



Human Rights Council - 25th session

**Item 6 - Consideration of the Report of the Working Group
on the UPR of the People's Republic of China**

Oral statement

Mr. President,

FIDH, Human Rights in China and the International Campaign for Tibet appreciate the numerous recommendations on civil society and human rights defenders. China has accepted and stated it is implementing Ireland's recommendation to facilitate a safe and enabling environment for defenders, but we continue to document widespread harassment and threats against them, including those who cooperate with international human rights mechanisms.

We echo the serious concerns over suppression of fundamental freedoms and the on-going crackdown on citizen activists. At least 11 rights defenders have been tried recently, including Dr. Xu Zhiyong, who was convicted and imprisoned in January. To demonstrate its respect for its own Constitution and commitment to uphold the highest human rights standards as a member of this Council, China should end prosecution against these defenders and urgently free all persons arbitrarily detained, including Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia, Guo Feixiong, Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, and Tibetan abbot Khenpo Kartse.

We mourn the death of rights defender Cao Shunli, whose death while in detention must be thoroughly investigated and those found to be responsible for any actions that contributed to her death be held accountable.

China has accepted a recommendation to protect the rights of ethnic groups. Much more needs to be done to realize this commitment, including urgent reforms of repressive laws and measures in ethnic areas, including Tibet and Xinjiang, to guarantee equal enjoyment of all human rights and to address root causes of desperate forms of protests such as self-immolations.

To ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of these recommendations, we urge China to take all necessary steps to respect and fulfill its citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion, as well as their right to supervise and participate in public affairs.

Thank you for your attention.