

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**Human Rights Council**  
Fifty Second Regular Session  
March 22, 2023

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

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

Mr. President,

We remain deeply concerned by the Chinese government's aggressive disenfranchisement of the Tibetan people through erosion of their educational, religious, cultural and linguistic rights.

In its Concluding Observations on the third periodic report of China, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights expressed concerns about "reports of the large-scale campaign to eradicate Tibetan culture and language, as well as the general undermining of the linguistic identity of ethnic minorities by the assimilation policy of the State party, known as Sinicization, including the coercive residential (boarding) school system imposed on Tibetan children."<sup>1</sup>

The Committee urged the Chinese government "to immediately abolish the coerced residential (boarding) school system imposed on Tibetan children, as well as allowing private Tibetan schools to be established."

The Committee furthermore reiterates 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."

We strongly urge Member States to raise these concerns, bilaterally, multilaterally, and in the upcoming UPR process on China. The aforementioned policies are particularly urgent as they represent a substantial threat to the survival of the Tibetan people, as well as a violation of international law.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.