

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Human Rights Council  
Forty-fifth Regular Session  
September 16, 2020

**Item 3: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development**

*Statement delivered by Kai Müller on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights*

Madam President,

We wish to thank the Special Rapporteur on the right to development for his report A/HRC/45/15.

In particular, we welcome the Special Rapporteur's principled concern about "the frequent exclusion of vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, women, children and young people, minorities, indigenous peoples, people of African descent and members of other disempowered or marginalized groups", with regard to development finance.

Tibetans have been excluded from meaningful participation in planning, implementing and overseeing development policies by the Chinese government.

We call on the Special Rapporteur to address the forced relocation of Tibetan nomads and herders, who have been subjected to top-down development policies through the Chinese state, without opportunities for legal redress, and without respecting principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Relocation represents a drastic intervention into the lives of Tibetans who are not only losing their means of subsistence and lifestyle suited to the unique environment, but who are also vulnerable to poverty and marginalization.

Sustainable development can only be accomplished through participation, transparency, accountability and rule of law. The Chinese development model pursued in Tibetan areas is a top-down approach that neglects these principles. The international community should instead pursue policies that respect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you, Madam President.  
ENDS