



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Human Rights Council

Fifty-first Regular Session

September 26, 2022

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

Statement delivered by Vincent Metten on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Mr. President,

Over the past months, at the United Nations, we have witnessed unprecedented revelations regarding Chinese government policies leading to gross human rights violations. Following a controversial and unsatisfactory visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to China, and on the last day of her tenure, the Commissioner issued the much-delayed report documenting the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) perpetrated on the Uyghurs.

We now join the call from survivors and human rights defenders for the establishment of an independent mechanism at the Human Rights Council with the explicit mandate to monitor the deeply disturbing policies the Chinese government is directing at Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hongkongers, and many others. This call accords with the Human Rights Council's own independent experts', repeated this September.¹

We reiterate the need to include Tibet into the mandate of such a mechanism. The society, cultural identity, and history of Tibetans and Uyghurs are not the same. However, the mechanisms deployed by the CCP to annihilate both cultures are extremely similar. As is the ultimate goal of ensuring that what remains is subservient to CCP goals and ideology.

The international community must not accept this willful, systematic, and harshly executed eradication of the Tibetan culture. It must recognize that the CCP policies towards Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hongkongers, Mongolians, and others are interconnected. Tibet continues to be a testing ground for repressive policies. An independent mechanism which includes Tibet is therefore needed more than ever.

I thank you.

¹ *Xinjiang report: China must address grave human rights violations and the world must not turn a blind eye say UN experts*, OHCHR, 7 September 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/xinjiang-report-china-must-address-grave-human-rights-violations-and-world>