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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.

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



Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China Comprehensively Develops Whole-Process People's Democracy: The Flower of Democracy Blooms on the Snowy Plateau

Democracy is historical, concrete and evolving. The essence and core of democracy lie in the people being masters of the country. Since democratic reform eradicated feudal serfdom, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has undergone a historic transformation from theocratic feudal serfdom to socialism characterized by people's democracy. For more than six decades, based on the realities of the plateau, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has continuously improved its democratic institutions, broadened channels for democratic participation, and enriched the forms of democracy. It has safeguarded, in accordance with the law, the people's rights to engage in democratic elections, consultation, decision-making, management and oversight. Whole-process people's democracy has thus taken root, blossomed and borne fruit on the snowy plateau, mobilizing tremendous strength for long-term stability and high-quality development.

Strengthening Institutional Foundations to Ensure Extensive, Equal and Genuine Democratic Elections

The system of regional ethnic autonomy ensures that the people of all ethnic groups in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China fully enjoy the right to administer their regional and ethnic affairs. In old Xizang, serfs and slaves, who made up more than 95 percent of the total population, possessed no civil or political rights. Following democratic reform, former serfs and slaves were no longer regarded as “talking tools.” For the first time, they gained democratic rights and became masters of their own destiny and of the new Xizang. In accordance with the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy of China, there shall be citizens from the Tibetan ethnic group among those who assume the offices of chairperson or vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, and the office of governor of the autonomous region shall be assumed by citizens from the Tibetan ethnic group. Since 2012, two rounds of elections at the county and township levels have been held in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China. More than 90 percent of eligible voters participated in these direct elections, with voter turnout reaching 100 percent in some localities. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China currently has more than 42,000 deputies to people's congresses at four levels, around 90 percent of whom are from the Tibetan or other ethnic minority groups. Compared with the elections in 2016, in 2021 the number of deputies to people's congresses at the county and township levels increased by nearly 6,500. Village and community organizations at the grassroots level have conducted elections for new terms in a lawful and orderly manner. Many fair-minded and upright farmers and herders who enjoy broad public trust have been elected as leaders in grassroots governance.

Building Diverse Platforms to Broaden the Avenues for Democratic Consultation

Whenever a problem occurs, those concerned should always hold deliberations in good faith. Matters involving many people are discussed by all those involved. This is the essence of people's democracy. Adapting its approach to local conditions, The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has established democratic consultation platforms rooted at the grassroots level. More than 3,400 “homes of deputies to people's congresses” and deputy liaison stations have been established across the region, covering urban communities, farming and pastoral villages, and areas along the border. These facilities serve as bridges connecting deputies with the public. Donggar Subdistrict in Duilongdeqen District of Lasa has introduced the “Sweet Tea Deliberations” initiative. Every Tuesday, the subdistrict organizes deputies to people's congresses, delegates to Party congresses, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) members, lawyers and judicial assistants to visit Tibetan-style sweet teahouses within its jurisdiction, where they conduct public education on

the rule of law, solicit public comments on legislation, gather information on social conditions and public opinion, and help resolve conflicts and disputes. Drawing on its “home for deputies to people’s congresses,” Longzi County in Shannan City has established a deliberation platform that holds scheduled sessions on the 10th of every month, at which deputies receive constituents. Since the beginning of 2025, it has mediated and resolved 257 disputes of various kinds and helped members of the public recover more than RMB37.57 million in overdue payments. Luolong County in Changdu City has established 126 “courtyard deliberation rooms.” Villagers sit together in farm courtyards over butter tea to discuss pressing issues of immediate concern to local residents, including road construction and industrial development, thereby leveraging “small courtyards” to advance broader governance.

Responding to the People's Will and Aspirations and Strengthening Democratic Management and Oversight

The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China continues to improve its system of community-level self-governance. Urban and rural residents independently manage local public affairs and public welfare undertakings in accordance with the law, while farmers and herders fully express their views on rural industrial development, improvements to the living environment, and border-area development. Oversight by people’s congresses, democratic oversight by CPPCC committees, and public oversight are closely integrated and coordinated. People’s congresses at all levels conduct special inspections and research on rural revitalization, education and health care, ecological conservation, and the implementation of policies concerning people’s wellbeing. CPPCC organizations have been established in all 74 county-level administrative units in Xizang. Through thematic deliberations, proposal-handling consultations, sector-specific consultations and other forms of consultation, more than 8,000 CPPCC members conduct in-depth research in pastoral areas and areas along the border, and actively offer advice and proposals on economic and social development, improvements to people’s wellbeing, and ethnic unity in Xizang. People of all ethnic groups routinely exercise oversight through public complaint channels, government service hotlines, community-level deliberation platforms, and other means. Such oversight facilitates the timely resolution of various problems affecting people’s wellbeing and helps ensure that all policies fully reflect public opinion and accord with the people’s wishes.

Upholding the Principle of Shared Benefits and Demonstrating Institutional Strengths Through Tangible Democratic Outcomes

Democracy is not an ornament to be used for decoration; it is to be used to solve the problems that the people want to solve. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has consistently upheld the principle that the government must respond to the people’s needs. It systematically translates the various concerns and requests raised by the public—through deliberation and consultation, through deputies in the performance of their duties, through public oversight, and through other channels—into institutionalized and regular governance measures and development policies. This enables the people to participate throughout the processes of policy formulation, project implementation and outcome evaluation, ensuring that they participate in governance and share in its benefits. From paving roads and improving drinking-water safety in farming and pastoral areas to upgrading schools and rural medical services, every improvement has stemmed from public input, been achieved through public participation, and been evaluated by the public. These practices fully demonstrate the defining features of whole-process people’s democracy: participation throughout the process, comprehensive coverage, and implementation across the entire chain. They enable people of all ethnic groups to genuinely feel that democracy is close at hand, their rights are firmly in their own hands, and they enjoy tangible benefits.

The democratic practices on the snowy plateau demonstrate that whole-process people’s democracy is well suited to the realities of the development of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China and accords with the fundamental interests of people of all ethnic groups. On the new journey, The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China will continue to improve the

institutional framework for whole-process people's democracy, enhance the channels through which the public can express its views, and further motivate people of all ethnic groups to participate in governance with greater enthusiasm, initiative and creativity. It will continue to translate the strengths of democracy into greater governance effectiveness and strive to write a new chapter in the modernization drive of The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China.
