



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Human Rights Council**

Sixtieth Regular Session

September 23, 2025

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

*Statement delivered by Franz Matzner on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to present the grave situation faced by the 7 million Tibetans in Tibet. Let us be precise. The human rights violations the People's Republic of China inflict on the Tibetan people are not a stagnant status quo awaiting "progress".

They are increasingly severe and systematic, designed to erase Tibet's civilization. This comprehensive assault on rights guaranteed by international law mandates a firm and transparent commitment by the OHCHR, the HRC and member States to activate concrete action.

Chinese authorities' disappearances, torture, obliteration of language rights, forced separation of families, interference in Tibetan Buddhism, including in the Dalai Lama's succession, as recently raised by five UN experts, and surveillance of Tibetans are irrefutable. Each are a human rights violation. Combined, they instill pervasive fear that prevents self-determination, freedom of assembly and religious expression.

Additionally, so-called development projects, like massive hydropower construction, lack free, informed, and prior consent, drive displacement of communities and lead to destruction of religious sites.

It is encouraging that China's human rights violations are being raised. This is not enough. The PRC's accelerating violations must be met by equally clear definitions for what and how the UN will hold it accountable.

Thank you.