

# Exploring the innovation path of international social governance in the context of globalization

**Zhima Luosang**

*Sichuan University - Pittsburgh Institute, Xichang, Sichuan, 615000 China  
ritaluosang@163.com*

**Abstract:** *In the context of globalization, the practice of international social governance is at a new turning point. In order to promote the construction of global order, innovative paths of international social governance need to be explored in terms of practice. From the perspective of system construction, the international social governance system is analyzed. The necessity of innovation in international social governance is also analyzed from three aspects: governance structure, governance model and governance system. On this basis, specific innovation paths are proposed, including the diversification of governance subjects, the construction of a community of responsibility and the optimization of governance structures, aiming to promote the reform and construction of the international social governance system and to promote the practice of global governance in a diversified way.*

**Keywords:** *international social governance; innovative paths; globalization; community of responsibility*

## 1. Introduction

The inter-subjective and inter-institutional relations of the international social governance system are complex. The current paths of international social governance can be divided into two categories, namely, "country"-centered and "issue (or policy area)-centered" paths of analysis<sup>[1]</sup>. Traditional global governance research is mainly centered on "sovereign states", which is rooted in the fields of international relations, international law, and comparative politics, and is usually based on the assumption of state centrism, focusing on the formal institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms of inter-state relations. The international organizations involved in this part of the study are mainly those initiated and participated by sovereign states. From the perspective of the relationship between sovereign states and international organizations, social organizations have the dual characteristics of "dependence" and "independence": on the one hand, international organizations are "agents" of sovereign states, authorized by states to manage international affairs; on the other hand, international organizations are authorized by states to manage international affairs. On the other hand, international organizations have sources of authority independent of sovereign states in the process of operation, including institutional rationality, morality and professionalism. From the perspective of the process of constructing the global governance system, whether it is the institutional arrangement of national collaboration or the operation of issue-oriented mechanism, most of its conceptual support originates from the Western-centered ideology and governance model. Since the traditional international governance system is to a certain extent based on the Western governance model and has been dominated by Western countries for a long time, the current operation of global governance is still mainly based on Western ideas and governance experience.<sup>[2]</sup>. The new global governance mainly adopts an "issue (or policy area)-centered" research path, influenced by different disciplines such as sociology, economics, law, and management, and gradually forms an interdisciplinary-oriented research paradigm based on governance theory. The new global governance involves not only sovereign states and international institutions, but also international organizations initiated by non-government actors, non-profit organizations, multinational enterprises and so on. This type of research mainly focuses on the institutional arrangement and governance process of global governance with the "problem (or policy area)" as the center, and focuses on theoretical research at the meso level. Representative theories include mechanism complex theory, collaborative governance theory, fragmentation theory of global governance architecture, global experimental governance, public-private partnership, etc. Taking the mechanism complex theory as an example, with the appearances of new international institutions and the global political dilemma, researchers have proposed the concept of "mechanism complex",

which believes that the new global governance system is composed of a set of loosely intersecting, flat and multiple standards, rules and mechanisms. In the field of climate change, multiple governance mechanisms coexist, and the global climate governance spectrum includes both highly institutionalized international regulations and highly fragmented informal mechanisms, as well as composite mechanisms in between. From the perspective of the relationship among governance actors, there are many complex parallel or intertwined relationships among them in different governance issues or fields, such as cooperation, complementarity, substitution, competition, and confrontation. The above research paths all reflect the phenomenon of global governance to a certain extent, including the system, subjects and operation mechanism of global governance. However, most of the studies have remained at the level of describing the phenomenon of global governance. Whether it is the description of governance subjects or inter-subject interactions, or the description of governance mechanisms or governance forms, they are still at the level of presenting the various complex phenomena of global governance<sup>[3]</sup>.

## 2. Basic concepts and theories of international social governance in a global context

International social governance refers to the resolution of global conflicts, ecology, human rights, migration, drugs, smuggling, infectious diseases and other issues through binding international mechanisms to maintain a normal international political and economic order. Developed countries are the actors involved in international mechanisms and global governance, but intergovernmental international organizations also have more important responsibilities. To understand the global governance system, you first need to clarify the basic concept of global governance<sup>[4]</sup>.

Based on the existing studies, this paper defines international governance as a governance process involving multiple actors with the goal of maintaining international order and responding to global problems. Accordingly, the global governance system refers to the institutional system for managing human public affairs, that is, the overall system of all legitimate or operating public and private institutions in the world political sphere, including organizations, mechanisms, principles, norms, regulations and decision-making procedures. In this system, the traditional governance subjects include sovereign states and international organizations initiated or participated by sovereign states, while the emerging governance subjects include international organizations, NGOs, multinational enterprises, interest groups, etc. While the traditional governance subjects are mainly responsible for setting and maintaining the rules and norms of the world order, the new governance subjects mainly influence the operational process of the transnational rules and authority system through informal institutions and governance practices. It is important to note that although the global governance system is in a continuous process of evolution and development, the foundational forces of this system are still dominated by national subjects<sup>[5]</sup>.

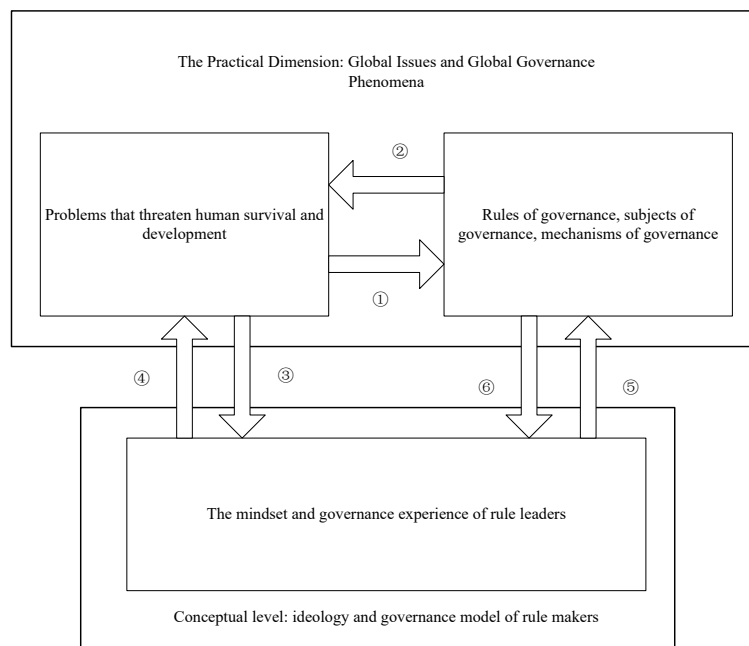


Figure1 Analytical Framework of International Social Governance System in Constructive Perspective

In order to understand the operation mechanism of the international social governance system more profoundly, this paper proposes a "framework for analyzing the international social governance system from the perspective of system construction". It abstracts the formation process of the global governance system into two levels and six key steps to clarify the interrelationship between the operation process of the global governance system and the conceptual values, and then points out the driving role of the ideology and governance experience of the dominant force in the formation of global governance rules. The specific analysis framework is shown in figure 1.

From the above framework diagram of the analysis of the international social governance system, it can be seen that the fundamental motive for the formation of the governance system originates from the response of human beings to the challenges or problems that generate weyr and problems for survival or development. Most of the existing studies described and analyzed, stay in two steps ① and ②, ① indicates that the objective problems and challenges faced by human beings form the motives for the emergence of various governance rules, and ② indicates the use of these rules and the interaction between subjects, mainly to respond to and solve these problems<sup>[6]</sup>. However, in the discussion of global problems and global governance rules, researchers often tend to overlook the role of rule dominators at the conceptual level. That is to say, rule leaders also play an important role in the process of solving objective problems and forming rules of governance. The two steps ③ and ④ present the process of perception and identification of objective problems by the rule leader, respectively. The perception and identification of objective problems are influenced both by the problems themselves and by the concept of the rule leader. In other words, the rule leader has, to a certain extent, both the power to interpret and locate the problem and the ability to set the issue, i.e., to "define the problem" and "construct the problem". (1) After defining the governance problem, step 5 refers to the design of governance rules for a specific problem or area based on the rule leader's ideology and mindset and his or her existing governance experience. Step 6 is the positive or negative incentive for the rule leader in the process of implementing these design rules in practice. Steps (5) and (6) reflect the interaction process between the operation of governance rules and the ideology of rule leaders. The process of designing and implementing governance rules is largely influenced by the ideology, mindset and governance experience of the rule dominant; and the possible positive or negative effects of these ideologies and mindsets are further reinforced in the process of rule use (i.e., the process of applying governance rules to solve problems, steps ① and ②). In this way, the actual problem-solving situation forms a feedback mechanism for the design rules and the rule dominators, i.e., the effectiveness of the rules in practice enhances the legitimacy of the rule dominators and conversely reduces the legitimacy of the rule dominators. Thus, the construction and operation of global governance mechanisms form a closed loop.

The above research and analysis show that the ideology, mindset and governance experience of the rule makers are crucial to the formation of the governance system, whether it is international, local or issue-based governance, and deserve to be understood and studied in depth. Applying the above research framework, the following section analyzes the need for innovation in international governance and focuses on the ideologies and governance models implicit in this global governance system.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **3. The Need for Innovation in International Social Governance**

Along with the great changes in the global economic system, the structural changes in the power of countries around the world, the gradual disintegration of the global hegemonic structure, and the deep transformation of the international order, the theory of global shared governance is an institutional reflection on the future development model of mankind in the new era, providing the international community with a new theoretical supply.

#### ***3.1 Promoting a new governance model of equity and democracy***

In the international context of deepening globalization, the core of global governance, which emphasizes "common", takes pluralism as its key meaning. The pluralism in global governance is reflected in the pluralism and multi-level of the subjects and objects of governance. Pluralism does not simply mean the plurality of participating subjects in global governance, but also the plurality of interest groups as subjects, especially the rising emerging powers should promote the orderly development of common governance as a group and group identity. Although the contents, ways and means of governance are complicated, by establishing a partnership of common ground, each major country can reposition its identity and shape its global identity, from confrontation to cooperation, from

hostility to win-win situation, and the absolute gain or loss of individual interests is no longer the only starting point for considering cooperation. It is no longer a binary world of "black or white", but an orderly competition and cooperation in the pursuit of global sustainable development, enabling all forces in the international community to develop inclusively and form a community of destiny for common development in interdependence and complementarity. [8]

Of course, on the basis of pluralism, we should pay more attention to equity and democracy. One of the important features of global shared governance is that it breaks the limitations and dilemmas of previous governance and builds a new model of governance in the midst of governance changes. Democratization becomes a major trend in the development of contemporary and future global patterns and permeates all aspects of global shared governance. From another perspective, fairness is a prerequisite for shared governance, while democracy is more often reflected in the process of shared governance. The issue of democracy in international mechanisms has long attracted the attention of foreign scholars, while pluralism in shared governance provides the basis for the realization of democratic governance. In the concrete practice of global shared governance, fairness and democracy require that both large and small countries should be respected and recognized by the international community and allowed to make their voices heard, and that non-state actors should be given sufficient attention and importance as a powerful complementary force in global shared governance, so as to democratize the international system through the "democratization of international relations. The shared governance provides a platform for fair communication and consultation among the above-mentioned actors, promotes the transformation of the world from a single-core to a multi-core democratization, and uses democratic consultation as a means to promote the realization of common interests.

### 3.2 Promote a governance structure that builds a community of responsibility

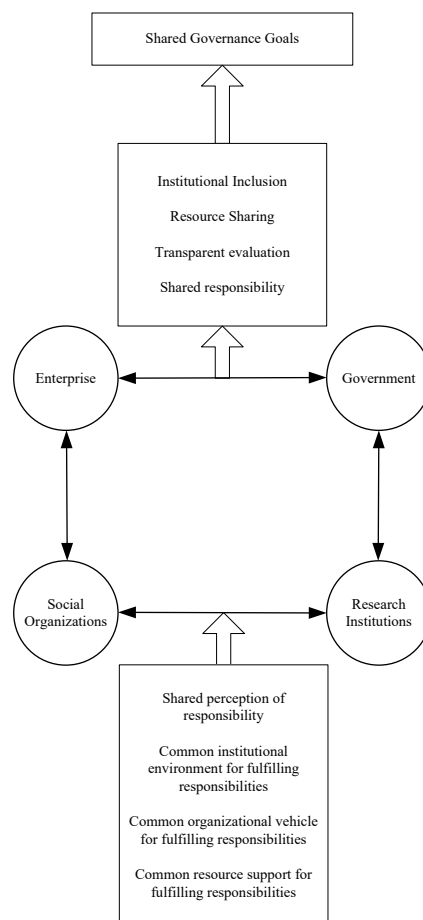


Figure2 The basic structure of a community of responsibility

Economic globalization has brought about deep interaction of the international community and profound transformation of the international order, the unilateral interests of countries must rely on and

rely on other countries and more participating subjects to achieve, the trend of interest grouping is increasingly obvious, and multi-level cooperation such as regional cooperation, cross-regional cooperation, non-governmental cooperation and global cooperation has emerged, involving global climate issues, economic development, global security and other cross-cutting issues in multiple fields governance issues. Therefore, countries form communities of responsibility for maximizing reasonable interests and common interests, and play an increasingly prominent role in the international community, and the resulting communities of responsibility become the guarantee of shared governance. The basic structure of the community of responsibility is shown in figure 2<sup>[9]</sup>.

The community of responsibility has changed the previous global governance structure to a vertical hierarchical linear governance centered on purely national strength, and instead to a networked, horizontal and crossover flat network governance structure, emphasizing the change from inter-state interaction to the relationship of interaction among actors at all levels. This governance structure is conducive to equal dialogue and democratic consultation among different actors in the process of governance, and provides a framework for the construction of a global shared governance system. At the same time, the governance structure of the community of responsibility also relies on the changing institutional system in shared governance.

### ***3.3 Promote the construction of a cooperative and win-win governance system***

Institution building is the carrier to realize global common interests and a powerful guarantee to realize distributive justice and procedural justice in global common governance. The institution building in global common governance is reflected in the following two aspects: First, it is to build a new type of system to supply new rules for the long-term game of various forces. Unlike the hegemonic era when power was transferred through war, global shared governance achieves peaceful transfer of power, and the newly emerged countries redistribute the global power pattern through both institutional reform and innovation. The acceleration of the globalization process makes no country the core of the global society, and the old system representing the interests of developed economies will be changed as emerging economies continue to develop and grow and fight for their own rights and discourse. system. Global shared governance requires reform of the original worldwide governance mechanism<sup>[10]</sup>. For example, to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the UN mechanism, to increase the share of responsibilities of emerging countries in important international mechanisms such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and to reform the increasingly bureaucratic character of international organizations. It is necessary to mention in particular that major countries (such as those in the framework of the G20) should actively support the reform of the UN and international organizations, not always thinking about their own interests, but also about the interests of the whole. Only by ensuring the effective and smooth operation of the global authoritative coordination framework can global shared governance unfold on a virtuous track. Second, emerging powers should play a more active role in incremental system supply; China's "Belt and Road" initiative is the best practice to achieve structural transformation by expanding incremental system supply.

## **4. Exploring the innovation of international social governance path**

### ***4.1 Promote equal participation of multiple subjects***

The subjects of global governance system are sovereign states, international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and "real individuals" in social life. Among them, the sovereign state as the main body of global governance has an unshakeable position and is the absolute main body of the global governance system. It can be said that without sovereign states, global governance is just an empty word. Therefore, any sovereign state should enjoy the right to participate in global governance on an equal footing without being affected by differences in size, wealth and poverty. Countries have size, strength and development, but they are equal members of the international community and have the right to participate equally in regional and international affairs. Matters involving everyone should be handled by countries through joint discussions. Being a great power means a greater responsibility for regional and world peace and development, not a greater monopoly on regional and international affairs. Because of its theoretical advantages, the idea of building a community of human destiny transcends the hegemonic governance concept developed and disseminated by Western capitalist countries and gives other sovereign countries the status of equal and fair subjects of governance, so that the current global governance system can get out of the dilemma of subject absence. On the one hand, the idea of building a community of human destiny enhances the

international discourse of emerging countries and gives the vast number of developing countries their due and equal voice and decision-making power. 21st century emerging countries have made significant contributions to the recovery of the global economy and have great development potential, and giving them more voice and decision-making power will definitely become an important force in the deep development of global governance and promote the current This will definitely become an important force in the deep development of global governance and promote the major adjustment and reconstruction of the current global governance system. On the other hand, the development of global governance in a fairer and more democratic direction by relying on the subjects of emerging countries will help maintain the unity and emergence of the majority of developing countries, enable more developing countries to effectively participate in the global governance process, and realize the diversified development of the subjects of global governance<sup>[11]</sup>.

Along with the gradual growth of their own strength and increasing national status, the governance capacity and philosophy of emerging countries are increasingly influencing the international order and changes in international relations. With the rise of emerging powers and the shift of the center of gravity of world power to the Asia-Pacific region, the trend of change in the international political and economic landscape has become unstoppable. The current global problems threaten seriously and require the cooperation of all countries in the international arena to solve them. Strengthening international multilateral cooperation with consultation and democracy as an important criterion has become one of the important issues to promote and reconstruct the global governance system<sup>[12]</sup>.

Multilateralism is an important form of democracy and an important way to strengthen and improve global governance, which is not only the result of the change of international power contrast, but also the realistic demand of global governance. The idea of building a community of human destiny embodies a pluralistic and interactive mode of governance, effectively solving the problem of countries going their own way under the principle of supremacy of national interests. It takes the interests of all mankind as the starting point and promotes the participation of the majority of developing countries in the global governance system with the holistic nature of global affairs and global issues, providing them with equal opportunities to voice their opinions and breaking the absence of subjects and governance fault lines brought about by different levels of strength. The current cross-regional cooperation mechanism provides the basis for multilateral cooperation in global governance and effectively resolves the dilemma of the absence of subjects in global governance. It promotes a new stage of global governance system with benign interaction of multilateral cooperation and reconstructs a new system of more reasonable and effective global governance.

#### ***4.2 Establishing a sense of international responsibility***

Throughout the history of human development, most of the conflicts and confrontations mainly originate from the conflict of consciousness. The idea of building a community of human destiny has a global perspective and carries the common value pursuit of human society. In order to get rid of the dilemma of global governance and solve the problem of inconsistent governance values, the community of human destiny, which emphasizes win-win cooperation, has become the value basis for balancing the conflict of consciousness and uniting governance behaviors. The idea of community of human destiny advocates the building of solidarity with national relations and concern for the overall interests of mankind, which is a value yardstick beyond the Western concept of global governance and truly embodies the concept of "common" values. It has abandoned the narrow nationalism and altruism, the isolated and fragmented view of the world, and the global governance concept centered on the interests of individual countries, which has formed a new theoretical paradigm of global governance and given global governance a new connotation of the times.<sup>[13]</sup>

The characteristics of global problems determine that their solutions require the joint participation of various actors in the international community, yet the rise of emerging countries in groups has greatly impacted the original governance pattern. With the deepening of economic development and participation, China is changing towards active shaping and becoming an important participant, builder and contributor to global governance. Especially since the 18th National Congress, China has emerged on the international stage as a defender and reformer of the international order with fairness, justice and win-win cooperation. It has not only taken the initiative to assume international responsibilities and obligations, earnestly implemented its commitments to cooperation policies in the field of global governance, abandoned the approach of centering on national interests and starting from egoism, and made great constructive contributions to global governance with a more active posture, taking the lead by example to play the role of a large developing country has not only benefited the Chinese people, but also the people of the world. The idea of building a community of human destiny demonstrates a

future-oriented theoretical height and provides a vivid target point for reconstructing global governance.

#### ***4.3 Reconstructing the global governance linkage mechanism***

Global governance regulation refers to the rules and mechanisms of global governance, which is an important condition for regulating and constraining the behavior of global governance. Global governance is characterized by pluralism in terms of participants and is based on the principle of conscientiousness, especially at the stage when the values and concepts of global governance are not yet perfect, global governance regulation plays a decisive role in the effectiveness of governance. However, global issues are mostly public and common in nature. With the increasing severity and urgency of global problems, reconstructing the rules and mechanisms of global governance is an inevitable choice to overcome the dilemma of collective action and the tragedy of the commons<sup>[14]</sup>.

With the changes in the world pattern, the main position of developing countries in the global governance system has also changed accordingly. The role played by developing countries in the international political and economic fields is becoming more and more important, and they should also become an important subject of global governance. In reality, although the Western powers have made certain concessions due to the need for economic recovery after the financial crisis, there is still a big gap compared with the contributions made by developing countries to the world. From the perspective of global governance, the pattern of "strong in the West and weak in the East" in global governance is remarkable, and the reluctance of the Western capitalist powers to give developing countries their rightful place is simply because they are worried that once developing countries become the main subjects, they will change the value pursuit and regulation of global governance, thus losing their interests. In the current situation, irreversible changes have occurred in the change of the main body of global governance, such as BRICS, G20, etc., and the proportion of developing countries has increased significantly. Therefore, it is necessary to effectively strengthen solidarity and cooperation with developing countries and closely link national development with the common development of the majority of developing countries. We should effectively promote multilateral diplomacy, push for reform of the international system and global governance, and increase the representation and voice of the majority of developing countries." China possesses a global mindset, is concerned about the fate of all mankind, actively participates in global governance, and has carried out fruitful practices in economic, security and ecological governance. China believes that whether it is reconstructing the global governance system, building a new type of state relations including great power relations, or building a community of human destiny, the participation and cooperation of developing countries cannot be missing, and should actively promote the transformation of developing countries from passive participants in global governance to active contributors. Only developing countries and Western developed countries can actively connect and interact, break the barriers of unilateralism and narrow nationalism protection, transform global governance into collective action, and form a governance synergy<sup>[15]</sup>.

As an emerging power representing developing countries, China has maintained good diplomatic relations with almost all capitalist countries, demonstrating by example the positive interaction and win-win cooperation between developed and developing countries. Guided by the sense of a community of human destiny, China calls on all countries to take the common interests of mankind as the starting point, transform the differences and diversity between developed and developing countries as the driving force for development, take care of each other's interests and demands, so that developing countries can have more space for development, give emerging powers and developing countries more representation and voice, and work together with developed Western countries to address global governance. The challenges of global governance As the shortcomings of the current global governance system become more and more obvious, global governance requires more and more sincere exchanges between developed and developing countries. China proposes to respect each other's development intentions, balance relevant interests, take into account the common development of various countries in pursuit of their own development, continuously expand the convergence of common interests, and establish a linkage mechanism between defense powers and rising powers. In this regard, only by properly handling multilateral interests, forging consensus on governance, and abiding by the rules of global governance, can we strengthen deep integration and jointly confront and resolve threats and challenges to global issues.

## 5. Conclusion

The change of global governance is an objective trend of the international community. How to guide the change of global governance in the direction of justice and rationality is the key issue that must be solved in the construction of global governance system in the 21st century. The theory of global governance takes the importance and limited nature of global public goods, the community of human destiny and interests, the pursuit of "republic" in the modern sense, and the new international order with multiple authorities as the basic assumptions, and its core elements include fairness and democracy based on pluralism, a supranational community-centered governance structure, institutional construction, interaction and pluralism of norms, and the dissemination and reconstruction of international norms. The core elements include fairness and democracy based on pluralism, supranational community-centered governance structure, institutional construction and normative interaction and pluralism, and dissemination and reconstruction of international norms.

## References

- [1] Huang D. *Environmental, social and governance (ESG) activity and firm performance: a review and consolidation*[J]. *Accounting and Finance*, 2021, 61(1):335-360.
- [2] Singhanian M, Saini N. *Systems approach to environment, social and governance (ESG): Case of Reliance industries*[J]. *Sustainable Operations and Computers*, 2022, 3:103-117.
- [3] Linnenluecke M K. *Environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance in the context of multinational business research*[J]. *Multinational Business Review*, 2022, 30(1):1-16.
- [4] Kim S. *A participatory local governance approach to social innovation: A case study of Seongbuk-gu, South Korea: [J]. Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 2022, 40(1):201-220.
- [5] Isaeva K V. *The impact of digitalization of the economy upon social governance: analysis of current global trends [J]. Национальная Безопасность / Nota Bene*, 2021(2):1-7.
- [6] Lei J A, Xiang H B. *Analysis of social governance in energy-oriented cities based on artificial intelligence [J]. Energy Reports*, 2022, 8:11151-11160.
- [7] Teng S, Li H, Zhang D. *Invested Costs and Risk Control Model of Social Governance Based on Fuzzy Algorithm*[J]. *Security and Communication Networks*, 2022, 2022(2):1-10.
- [8] Jie B, Onk A. *A Comparison of Genitourinary Society Pathology and International Society of Urological Pathology Prostate Cancer Guidelines – ScienceDirect [J]. European Urology*, 2021, 79(1):3-5.
- [9] Bourceret, Amélie, Amblard L , Mathias J D .*Adapting the governance of social – ecological systems to behavioural dynamics: An agent-based model for water quality management using the theory of planned behaviour*[J].*Ecological Economics*, 2022, 194:35-63.
- [10] Brandon R D, Rdn L, Csr D, et al. *The International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism Commentary on the National Kidney Foundation and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics KDOQI Clinical Practice Guideline for Nutrition in Chronic Kidney Disease*[J]. *Journal of Renal Nutrition*, 2021, 31(2):116-120.
- [11] Patel H, Tan C J, Yi L T, et al. *Educational needs of oncology pharmacists: a survey by the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners:[J]. Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice*, 2021, 27(3):623-634.
- [12] Mc A, Actp B, He C, et al. *Anal cancer in older adults: a Young International Society of Geriatric Oncology review paper [J]. Journal of Geriatric Oncology*, 2022, 13(7):914-923.
- [13] Goldin K J. *Response from the International Society of Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) [J]. BMJ*, 2021, 339(12):782-790.
- [14] Loddo A, Djokovic D, Drizi A, et al. *Hysteroscopic myomectomy: The guidelines of the International Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy (ISGE) [J]. European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, 2022, 268:121-128.
- [15] Wang L, Wang K, Wang H. *Complexity Analysis of Urban Governance from Perspective of System Theory [J]. Computer Simulation*, 2022(7)1-6, 45.