

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Human Rights Council

Forty-fifth Regular Session

September 25, 2020

Item 4: General Debate - Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Statement delivered by Christa Meindersma on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Madam President,

We are deeply concerned about the strategic objectives of the recent 7th Work Forum on Tibet held by the Chinese leadership at the end of August. The Chinese leadership once again reiterated its intention to "sinicize" Tibetan Buddhism, which will inevitably lead to its assimilation and extinction.

With regard to overall state policies in Tibet, "Sinicization" means the forced assimilation of Tibetan Buddhism to the ideological and political goals of the Communist Party, the degradation of Tibetan language and the forced relocation and settlement of almost two million Tibetan nomads.

We have noted with utmost concern a recent report about an apparent coercive and large-scale labor program in the Tibet Autonomous Region that pushed more than half a million rural Tibetans off their land and into military-style training centers in just the first seven months of 2020.

We express our concern with regard to the candidacy of the People's Republic of China to the Human Rights Council. Given the devastating human rights record of the Chinese government, this must not find the support of the international community.

We urge the Council to call on China to respect international human rights standards, which are protected by national laws and international conventions. The Communist Party of China must stop its attempts to assimilate Tibetan culture and respect Tibetans' rights and aspirations.

Thank you, Madam President.