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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by Chinese Association for International Understanding, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China Are Effectively Protected

China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE) and Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) have been attaching great importance to protecting the rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, including their economic, social and cultural rights.

In recent years, rumors about Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China are spread by politicians and media of America and other western countries. Therefore, CEMAFEE and CAFIU conducted a joint research concerning the economic, social and cultural rights protection of ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. We wish to submit the following research result to the United Nations Human Rights Council as a reference, and share it with relevant organizations concerned about Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China.

China effectively protects the fundamental rights of Xinjiang people of all ethnic groups. Due to natural and historical reasons, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China was once one of the key fronts and areas of poverty alleviation in China. As the southern part of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China in particular had relatively worse natural conditions and ecological environments, the task of poverty alleviation was more demanding. In recent years, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China has focused on “two assurances and three guarantees” [1]. It has held on to “six precision” in terms of targeted subjects, methods, projects, funds, personnel and effectiveness in poverty alleviation. A series of supportive methods are adopted in industries, employment, ecological compensation, relocation and underwriting protection.

By the end of 2020, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China had won the battle for targeted poverty alleviation. Under the current standard, 3.0649 million people and 32 counties have been lifted out of poverty, 3,666 villages have been moved away from the poverty list. Absolute poverty has been historically solved. Thereafter, to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and integrate them with rural revitalization to prevent large scale return to poverty from happening, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China has adopted a series of dynamic supervision and supportive mechanisms, formulated and improved measures to develop industries, stabilize employment and provide comprehensive underwriting support to ensure that people who are lifted out of poverty live a better life.

During our research, we learned from Haris Mulyadi, a scholar from Indonesia who visited Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China in 2021, that many poor people in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China’s countryside moved to new houses and accepted the handicraft training with the help of the government. As a result, these people can make money to support their family through making featured shoes, hats and clothes. He highly commends such poverty alleviation method.

Article 9 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights emphasizes the right of everyone to social security. We have learned that, in 2011, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China took the lead in establishing basic old-age and medical insurance schemes that cover all local residents and bring urban and rural areas under unified management, realizing universal access to basic social security in the region. At present, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China 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 and its response to public health emergencies. People can access social assistance in a timely manner. At the same time, the legitimate rights and interests of women and children are effectively protected. Women’s health services and conditions have improved markedly. From 2000 to 2020, the rate of prenatal care increased from 80.1 percent to 98.5 percent, and the rate of hospital deliveries from 59.7 percent to 99.8 percent. Children’s health care has improved remarkably. The infant mortality rate dropped from 23.5 per thousand in 2000 to 6.75 per thousand in 2020. Since the founding of China, the population of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, particularly

that of its ethnic minorities, has grown fast in both size and quality, and life expectancy has seen a substantial increase. According to the data from the seventh national census conducted in 2020, the total population of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China is 14.93 million, 1.95 million increase than that of 2010, with an annual average increase of 1.41%.

China respects and protects the excellent traditional cultures of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. The diversity of spoken and written languages is ensured. In accordance with the Constitution, the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, the state promotes the nationwide use of Putonghua as the standard spoken language. At the same time, 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 Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. 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.

In accordance with the principle of “protection-oriented, salvage first, rational use, preservation and development”, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China has conducted effective protection of intangible cultural heritage. The regional laws and regulations including the Regulations of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China on the Implementation of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics and Law on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (UAR), China have been formulated and introduced to provide legal protection for the preservation of cultural heritages. Meanwhile, the excellent cultural traditions of all ethnic groups have been inherited and developed. Folk cultural events, such as the Uygur Meshrep, the Kazak Aytes, the Han Lantern Festival are widely celebrated.

Xinjiang Uygur Muqam Art is a large traditional Uygur classical music, which integrates song, poetry, music, dance, singing and musical instrument playing together. It was listed in the third batch of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Yilihamu Reyimu, a trustee of Muqam arts, has witnessed the whole process involving excavation, rescue, sorting, protection and inheritance of Xinjiang Uygur Muqam. In order to better inherit and protect twelve Muqam, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China held activities such as “Twelve Muqam Art Festival”, “Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Week” and “Intangible Cultural Heritage Custom Exhibition”, aimed to enable more and more people to understand and feel the unique charm of Twelve Muqam and give folk artists like Yilihamu an opportunity to increase income as well.

Based on the filed investigation, we believe that, China has upheld a people-centered approach to human rights protection. It has taken effective measures to promote the rapid economic and social development in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. All ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China live and work in peace and contentment, whose excellent cultural traditions are well protected and developed. The economic, social and cultural rights of Xinjiang people of all ethnic groups are well respected and protected.

In contrast, the reports and news of some organizations and media of the United States of America and other western countries lack of reliable evidence, who always view Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China with prejudice. They ignore the enormous efforts made by Communist Party of China and Chinese government aiming to protect ethnic groups’ rights, as well as the joint efforts made by all ethnic groups of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China for a better life and misrepresent the historic progress that has been made on human rights in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. They even deliberately fabricate the lurid lies and the heavily distorted facts. Their intention is to discredit China, restrict China’s development, and destroy stability and prosperity in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. Instead of protecting Xinjiang people’s legitimate rights, they may harm the economic rights and other relevant rights and interests of people in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China. We sincerely wish that the United Nations Human Rights Council could get a further understanding about Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China concerning their rights protection, and we welcome more exchanges and cooperation in terms of protecting ethnic minorities’ rights with other organizations.

China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges (CEMAFEE), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

1. “Two assurances and three guarantees” refers to assurances of adequate food and clothing, and guarantees of access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing for impoverished rural residents.