

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**Human Rights Council**  
Fifty-four Regular Session  
September 26, 2023

**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 few months, the human rights situation in Tibet continues to rapidly deteriorate. The ongoing repressive policies are escalating and are aimed at eradicating an authentic and self-determined Tibetan culture, in fact of an entire civilization.

We are in particular alarmed by the coercive relocation and resettlement policies in Tibet that uproot individuals and communities from their traditional homes, the boarding school and pre-school system imposed on more than 1 million Tibetan children, the torture and arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances of Tibetans who have documented the consequences of land use policies, mining, damming or poaching, and who advocated on it, the persecution of Tibetans exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief and the intervention of Chinese Communist Party into the appointment of Tibetan Buddhist clergy.

All these policies violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people and should end immediately.

We therefore call on UN Member States to vote against China for full membership of the Human Rights Council this October and to take the opportunity of China's fourth Universal Periodic Review in January 2024 to hold the Chinese government to account for its failure to comply with its human rights obligations in Tibet.

Thank you very much.