



A Strategic Blueprint:
The Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy



Advancing the Rule of Law in China



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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First Edition 2016

ISBN 978-7-119-10025-8

© Foreign Languages Press Co. Ltd, Beijing, China, 2016

Published by Foreign Languages Press Co. Ltd

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China

P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China



Advancing the Rule of Law in China



The Resolution expressly provides the guidelines, overall objective, fundamental principles and major tasks for comprehensively advancing the rule of law, and takes meticulous steps towards team building for legislation, law enforcement, judicature, compliance and rule of law, and for reinforcing and improving the CPC's leadership in law-based governance.

New Heights for “Law-based Governance”



The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, convened in 2014, focused on law-based governance, adopting the Resolution of the CPC Central Committee on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Advancing the Rule of Law, to reaffirm that comprehensively advancing the rule of law is a must, in order to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, realize the Chinese Dream of national renewal, comprehensively deepen reform, improve and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, and enhance the Party's governance capability and adeptness.

The Resolution expressly provides the guidelines, overall objective, fundamental principles and major tasks for comprehensively advancing the rule of law, and takes meticulous steps towards team building for legislation, law enforcement, judicature, compliance and rule of law, and for reinforcing and improving the CPC's leadership in law-based governance. As a programmatic document for advancing law-based governance in new conditions, the Resolution has great and far-reaching significance for establishing a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and to promote the socialist rule of law, as well as to foster the relevant culture.

“Two Builds,” Five Principles and the “4+1” System

Taking the comprehensive advancement of law-based governance as its central theme, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee made important strategic arrangements for this major issue. The key points are as follows:

“Two Builds”

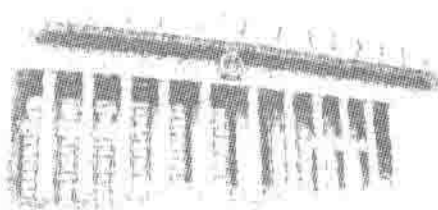
- Build a system of socialist rule of law; and
- Build a country under the rule of law.

Five Principles

- Uphold the CPC’s leadership;
 - Uphold the position of the people as masters of the country;
 - See to it that all are equal before the law;
 - Combine the rule of law with the rule of virtue;
- and
- Proceed from China’s actual conditions.

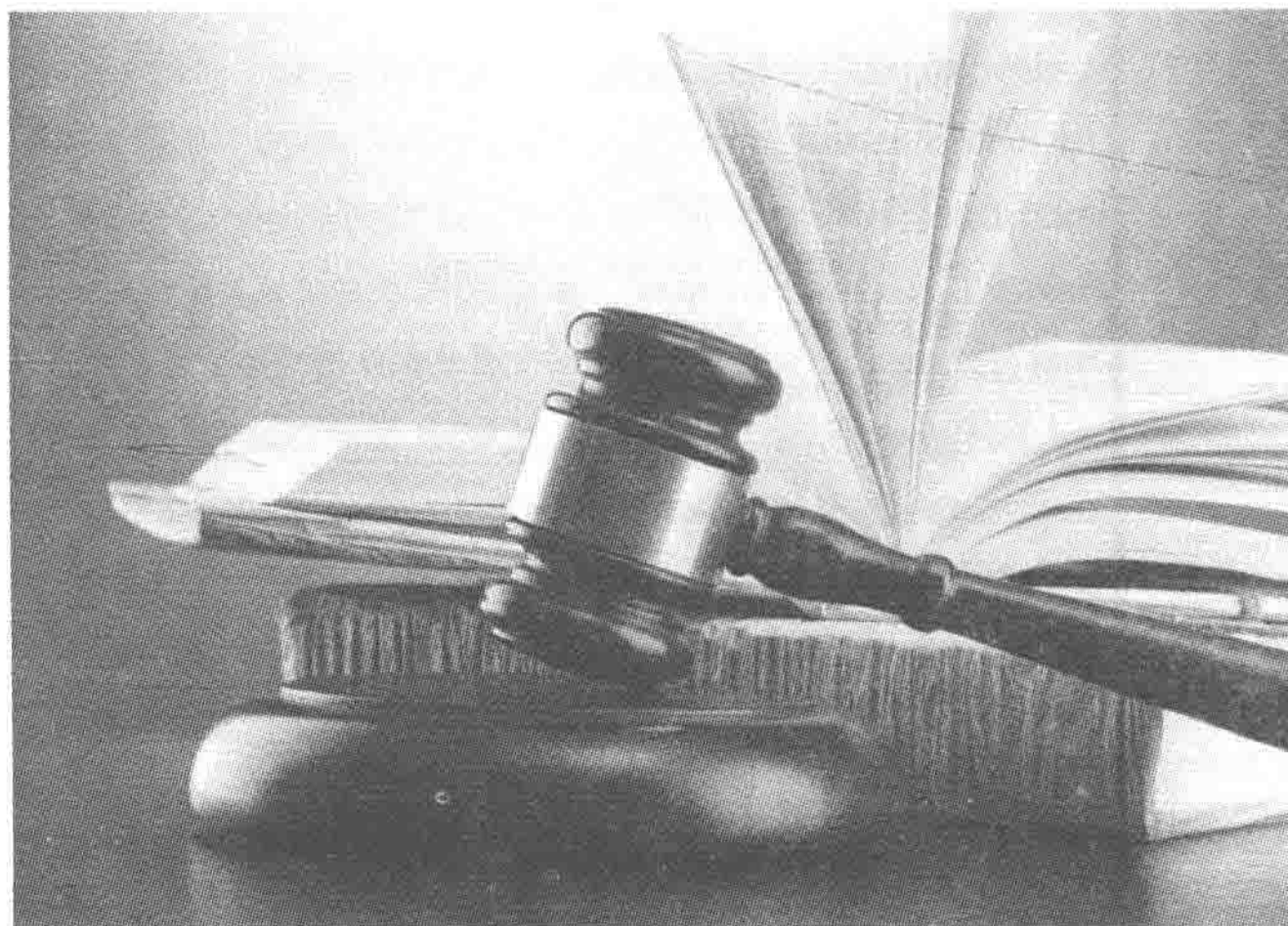
The “4+1” System

- A comprehensive legal system,
- Efficient enforcement,
- Strict supervision, and
- Effective guarantees; plus
- A complete system of rules and regulations for CPC members.





The Resolution provides positive and proactive answers to key and difficult issues in the process of promoting law-based governance, while pointing out directions and paths for resolving these issues. Based on a summary of the experience of handling judicial, procuratorial, and public security work over the past decade, it formulates strategic measures and designs a basic layout for China's future development. With an epochal significance for China's political development and reform, it ushers in a new era of law-based governance in the country, further develops the theory and practice of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, and elevates law-based governance to new strategic heights.



Six “Firsts”

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee and its Resolution reflect that the CPC Central Committee attaches unprecedentedly high importance to the rule of law. Many proposals were put forward for the first time at this session.

▲ The rule of law was first taken up as the theme of a plenary session;

▲ Comprehensive law-based governance was proposed as the overall objective for the first time;

▲ The proposal to unswervingly follow the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics was raised for the first time;

▲ The proposal to establish a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics was raised for the first time;

▲ Comprehensively advancing law-based governance was set as a major task for the first time; and

▲ The proposal to reinforce team building for the rule of law was raised for the first time.





In a modern society, the constitution is the fundamental law of a country and the cornerstone of the rule of law. It also represents the culture and civilization of this country.

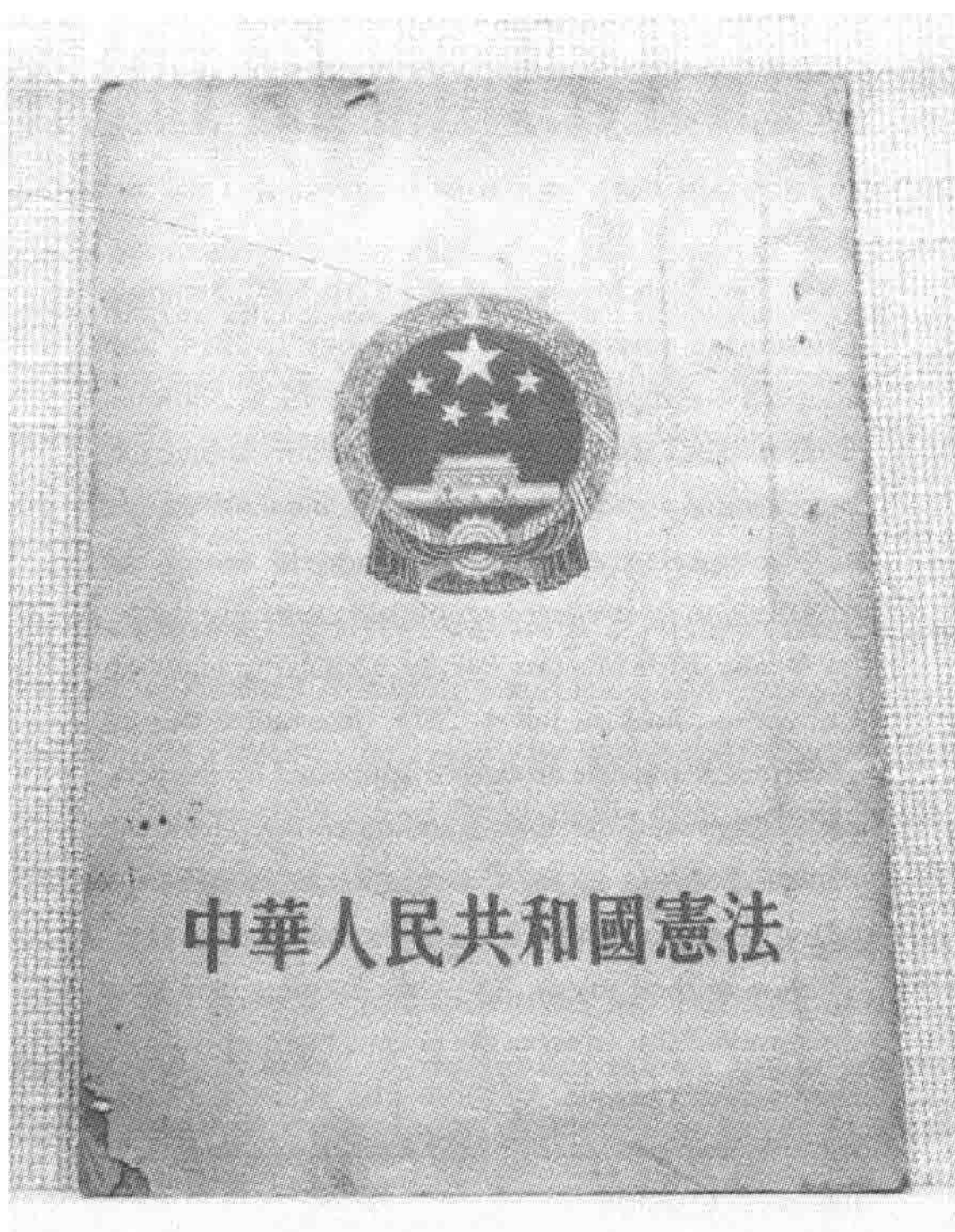
The Constitution: Cornerstone of Law- based Governance



In a modern society, the constitution is the fundamental law of a country and the cornerstone of the rule of law. It also represents the culture and civilization of this country.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, four constitutions were formulated. The 1982 Constitution is the most advanced, as it carries on and updates the fine traditions and basic principles of the 1954 Constitution, caters to reform and opening up, suits China's actual national conditions, and reflects distinctive Chinese characteristics. The supreme authority of the Constitution has also been established, while keeping up with the times with continual self-improvement. To adapt to economic and social development in China, this Constitution was revised and improved through the Constitutional Amendments of 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004 by the National People's Congress, for better durability and stability.

There is no consummate constitution in the world; neither can a constitution achieve perfection. China's Constitution, imperfect but currently in force, should be respected, followed and observed, since it is the result of history and the times. Just like James Madison's comments on the US



The First Constitution of the People's Republic of China



◆ The 11th Meeting of the 12th NPC Standing Committee convened on November 1, 2014, and adopted a decision to set December 14 as National Constitution Day. In so doing, a social atmosphere has been created to advocate respect for the Constitution and its superiority, and to encourage the use of the Constitution to safeguard people's interests and rights.

◆ The 15th Meeting of the 12th NPC Standing Committee, held on July 1, 2015, determined that all government officials elected or appointed by the people's congresses and their standing committees must pledge allegiance to the Constitution when officially taking up posts, so as to inscribe the spirit of the Constitution in their minds. All public servants only have the responsibility to serve the people, but no privileges over ordinary people. All those who violate the Constitution and laws must be held accountable, with their mistakes corrected.



Constitution, our Constitution is the result of mutual respect and tolerance, as well as friendliness and amity that are indispensable for our political situation; even more importantly, the Constitution is the carrier of the spirit of law-based governance. Therefore, one of the major tasks of comprehensively advancing law-based governance is to improve the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, at the heart of which is the Constitution.

The life of a constitution lies in its enforcement. The Resolution reaffirms that we need to ensure effective enforcement of the Constitution and laws, and expressly raises the need to improve the system by which the National People's Congress (NPC) and its Standing Committee oversee the enforcement of the Constitution, and put better procedures and mechanisms in place to interpret the Constitution. It also proposes to improve our systems for putting on record and reviewing normative documents and strengthen our capacity in this respect, making sure every piece of legislation is in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution, reflects the will of the people, and is supported by them; and to use legal processes to rescind or correct those documents which conflict with the Constitution and other laws. Frankly speaking, these proposals are highly feasible measures with clear and correct targets, resolving practical problems that go against Constitution-based governance and rule.



The CPC's leadership is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the fundamental guarantee for socialist rule of law, and therefore should be adhered to throughout the whole process and all aspects of law-based governance.