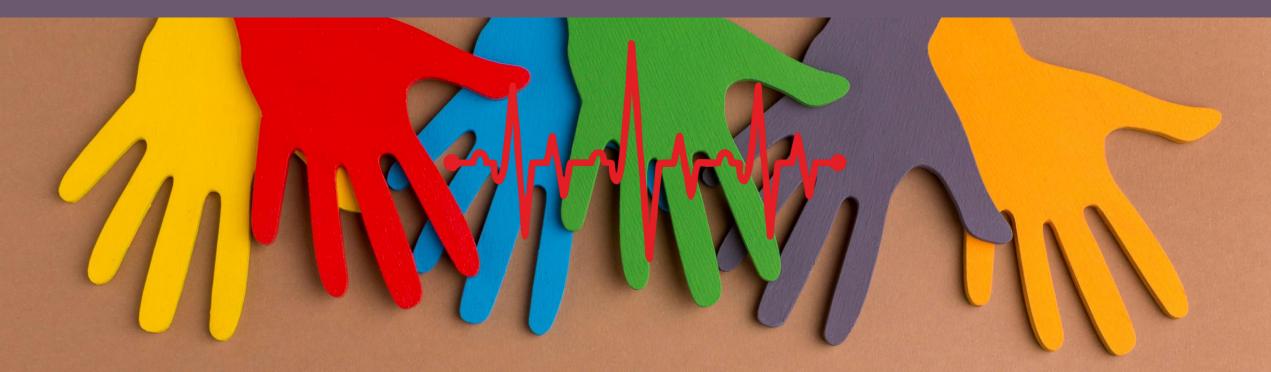
Equality, Cooperation and Development: The 30th Anniversary of Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and Global Human Rights Governance



### WELL-BEING AND HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW



DR. RAMON Mª CALDUCH



#### FORUM ON GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS GOVERNANCE, June 14-15, 2023 Beijing, China WELL-BEING AND HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW



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Chairperson of the WFCMS Working Committee of Promoting the Regulation of Chinese Medicine

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Chairperson of the Supervision Board of World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS)

Vice Chairperson of the Educational Instruction Committee of WFCMS

Vicepresident of the Specialty Committee of Standardization of WFCMS

Vicepresident of World TM Forum



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# Introduction

- Health as a matter of law
- Focus on the legal nature of health within the framework of human rights



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# The ultimate purposes of the right to health

- Save life, restore health, maintain health, alleviate suffering
- Accessible, acceptable, and quality decisions, means, and resources



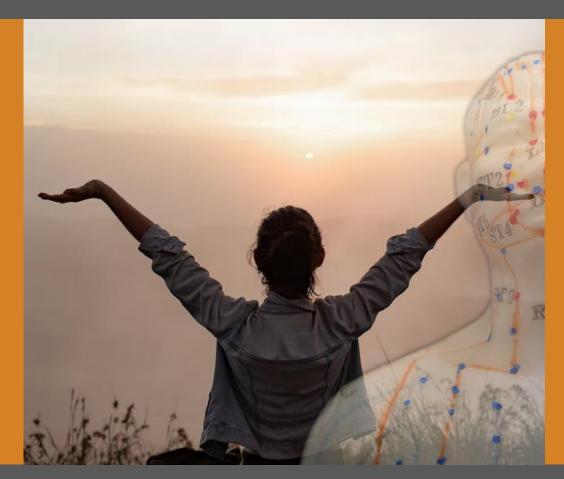
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### **Freedoms and protective measures**

- Individual's control over their body and health
- Access to information and refusal of treatment
- Access to means and resources for maintaining or recovering health



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### Acceptance of human rights

- Ethical and legal acceptance
- Obligations, legal enforceability, and protection of human rights



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### Acceptance of health as a human right

- Enforceability by the state
- Treaties and constitutional law as legal obligations



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### **Expansion of human rights**

- Human rights evolving with moral, economic, scientific, and technical progress
- Deriving from the notion of human dignity



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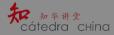


# Health as a right

- Right with its own personality and legal protection
- Indisputable place in international human rights law



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## Universality of human rights

- Health as a universal human right
- Denying universality equals denying health as a human right



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### **Duties of the State related to health**

- Three-tiered obligations: respect, protect, fulfill
- Facilitate, provide, and promote access to health services



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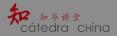


# Definition of the right to health

- Concept of health, technological development, and information availability
- Benefits of scientific progress and its applications



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### Focus on traditional medicine

- Influence on the use of traditional medicine
- Freedom of therapeutic choice and regulation



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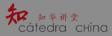
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## Definition of traditional medicine by WHO

- Body of health practices, methods, knowledge, and beliefs
- Medical use of plants, animal parts, minerals, spiritual therapies, manual techniques, and exercises



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### WHO's role in traditional medicine

- Reports on safe evaluation and preparation of herbal products
- Strategies and recommendations for integrating traditional medicine into health policies



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# **Current status and future plans**

- Increasing number of countries with national policies and regulations
- Extension of the WHO Strategy 2014-2023 and development of a new strategy 2025-2034



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### **Research and evidence**

- Need for adequate research and evaluation of traditional medicines
- Use of evidence-based practices and caution against uninformed skepticism



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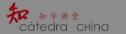


### Imbalance and challenges

- Power dynamics between allopathic medicine and traditional medicines
- Reviling ancestral practices and the need for integration of paradigms



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### Quality of life and efficacy

- Multiple studies endorsing the efficacy and low cost of traditional medicines
- Improvement in quality of life and control of symptoms



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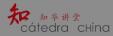
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## Safety concerns and informed consent

- Risk of adverse effects when combining traditional medicines with conventional treatments
- Importance of professionals being aware and promoting informed consent



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# **Regulation and learning**

- Importance of regulating the practice, learning, and research of traditional medicines
- Guaranteeing citizens' protection and informed health advice



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### Fundamental rights and international law

- Freedom of therapeutic choice and regulation as individual rights
- Possibility of legal recourse for non-compliance by states



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# Conclusion

- Health as a universal human right
- Need for recognition, regulation, and integration of traditional medicines



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### **Questions and Discussion**

