Madam vice-president,

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation expresses serious concerns regarding the situation of violation of cultural rights with reference to the intensification of forced cultural assimilation of Tibetans inside Tibet by the Chinese government.

In recent years, repressive legal and policy measures\(^1\) were introduced to impose Chinese medium education starting from the preschool level. Non-governmental initiatives offering lessons in Tibetan language and culture have been suppressed\(^2\).

Sinicization policies have also resulted in the systematic persecution of Tibetan intellectuals, educators, and cultural leaders\(^3\); some of those have been victims of incommunicado detention and sentenced in secret without access to due legal process\(^4\).

Throughout pandemic lockdowns, the human rights situation in Tibet continues to deteriorate\(^5\). Unprecedented controls on online communication is resulting in Tibet as an informational black hole.

Restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, religion and expression continue to escalate\(^6\). We have registered cases of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of Tibetans for merely engaging in peaceful protests.

We call on this Council and the High Commissioner to address the human rights situation of Tibetans and to work together with China to ensure the protection of their cultural rights: their right to determine their own educational and cultural affairs as provided in the Chinese Constitution as well as the Regional National Autonomy Law and to immediately halt the closure of Tibetan language schools and imposition of Chinese medium education.

We thank you.

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