

# China's Media Governance System: A Partial Overview

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1. [CPC CC Leading Groups](#)
2. [Major Party and State Agencies](#)

Given the range of relevant agencies under media governance, the following materials will focus on those pertaining to cybersecurity and informatization.

## 1. CPC Central Committee's Leading Groups (or Leading Small Groups) (中央常委领导小组)

Chinese leaders use informal [leading groups](#) at the top to issue guiding principles that involve the coordination of multiple bureaus or departments in policy formulation and implementation. The following groups report directly to the Party Politburo Standing Committee and the Party Secretariat, and supersede other government agencies in the power structure.

CPC CC Leading Groups	Leader	Functions
1957- <a href="#">Central Leading Group for Propaganda and Ideological Work</a> (CLGPIW; 中央宣传思想领导小组)	<a href="#">Liu Yunshan</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Controls all national and Party propaganda, publicity and information</li><li>• Coordinates propaganda, ideological, cultural, media, and publishing activities</li><li>• Oversees CPC <a href="#">Propaganda Department</a> and the <a href="#">State Council Information Office</a> (SCIO)</li><li>• Group leader is usually a Party Politburo Standing Committee member</li></ul>
2014- <a href="#">Central Leading Group for Internet Security and Informatization</a> (CLGISI; 中央网络安全和信息化领导小组)	<a href="#">Xi Jinping</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manage internet related issues, including the expansion of online services, internet security issues, jurisdiction over internet censorship policies</li><li>• This group is in part a reconstitution of the following groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- State Informatization Leading Group</li><li>- State Network and Information Security Coordination Group</li></ul></li><li>• The <a href="#">Cyberspace Administration of China</a> (CAC 国家互联网信息办公室, founded in 2014), also known as the Office of the Central Leading Group for Cyberspace Affairs, operates directly under this leading group. It is the enforcement agency for the internet content provision sector.</li></ul> <p>(Established in 2014, formerly the State Internet Information Office [SIIO; 国家互联网信息办公室] under the State Council Information Office.)</p>

## 2. Major Party and State Agencies

- [Party](#)
  - CCP Politburo and Standing Committee
  - Organization Department
  - Central Publicity Department
  - Central National Security Commission
  - Office of the Central Secrecy Commission
  
- [State](#)
  - [Arts & culture](#)
    - Ministry of Culture
  - [Press, publication & broadcasting](#) (including online publication/ broadcasting)
    - State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT)
    - General Administration for Custom
  - [Telecom, wireless and broadband services](#)
    - Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)
    - The China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)
  - [Internet](#)
    - State Council Information Office (SCIO)
    - Ministry of Public Security
  - [State secrecy & the judiciary](#)
    - National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets
    - Ministry of State Security
    - China's Judiciary

Agencies	Responsibilities
<a href="#">Party</a>	
<a href="#">CPC Politburo</a> and <a href="#">Standing Committee</a> (中共政治局及常委)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top leadership that deliberates over and decide on major policies</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Organization Department</a> (中共中央组织部)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controls staffing positions within the CPC through the <a href="#">nomenklatura</a> method</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Central Publicity Department</a> (i.e., Central Propaganda Department) (中共中央宣传部)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors content to ensure that things are in line with the Party's official ideological stance</li> <li>• Holds thought work sessions to instruct editors and publishes on the proper focus in publications</li> <li>• Coordinates with the Organization Department and manages the leaders of the MOC, SAPPRFT, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; The People's Daily; the Xinhua News Agency; and other media organizations</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Central National Security Commission</a> (中央国家安全委员会)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 2013 and headed by Xi</li> <li>• Seen as an attempt to consolidate Party leadership of those related to the security apparatus</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Office of the Central Secrecy Commission</a> (中央保密委员会办公室)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar functions to the <a href="#">National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets</a></li> <li>• Defines classification levels for state secrets and how they are to be classified and protected</li> </ul>

Agencies		Responsibilities
<u>State</u>		
Arts & culture	<a href="#">Ministry of Culture</a> (文化部)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitors the art world, theater, literature and museums</li> </ul>
Press, publication & broadcasting (including online publication/broadcasting)	<a href="#">State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television</a> (SAPPRFT; 国家新闻出版广播电影电视总局)  (Newly formed in 2013 by merging GAPP with SARFT SARFT = State Administration of Radio, Film and Television 广播电影电视总局 GAPP = General Administration of Press and Publication 新闻出版总署)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directly under the State Council</li> <li>Administers and supervises state-owned enterprises (e.g., China Central Television, China National Radio) in the television, radio, and film industries</li> <li>Controls the content of all news and printed matter, radio, TV, satellite and Internet broadcasts</li> <li>Power to enforce and rescind the licenses of publishers</li> <li>Drafts and enforces <a href="#">prior restraint regulations</a></li> </ul>
	<a href="#">General Administration for Customs</a> (海关总署)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directly under the State Council</li> <li>Confiscates publications that are “harmful to the government”</li> </ul>
Telecom, wireless & broadband services	<a href="#">Ministry of Industry and Information Technology</a> (MIIT; 工业和信息化部)  (Formed in 2008 from merging the Ministry of Information Industry [MII, formed in 1988 through integrating the then Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and the Ministry of Electronics Industry] and the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, the State Council Informatization Office, and the State Tobacco Monopoly Bureau)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the ministries managed under the State Council</li> <li>Regulates China’s telecommunication and software industries</li> <li>Controls the licensing and registration of all internet information services (also called the internet content providers)</li> <li>The <a href="#">China Internet Network Information Center</a> (CNNIC; 中国互联网络信息中心) is an agency under MIIT that manages domain names.</li> </ul>
Internet	<a href="#">State Council Information Office</a> (SCIO; 国务院新闻办公室)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative office under the State Council</li> <li>Propaganda and chief information office of the Chinese government</li> <li>Responsible for propelling domestic media “further along the path of introducing China to the international community, including China’s domestic and foreign policies, the development of the Chinese economy and society, as well as China’s history, technology, education and culture.”</li> <li>Restricts who may post news on the Internet</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">Ministry of Public Security</a> (公安部)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the ministries managed under the State Council</li> <li>Filters and monitors the Internet</li> </ul>
State secrecy & the judiciary	<a href="#">National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets</a> (中央保密委员会办公室) (formerly the State Secrecy Bureau 国家保密局)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed under one of the Ministries &amp; Commissions supervised by the State Council</li> <li>Manages classified information and applies the State Secrecy laws</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">Ministry of State Security</a> (MSS; 国家安全部)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for counter-intelligence, foreign intelligence and political security</li> <li>The <a href="#">China Information Technology Evaluation Centre</a> (CNITSEC; 中国信息安全测评中心) is situated under MSS. CNITSEC is the officially approved agent that provides IT security evaluation services (e.g vulnerability testing and software reliability assessment).</li> </ul>
	<a href="#">China’s Judiciary</a> (司法部門)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements censorship-related laws and sanctions those who express opinions inconsistent with that of the CCP</li> </ul>