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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, 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.

[20 January 2020]

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



China Society for Human Rights Studies

The China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS) is a national non-governmental organization in the field of human rights in China. It enjoys a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is included in the World Directory of Human Rights Research and Training Institutions compiled by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The CSHRS was founded in January 1993, with a mission to study the theories, history and status of human rights in China and in foreign countries, popularize and publicize human rights knowledge, engage in international exchanges and cooperation, and promote the healthy development of human rights causes in China and in the world as a whole.

The CSHRS is governed by the National Council. The council convenes every five years and comprises of 179 members. The current President is Mr. Qiangba Puncog. Mr. Lu Guangjin serves as the Secretary General.

The CSHRS established the China Human Rights Net (www.humanrights.cn) in 1998, in both Chinese and English editions, and began to publish the magazine "*Human Rights*" (in Chinese and English editions) in February 2002. It regularly publishes the research report "*China's Human Rights in Action*" and occasionally publishes the "*Yearbook of Human Rights in China*".

The Development of Uyghur Language Education in China – UPR Report – China – February 2020

Key words: China; Xinjiang; Uyghur Language; Education

- The Chinese government had enacted some laws and policies to protect the equal status of each minority and the right of using and developing their own languages. According to these laws and policies, and in combination with actual needs of ethnic education development, the government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (hereinafter referred to as Xinjiang) had issued a series of corresponding laws and policies. All of these had gradually legalized and standardized ethnic education in Xinjiang, and establish an ethnic education system which combined with different levels of education, ethnic traditional education and national modern education.
- *We notice that* as an important part of ethnic education in Xinjiang, the education of Uyghur language has got continuous attention from Chinese government. The Chinese government has enacted some laws and policies to protect the rights for Uyghur people to learn and use their own language, and the government also encouraged other ethnic groups to learn Uyghur language. These measures have promoted a rapid development of ethnic education in Xinjiang. In the 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the development of Uyghur language education had experienced three stages: the early stage of exploration (from the 1950s to the end of 1970s), experimental and practical stage (from the 1980s to the 1990s) and prosperity stage (after 2000).
- *We notice that* from the 1950s to the end of 1970s, the principle of Uyghur language education for Uyghur people was "offering Chinese Courses while taking Uyghur language education as the main content". And for native-Chinese-speaker students, the principle was "offering optional courses of Uyghur language and encouraging them to learn while taking Chinese as the main content". Furthermore, the government took Uyghur language as college course. In the 1950s, Uyghur language became an undergraduate major, and in the 1960s the workshops of Uyghur language were set up among some normal colleges in Urumqi, Ili, Kashgar and other regions.
- *We notice that* from the 1980s to the 1990s, according to the goal of "training students in mastering Chinese and their own languages", the government set up model courses of bilingual education in order to promote the performance of their native languages and national commonly-used language. And Xinjiang University was approved the

doctoral program of Chinese Ethnic Language and Literature (Uygur language) in 1996.

- *We also notice that* in 21 century, high-level personnel of Uygur language were needed by Chinese society. In this context, the government has made some efforts: they have vigorously promoted the subject construction of Uygur language while steadily advanced the development of elementary and secondary school education of Uygur language. At present, there are 16 colleges with Uygur language major and 13 of them are in Xinjiang. And students from all nationalities could study in these colleges. In 2007, the government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region launched the special training project for high-level talents in minority languages. It implemented special training for Uygur language major students. The tuition fees were free and some top students would exempt from admission exam to get a master's degree. In 2011, the government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region launched the training project of bilingual translation talents. And there are 11 colleges in Xinjiang undertaking this project to implement the integrated educational mode which combined with junior college education, undergraduate education and graduate education. In Xinjiang's colleges, especially in normal colleges, students whose first language are Chinese and majors are education should take Uygur language or Kazakh language as an optional course.
 - Generally speaking, Uyghur language education is one of the Chinese ethnic policies, which had adjusted measures to local conditions. It promotes a rapid development of ethnic education, protects local people's educational equality and greatly improves the quality of ethnic education in Xinjiang. These measures ensure the right of minorities to use and develop their own languages. The Uygur language education in China has cultivated a large number of high-level talents for the development of Chinese society and the interactions of various nationalities. It also promotes the progress of ethnic unity and development of all nationalities.
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