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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), 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.

[27 January 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Protection of Cultural Rights of All Ethnic Groups in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China

Cultural rights are fundamental human rights enjoyed by citizens. China fully guarantees the rights of all ethnic groups to enjoy cultural achievements, participate in cultural activities, engage in cultural creation, and protect the spiritual and material benefits arising from cultural and artistic endeavors. The Chinese Constitution explicitly stipulates the protection of cultural rights, and the ‘Law of the People’s Republic of China on Regional National Autonomy’ further states that “autonomous organs in ethnic autonomous areas independently develop ethnic cultural undertakings with ethnic forms and characteristics, including literature, art, news, publishing, broadcasting, film, and television, increase investment in cultural undertakings, strengthen the construction of cultural facilities, and accelerate the development of various cultural undertakings.” Taking Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, as an example, to meet the growing needs of the people in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China for a better life, significant investments of substantial human, financial, and material resources have been made to promote Tibetan cultural development, achieving unprecedented prosperity and effectively safeguarding the cultural rights of all ethnic groups.

Vigorously Inheriting and Protecting Excellent Traditional Cultures of All Ethnic Groups. Tibetan culture is an important part of Chinese culture, and all excellent ethnic cultures are respected, inherited, and developed within the Chinese nation. Since 2012, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has invested more than 400 million RMB in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, including representative projects, the recording of national-level representative inheritors, conducting transmission activities, and building protection facilities. Projects like Gesar, Tibetan opera, and Tibetan medicinal bathing techniques have been included in UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The Potala Palace historical site (including the Potala Palace, Norbulingka, and Jokhang Temple) has been added to the World Heritage List. Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China’s Zhashi Qudeng community in Nyingchi, recognized as the “Tibetan Opera First Village,” has recently attracted increasing numbers of tourists by enriching performances of Yalong Zhashi Xueba Tibetan opera and creating themed cultural tourism accommodations. Many migrant workers have returned home to join the burgeoning homestay industry, promoting both intangible heritage protection and residents’ income.

Continuously Improving Public Cultural Services. Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has implemented multiple measures to enhance the equality, accessibility, and informatization of public cultural services. Since 2012, over 4 billion RMB has been invested in public cultural construction. As of 2024, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China boasts 43 various museums, exhibition halls, and memorials, 82 libraries, 82 cultural activity centers, 697 township cultural stations, and over 1,600 cultural squares. There are more than 100,000 professional and part-time cultural performers in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, offering “zero-distance” performances to farmers and herders. Rural movie screenings in this region have been fully digitized, with nearly 500 digital movie projectors hosting over 63,000 screenings annually. Additionally, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China leverages advanced technologies and media to provide online performances, learning, and training for ethnic groups. Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China makes full use of new technologies and new media communication methods to regularly provide cultural services such as live-streamed performances, online learning, and activity training to people of all ethnic groups. In 2024, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China held the “Gesar Flower Performance Season,” launching over 20 high-quality works such as the play ‘Old Tibet’ and the ethnic orchestral piece Gesar Flowers Blooming Toward the Sun, as well as more than 100,000 cultural activities benefiting over 17 million people.

Fully Respecting and Protecting Customs and Traditions. China fully respects and safeguards the right of all ethnic groups in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China to live and engage in social activities according to their traditional customs. People in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China maintain traditional clothing, food, and housing styles while also absorbing new modern cultural practices. Major cultural traditions, such as Tibetan New Year, Lhasa Shoton Festival, and Naqu Horse Racing Festival are preserved and innovatively celebrated.

In recent years, new cultural and tourism festivals, such as the Shigatse Everest Cultural Festival, Yalong Culture Festival, and Nyingchi Peach Blossom Festival, have enriched people's spiritual lives and showcased the spirit of the Tibetan people in the new era.

Effectively Ensuring the Right to Learn and Use the Tibetan Language. The decisions, laws, and regulations passed by the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China Autonomous Regional People's Congress, as well as government-issued documents and announcements, use both the national common language and the Tibetan language. Public facilities, signs, and advertisements also feature both languages. Tibetan is widely used in publishing, media, health, postal services, communications, transportation, finance, science and technology, and daily life. Legal proceedings accommodate Tibetan speakers by providing translators when necessary, and legal documents are made available in Tibetan, ensuring citizens' right to use their language in litigation. Tibetan-language courses are offered alongside national language courses in primary and secondary schools. At the end of 2015, China released the first national standard for information technology vocabulary in a minority language, Information Technology Tibetan Vocabulary.
