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Letter dated 27 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

During the general debate of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, between 21 and 27 September, a small number of countries made reference to the so-called Xinjiang-related issues. I have therefore been instructed to state the following positions of the Chinese Government:

Xinjiang affairs are entirely China's internal affairs. Xinjiang-related issues are not about ethnicity, religion or human rights, but about combating violent terrorism, separatism and extremism. Between 1990 and the end of 2016, there were thousands of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, causing mass casualties of thousands of the people. Nowadays, thanks to the joint efforts of the Chinese Government and people of all ethnic groups, there has not been a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang for more than four and a half years. Today's Xinjiang enjoys social stability, economic development, ethnic unity and religious harmony. People of all ethnic groups are living a secure and happy life and all their rights and dignity are fully protected in accordance with law. These facts are there for everyone to see.

China has nothing to hide regarding its position on Xinjiang-related issues. All ethnic groups in Xinjiang are members of the big family of the Chinese nation. All ethnic groups in Xinjiang, regardless of their population, history, customs and religious beliefs, enjoy equal status. They enjoy the civil rights prescribed by the Constitution and the law on an equal footing, and together participate in State and local affairs.

Upholding a people-centred philosophy, Xinjiang has achieved rapid economic and social development. All ethnic groups enjoy equal opportunities for development, and their economic rights are effectively protected. Over the past six decades, Xinjiang's economy has grown over 200 times, and its per capita gross domestic product nearly 40 times. By the end of 2020, the remaining 2.73 million poor population in rural Xinjiang had all been lifted out of poverty, creating a miracle in history.

In Xinjiang, the diversity of spoken and written languages is ensured and the right to education fully protected. In Xinjiang, all ethnic groups have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages. Currently, more than 10 spoken and written languages are used among the ethnic groups in the region. Ethnic



minority languages are extensively used in such areas as judicature, administration, education, press and publishing, radio and television, literature and art, and public affairs.

Xinjiang has established a social security system that covers all the local population. There has been a marked improvement in the region's capacity to provide health services. Reproductive rights for ethnic minorities are effectively guaranteed. In Xinjiang, the average life expectancy grew from 30 years in 1949 to 74.7 years in 2019. The Uyghur population has more than doubled over the past four decades.

Xinjiang fully applies the policy on the freedom of religious belief to ensure such rights for the people. There are many religions in Xinjiang, including Islam, Buddhism, Taoism and Protestant, Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Religious activities such as attending religious services, worshipping Buddha, attending Mass, praying and reciting scriptures are managed by religious groups and the believers themselves. Such activities are protected by law, and no organization or individual may interfere with them.

At present, Xinjiang enjoys social stability and its people of all ethnic groups are living a happy life in harmony. The Chinese Government will continue to actively carry out the obligations of international human rights treaties and fully leverage its institutional advantages to pool more strength for the rapid development of Xinjiang in all respects. People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang will continue to work together in solidarity for common prosperity and a better future.

The Chinese Government and people are committed to safeguarding our sovereignty, security and development interests. We are firmly against any attempt by any country to hype up the Xinjiang-related issues at the United Nations. We urge relevant countries to abide by the basic norms governing international relations and stop using Xinjiang-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations
