



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

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Minorities and Cohesive Societies: Equality, Social Inclusion,
and Socio-economic Participation

Statement by the International Campaign for Tibet

Mr. Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Campaign for Tibet wishes to highlight the discriminatory, assimilationist and disempowering policies targeting Tibetans in the People's Republic of China.

Today, Tibetans face discrimination in all aspects of their lives, including employment, housing, and travel. Unlike their Han Chinese counterparts, they often experience obstacles in obtaining passports and their freedom of movement is severely impeded. Employment opportunities for Tibetans often provide substandard salaries.

In recent years, the Tibetan language has also been significantly marginalized – including via a vast boarding school system that separates Tibetan children from their families and enforces Chinese-language curriculum. Tibetans are increasingly unable to study in their mother tongue, which places them at an educational and economic disadvantage when competing with Han Chinese for career opportunities.

This marginalization of Tibetans in the labor market is further compounded by a Han centric development model that exploits Tibet's natural resources but excludes local Tibetans from input and benefits. In particular, we are concerned by the forced resettlement of up to 2 million Tibetan nomads, farmers and rural residents.¹

Tibetans are also vastly underrepresented in leadership positions in party, government, and military, on both provincial and local levels.

It should be noted that the absence of an independent judicial system and lack of access to justice for Tibetans, and overall, the implementation of elements of totalitarian rule by the Chinese authorities, have led to a pervasive climate of fear that precludes the assumption of free, prior and informed consent given by those affected by state measures.

Mr. President, to meet its international obligations, China must stop relegating Tibetans to second-class citizens in their own land, and immediately rescind all policies that block Tibetans' input on policies that radically affect their daily lives and their identity as a distinct people. Instead, they must be welcomed into the decision-making process at all levels, and

¹ In its Concluding Observations on the third periodic report of China, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights reiterated its recommendation that China "take all necessary measures to immediately halt non-voluntary resettlement of all nomadic herders, including Tibetan ones, from their traditional lands and non-voluntary relocation or rehousing programs for other rural residents, such as small-scale farmers." UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 3 March 2023, "Concluding observations on the third periodic report on China", E/C.12/CHN/CO/3.

given access the opportunities and benefits created by the development of Tibet.
Thank you.

About ICT

Founded in 1988, and with offices in Washington DC, Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels, the International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.



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