

POLICY PAPER BOOKLET

ADVISORY PANEL ON THE QUESTION OF THE  
UYGHUR MUSLIMS IN CHINA

**MUNISH XXXI**

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# India

The Uyghur Muslim issue is all about Turkish muslims and other ethnic minorities being held in so called re-education camps in the north-western region of Xinjiang, China. It is said that more than one million Uyghurs have been held against their will over the past few years. There is evidence that muslims are being forced to labour, they mainly have to produce cotton for the textile and fashion industry, and since the pandemic started they also need to make personal protective equipment (PPE). Former detainees have also said that women have been sterilised, tortured and sexually abused.

Many countries have given their opinions and views on this matter, and there are also a lot of countries who have been neutral on this issue. However, India has said nothing so far about the issue. Which is weird, since they are home to the world's second largest muslim population and claim to be the world's largest democracy.

In 2016, India granted a visa to Dokklun Isa, an uyghur rights activist to go into Xinjiang and observe the issue. However, not even two days later his visa was declined in New Delhi. By cancelling the visa, India lost an opportunity to take a principled stand on the Uyghur issue in consonance with its democratic values, and also signalled that China had the upper hand in the bilateral relationship. Uyghur dissidents have repeatedly requested India to take a proactive stance on the matter.

## **The declaration of the human rights**

The declaration was carefully drafted consisting of a Preamble and 30 Articles with Article 1 proclaiming that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

India was a member of the first Commission on Human Rights, which was charged with the task of drafting an 'international bill of rights'. The UDHR was drafted in seven drafting stages over a period stretching from January 1947 to 10 December 1948, the day it was adopted by the UN General Assembly.

## **Security council.**

After years of absence, India began 8th term as non-permanent UNSC member this January “The Security Council will have on its agenda several important meetings, including on Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East. The council will also be adopting important resolutions on Somalia, Mali, and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon,” he added.

According to officials, India will organize three high-level meetings focusing on priority areas such as maritime security, peacekeeping, and counterterrorism initiatives.

Syed Akbaruddin, New Delhi's previous UN envoy, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi may also address the UNSC this month.

## **Geneva convention**

The Geneva Conventions are rules that tell countries at war how to treat wounded and captured enemy forces and enemy civilians.

India ratified the Geneva Convention in 1950, becoming the 5th country in the World and the first country in the region to adopt and implement legislation for the 1949 Conventions. India also ratified Protocol III but is not a signatory to the Additional Protocols I and II.

India has so far not taken any actions towards solving this issue. To be able to solve this issue, India has to quit their silence and speak up. To solve this issue, global cooperation is needed.

The PRC does not allow access to other powers and organizations to directly operate in Xinjiang UAR, which also does not allow other NGOs to alleviate the physical harm done to the Uyghurs. A way to get access into Xinjiang UAR for the purpose of alleviating the problem would be to implement economic sanctions, as financially is the biggest way that China profits from their actions.

Regarding the cotton industry, a worldwide movement would need to take place, again making use of the economic sanctions on powers or major brands that use cotton picked and treated by Uyghurs in internment camps.

## United Kingdom

The situation in the People's Republic of China's western province of Xinjiang with regards to Uyghur Muslims is very alarming to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In recent years there has been a number of human rights violations such as crimes against humanity. Therefore, the United Kingdom has made its position very clear in recent years as it has deeply condemned the actions of the People's Republic of China's government in the Western Chinese Province of Xinjiang. Furthermore the United Kingdom has denounced torture, forced labour and sterilisations that have been taking place against Muslim Uyghurs on an "industrial scale". The treatment of Uyghur Muslims in state-called re-education camps is beyond comprehensible. The United Kingdom believes that no one should be treated in such a terrible and inhumane manner.

At this stage the communication channels at a senior diplomatic level between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China are limited as there is a great disagreement over the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China. However, looking forward, the United Kingdom is willing to strengthen diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China under the condition that the human right violations towards Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang cease immediately. Only then could proper dialogue be re-established between both parties.

The United Kingdom would like to recognise Human Rights Watch for the investigative work which it has conducted in Xinjiang. Human Rights Watch has reported on crimes against humanity being committed against Uyghur Muslims in Western China. Furthermore The European Union and the United Kingdom simultaneously imposed targeted sanctions on senior Chinese officials who are directly related to the Chinese government's actions in

Xinjiang. Therefore, having considered that previous actions from the United Kingdom and its allies has not been sufficient in leading to change, The United Kingdom would like to state that further actions need to be taken. More sanctions need to be imposed on the Chinese political leadership. A total ban on the products of corporations who exploit Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang for the fabrication of those products. However, the United Kingdom would like to emphasise that it is very important to target people in power who can enable tangible change and not the civilian population who is powerless. The United Kingdom has repeatedly and continues to call on China to allow United Nations observers immediate and uninterfered access to the region in order for an assessment of the situation. China has to stop denying these human right violations and has to face consequences for its actions.

## Kingdom of Morocco

### **Background Information on Morocco**

The Kingdom of Morocco is an Islamic nation located in the North-Western corner of Africa, it borders Algeria and the disputed territory of the Western Sahara. Morocco is a unitary parliamentary semi-constitutional monarchy, the official head of state is King Mohammed VI. According to the Democracy Index the state is a hybrid regime with limited freedom of press. The state has a population of 37.1 million people, 99% of which are muslim. It is the highest ranking African state on the quality-of-life-index. The country has the fifth largest economy in Africa with a GDP of \$332 billion and a GDP per capita of \$9,339 in 2019. The European Union accounts for 64% of the state's exports and 51% of imports. Morocco is a Major non-NATO ally to the United State, the two countries have a history of bilateral cooperation both militarily and economically. However, since 2016 the US has invested less in Morocco than China.

The conflict between the Polisario front and the Kingdom of Morocco, in the disputed region of the Western Sahara, has been ongoing since the 1970s. The Polisario front is a nationalist movement, supported unconditionally by Algeria, that aims to create an independent state in the Western Sahara. A UN ceasefire was in effect from 1991 to November 2020 when it was broken over the construction of a road by the Moroccan government. Morocco controls  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the area with direct military occupation including all coastal regions.

### **1. What is Morocco's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?**

In 2019 Morocco signed a letter commending China for their handling of the Uyghur crisis. "Faced with the grave challenge of terrorism and extremism, China has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures in Xinjiang, including setting up vocational education and training centers...The past three consecutive years has seen not a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang and people there enjoy a stronger sense of happiness, fulfillment and security," This language applauds China on their excellent handling of the Uyghur crisis. The letter was co-signed by countries including but not limited to Russia, Pakistan, Saudi

Arabia, Egypt, Cuba, Algeria, UAE, Qatar, Nigeria, Angola, Togo, Tajikistan, Philippines and Belarus.

Morocco arrested a Chinese Uighur activist on the 19th of July at the airport after arriving from Turkey at the request of the Chinese state. He has been detained for two months and his extradition hearings begin on the 27th of October 2021. China as the country regards him as a terrorist, which requires him to be extradited according to a 2017 extradition treaty between the two countries. Demands from NGOs including Amnesty International to release the man have so far gone unanswered.

## **2. What is Morocco's relationship with the Chinese government?**

The Moroccan and Chinese governments have gotten closer through bilateral relations and heavy Chinese investment. Morocco is a central part of China's belt and road initiative as it is seen as an entry point to European and North American markets. Morocco has been privy to billions in preferential loans from Chinese banks, for example \$11 billion to develop a new economic hub in the north of the country. Compared to ~\$2 billion from the US in the last 50 years. Morocco has received donations of PPE and COVID-19 vaccines from China throughout the global pandemic. Morocco was one of 53 countries to support the Hong Kong national security law at the United Nations. China and Morocco signed an extradition treaty in 2017. It is expected that China and Morocco will grow closer as the belt and road initiative leads to more investment from the Chinese state and Chinese firms.

## **3. Is Morocco party to any international agreements that concern this or similar issues?**

Apart from the 2019 letter supporting the Chinese state Morocco has not directly supported any international agreements on the Uighur crisis. However, their support of the Hong Kong national security law sets a precedent of choosing the Chinese state over human rights concerns.

## **4. Has Morocco taken any steps towards solving this issue? If not, what are some potential solutions Morocco could propose or support?**

The aforementioned letter which supported the Chinese state and the support of the Hong Kong national security law set a precedent of support for China. Morocco will support the Chinese state in their viewpoints and will oppose any resolution that supports the notion of human rights abuses occurring in China.

## **Brazil**

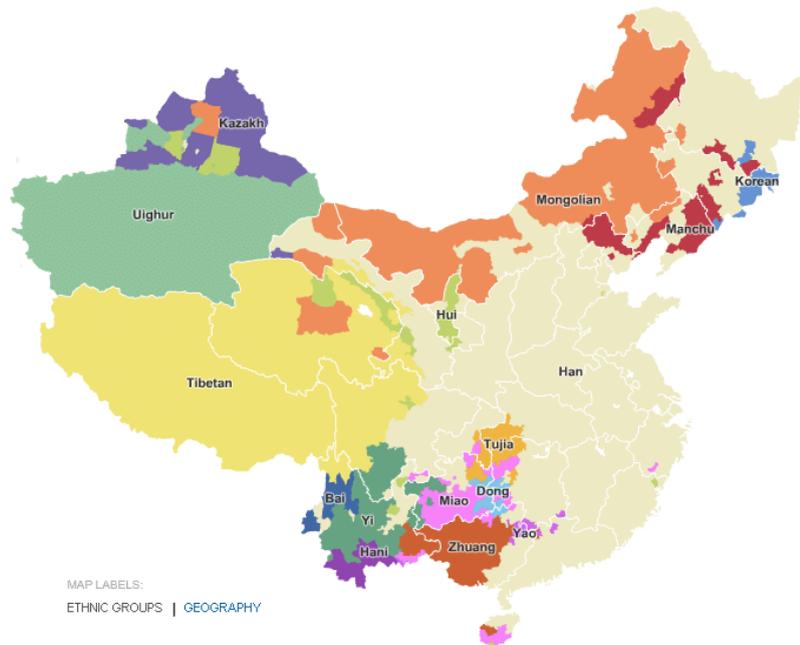
Brazil currently remains neutral and has not signed the HRC41 Letter or signed its Chinese counterpart.

Domestically, the partnership with China has been controversial with some sectors. Specifically, the partnership is criticized by the Brazilian manufacturing sector, which faces strong competition from Chinese products. Agricultural export interests, by contrast, favour a strong relationship with Beijing because China is a major market for their products. China is Brazil's largest trade partner and Brazil's biggest trade surplus was reported with China. China is also the biggest buyer of Brazilian soybean and minerals. The China-US trade war has further promoted Brazilian soybean exports to China. However, China has a long-term interest in a close diplomatic relationship with Brazil, important both for its strategy in Latin America and maximizing its global leadership. Which means it is unlikely that China wants to maintain this tension.

One of the signature institutions via which China-Brazil international cooperation has become more formalized is the BRICS partnership. BRICS brings together Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to address global concerns of mutual interest. Both China and Brazil have found BRICS a useful mechanism to signal to the incumbent great powers that rising states have both the capacity and the interest in establishing their own global institutions. After 2005, when China began to invest abroad, Brazil also became a significant destination for its foreign direct investment, first in the commodities sector, but then in a wider array of infrastructure projects. Even though Brazil wasn't formally a target for China's Belt and Road Initiative by 2017, over half of China's investments in South America were destined to Brazil.

However, Brazil has suffered from a persistent failure in industrial policy, which among other factors has contributed to the deindustrialization of its economy and loss of well-paying formal sector jobs. This is in part due to competition from cheap Chinese manufactured imports. For the United States and Brazil, their international economic interests are not complementary, but rather in competition with one another.

The degree of political polarization in Brazil is rivalled only by that in the United States. For example, Bolsonaro's supporters have widely accused the ministers such as Guedes, Cristina, and Mourão, of being "secret communists" on social media. All while Bolsonaro, who tends to dismiss the pandemic as a hoax, has presided over one of the worst government responses to the crisis in the world to date.



It is essential that worldwide supply chain transparency is achieved and brands are held accountable for their involvement in Uyghur forced labour, if this is achieved the export of raw cotton to china can be switched to other cotton producing countries. This however does provide the issue of the probability that countries using child labour might get a higher load and the situation might worsen there.

Brazil wants to express its concern on the fact that all other minorities such as but not limited to; Tibetan, Mongol, Taiwanese might also be getting discriminated by the People’s Republic of China in any way imaginable.

But also reminds the delegations that China is of too great economic and industrial power to treat China harshly, and if China does not agree to the terms we propose and we decide to implement these anyway, there will be considerable worldwide consequences.

### Question of: Establishing a coordinated response

*(Same research also applies to this question)*

UN officials have demanded access to the camps. In late 2020, the bloc adopted legislation that allows sanctions on human rights abusers, though it has yet to apply it to Chinese officials. And human rights organizations have urged China to immediately shut down the camps and answer questions about disappeared Uyghurs. The United States banned cotton and tomato imports from the region, and the United Kingdom will fine companies that fail to guarantee their supply chains do not use forced labor. The European Union has called on China to respect religious freedom and change its policies in Xinjiang and is moving forward with China on an investment agreement that does not include provisions on forced labor.

China's partners have been notably silent. Prioritizing their economic ties and strategic relationships with China, many governments have ignored the human rights abuses. Brazil has been quiet and has signed neither parties' letter.

Brazil emphasizes that the maintenance of a good relationship with China is crucial, in the interest of maintaining peace and tranquillity and accomplishing Chinese cooperation in the terms created. It is quite difficult to create a resolution that all countries and most importantly China accept. Brazil believes that it is of great importance to make sure all opposing parties agree, this way China is more easily pressured into agreeing since they cannot get support from allies.

## United States of America

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2. The stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China.
3. The relationship with the Chinese government.
4. USA agreements that concern this issue.

The United States of America was founded on the guiding ideals of freedom and the pursuit of happiness. It is this everlasting pursuit of liberation that is distilled into our constitution and shapes the engrained archetypal respect for diversity in our citizens of generations past and contemporary. In this vein, the United States of America aims to address the genocide of Uyghur's in China. This policy paper hopes to clarify the perspective of this great nation and what the USA aims to establish carrying forward.

Diplomatic relations with the Chinese government are tenuous due to continued unequivocal and unfair trade practices as well as blatant intellectual property theft, committed by those in the Chinese regime. The United States of America in 2018, had encouraged Beijing to strengthen its policies against illegal business practices with the introduction of sanctions and tariffs on the exports sent to the USA by China. This was aimed to balance the loss of American jobs and unemployment that resulted from Chinese mass production of goods already patented. However, Chinese officials prematurely retaliated by illogically placing similar tariffs on US goods. The United States of America, aimed to salvage diplomatic relations by offering a truce, later in 2018 amidst concerns of severing ties. To the surprise of Washington and the President, Xi Jinping stalled more discussion regarding the loose policies against copyright regulation. Therefore, the United States of America, to show no-tolerance against antitrust Chinese conglomerates; introduced Huawei into the "entity-list", due to concerns of malware and possibility of installed spyware in cell-towers and mobile communication devices. Following continued brawl and base-less dispute from Beijing, the United States has developed the perspective that the Chinese government consistently bends the truth to international nations, in order to benefit their own wealth. Wealth is used in all

senses of the word, both monetary and high standing. Therefore, on the topic of Uyghur Muslims in China, the truth is misconstrued and buried in diplomatic coverups.

The United States of America on the other hand has taken precautions and actions to great lengths in order to maintain safety of minority Muslims, both in the country and in the world. For example, the Muslims in the United States are religiously observant; meaning that these citizens display multitudes of overt behavior. This describes that Muslims in USA can openly attend to mosques, pray in public and have social gatherings. Moreover, the federal government of this great nation have fought for wrongful hate crimes through prosecution and assistance from the DOJ offices:

- “On February 23, 2011, an Arlington, Texas, man pleaded guilty to setting fire to playground equipment at a mosque in July 2010.
- An Illinois man pleaded guilty on August 11, 2010, to sending a threatening email to a mosque in Urbana, Illinois. He was sentenced on November 3, 2010, to 12 month’s incarcerations.
- Three Tennessee men pleaded guilty to spray painting swastikas and “white power” on a mosque in Columbia, Tennessee, and then starting a fire that destroyed the mosque. In 2009, two of the men were sentenced to more than 14 and 15 years in prison. In 2010, the third was sentenced to more than 6 years in prison for his role in the crime.
- On March 11, 2010, a husband and wife were convicted of harassing with ethnic slurs and assaulting an Indian American couple while they were using a public beach in South Lake Tahoe. The male victim suffered multiple broken facial bones. On June 30, 2010, the defendants were sentenced to 18 months incarceration each.” (Department of Justice Archives)

On the International scale, the United States has openly voiced concerns of the treatment of Uyghurs in China and the genocide against them. Most notably, Republican representative Ann Wagner, the vice ranking member of the Uyghur treatment sub-committee describes that: “The Chinese Communist Party’s campaign to systematically violate the fundamental human rights of the Uighur Muslim minority is unconscionable, we must continue to not just condemn China’s severe repression of ethnic and religious minorities but proactively hold the [party] to account.” Donald Trump, president at the time signed the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act. This consensus imposes sanctions on the nations such as china that are actively involved in the abuses in Xinjiang against minority Muslim groups.

# Lao PDR

## **I/ Background information on Lao PDR**

Lao PDR's neighbouring countries are Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. Lao PDR has an overall area of 236,800 square kilometers, with its capital at Vientiane. The languages spoken are English, Hmong, and Khmu. Lao PDR has a poverty rate of 23% as of 2015, and a GDP of \$2,270 as of 2017. Although labeled as a developing country, Lao PDR has a HDI of 0.586 as of 2015. Its 18 provinces house approximately 6.5 million people. The greater percentage(68%) live in rural areas, nonetheless with a steady rate of growing urbanisation(4.9% per annum).

Over the course of the 18th century, the three disunited states within Lao PDR impaired the Laotian kingdoms and resulted in their colonisation by their Siamese(Thai) neighbour. The three states were Vien Chan, Luang Prabang and Champassak. All three states were obliged to pay respects to Bangkok. France's protectorate over Vietnam ensured the annexation of Luang Prabang to France.

France turned Indochina into its protectorate in 1904, with the legislative centre being in Vientiane. Vientiane was given authority over local issues, Vien Chan and Champassak were directly controlled by a French official. Laos' independence was proclaimed in 1945, succeeding the Japanese invasion of French protectorates.

Lao PDR was largely controlled by Pathet Lao and Viet Minh forces in the late 1950s. Lao PDR's involvement in the 2nd Indochina conflict(Vietnam War) was as a result of extensive US bombing between 1964 and 1973. US bombed Laotian territory as a preventive measure, to render Laos inoperative for Viet Cong forces(Laos would have been a Viet Cong base).

Lao PDR was ratified in the December of 1975, replacing the Kingdom of Laos. The Royal Lao Government and the communist Pathet Lao conflicted, leading to decades worth of national turmoil and civil war. Eventually the royalists were defeated, and the communist LPRP (Lao People's Revolutionary Party) established a one party state. The constitution was accepted in 1991.

## **II/ Past Achievements of Lao PDR on the issues**

### **A. Establishing a coordinated response**

Lao PDR is a member of the ASEAN group(Association of Southeast Asian Nations). It joined ASEAN in 1997. ASEAN has united nations and maintained peace and cohesion in and near the indochina region. The ASEAN Community provides countries with political, economic, and socio-cultural security. This can be identified as a considerable advance considering regional integration. ASEAN'S Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia has become the bedrock for future inter-state connections. In 2017, ASEAN and China arrived at a framework(that has

yet to be finalised) for the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. ASEAN'S AEC(ASEAN Economic Community) initiated a profitable, open market for its member states and associated countries including but not limited to Australia, Japan, China, India, South Korea, and New Zealand.

B. Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and manufacturing of PPE

Lao PDR and the PRC have enjoyed decades worth of good relations. The PRC is one of Lao PDR's most valuable economic partners. Lao PDR has had a history of human rights abuses and violence. Lao's 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices mention disappearances of Thai political officials, poor prison and detention center conditions, arrests and detentions without cause, neglect for justice during public trials etc. Lao PDR does not have a political stance on the treatment of China's Uyghur muslims.

### **III/ Objectives, aims and possible solutions proposed by Lao PDR on the issues**

A. Establishing a coordinated response

Lao PDR has not taken a stance on uniting indochina countries, however its position in ASEAN could be considered as a measure to uniting indochina nations.

B. Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and manufacturing of PPE

Lao PDR will not act against China. Lao PDR cannot disagree with China, for the fault of ruining relations and endangering its national economy. Lao PDR is not in the position to counter China, since it is a vital trade partner for the country. Lao PDR may be able to act on the issue from within ASEAN, but it cannot propose a solution independently.

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## Armenia

While reliable information regarding the question of the Uighur Muslims in China is scarce it is important to look at some of the accusations made against the Republic of China regarding the internment of their Uighur residents. Sources outside of China have claimed that millions of Uighur Muslims are being put into “vocational education and training centers” where they are being re-educated and forced to work. Allegations of human rights violations within the camps have run rampant with claims ranging from mistreatment to rape, to even genocide. The grey areas begin to show when looking for hard evidence of the alleged crimes being committed within the camps. These camps were initially opened in 2017 as a part of China’s war on terror. It has been reported that many Uighur Muslims have been detained and placed in these camps without any charges put against them.

The delegate of Armenia believes that China should cease operation of the “vocational education and training centers”, provided claims made about the camps prove accurate. This topic should be of great importance to the delegates of this committee as it is a flagrant violation of human rights. That being said, it should be stated that China and Armenia do have both diplomatic as well as economic ties, even if they may be relatively minor. Armenia’s diplomatic relationship with China began in 1992 with the addition of the Chinese embassy to Armenia. This relationship has not factored into the decision made by the Armenian delegation due to the sheer barbarity of the crimes that have allegedly been committed by the Chinese government.

In order to resolve this issue in a fair and unbiased manner, the delegate of Armenia proposes that a transparent and multinational assessment of these camps should be conducted in order

to validate or disprove the claims by both China and its opposition. If the Republic of China remains unwilling to cooperate with an international investigation regarding the Question of the Uyghur Muslims in China, further steps should be taken to investigate and potentially cease operations of the vocational education and training centers.

## Norway

### **1. What is my country's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?**

Norway's stance on the Uyghur Muslim crisis in China is that they are very opposed to how the Chinese are treating this ethnic minority group in the sense that they are systematically imprisoning and oppressing this group of people without reason other than their religion and appearance. This kind of actions are seen as inhumane and out of order to the kingdom of Norway and the stance on this issue in particular is that the systematic oppression, false imprisonment and sterilisation of Uyghur Muslims must be stopped and undone as it violates human rights.

### **2. What is my country's relationship with the Chinese government?**

Norway and China have a relatively positive relationship with each other. Norway was one of the first countries to recognize the new Communist Party of China in 1950 and have since maintained a good working relationship with one another. Norway is usually a country that likes to keep out of political hot topics and tries to stay quite neutral in a lot of issues, however Norway itself is very driven and is quite a progressive country especially regarding issues such as global warming and personal expression meaning they are very accepting of all religions and people. China is a country that is rapidly growing its economy and seems to be growing into what looks to be the leading world power and it is therefore of utmost importance for Norway to maintain a good relationship with China as China would be a great trading partner to have which could severally boost the Norwegian economy in the future and now. Even though China may be doing some things that don't fit the Norwegian ideology, Norway still recognizes China as an ally and asset.

### **3. Is my country party to any international agreements that concern this or similar issues?**

In 1948 Norway signed the Genocide Prevention Convention. Which was put in place after the Holocaust to ensure the targeting of one particular religion or ethnicity doesn't happen ever again. China is also part of this convention and what the Chinese are doing in Xinjiang is borderline genocide as they are systematically targeting one race and imprisoning them in massive camps similar to what the Nazis did. Because the situation in Xinjiang hasn't completely been brought to light we are not sure exactly how they treat people in these camps but electrocuting, sterilisation and

murder has occurred. This means that the Chinese are completely taking away these peoples rights and freedom for as little as leaving the house too early or meeting up with neighbours and friends.

#### **4. Has my country taken any steps towards solving this issue? If not, what are some potential solutions I could propose or support?**

Up until now all Norway has really done is accept Uyghur refugees in their country to give them a place to stay away from china this however is nothing special really as norway pretty much accepts any kind of refugees so long they apply properly. Norway wishes to see exactly what China is doing with these uyghurs in these camps so that we can make sure nothing illegal is happening. Once everything has been brought to light and it is established that what China is doing is indeed illegal, the process of taking down the camps and sending the people back to their regions is in order. Also to ensure that something like this doesn't happen again the mass surveillance system in Xinjiang that China uses to systematically imprison the uyghurs is taken down or at least scaled down considerably so the people can enjoy a more private and free life.

## UNHCR

### **1. What is my country's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?**

There are about 12 million Uyghurs, mostly Muslim, living in Xinjiang, which is officially known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

The Uyghurs speak their own language, which is similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations. They make up less than half of the Xinjiang population. South Korea believes that what China has done in terms of the Uyghur Muslim crisis in China that it is wrong and must be terminated. What China has done is crimes against humanity and genocide against the Uyghur population, detained more than one million Uyghurs against their will over the past few years in a large network of what the state calls "re-education camps", and sentenced hundreds of thousands to prison terms. South Korea believes that China has committed crimes against Humanity which of this nature were last seen during the holocaust and therefore South Korea believes that these should be terminated immediately.

### **2. What is my country's relationship with the Chinese government?**

The relationship between North Korea and South Korea is not a good one and therefore South Korea and China are not close friends. North Korea and South Korea split up and are not anything close to each other as North Korea said on Tuesday that it would cut off all communication lines with South Korea, including military hotlines, as it vowed to reverse a recent détente on the Korean Peninsula and start treating the South as an “enemy.” North Korea made the decision when its top officials in charge of relations with the South, including Kim Yo-jong, the sister of the supreme leader, Kim Jong-un, met on Monday, the North’s official Korean Central News Agency said.

South Korea has a long-standing history with China and although they are not best friends as China has been seen to have a close relationship with North Korea. To be exact China is often considered to be North Korea's closest ally. China and North Korea have a mutual aid and cooperation treaty, which is currently the only defense treaty either country has with any nation. This is why South Korea is seen as only an acquaintance to China as China supports the North and has similar views to it. South Korea has been careful to not completely defy China as, Since 2004, China is the main trade partner of Korea and has been considered a key player for the improvement of inter-Korean relationships. However, South Korea is against what China has done and believes that in the case of the Uyghur crisis in China it is wrong and must be undone.

### **3. Is my country party to any international agreements that concern this or similar issues?**

In November 2020, China and South Korea, along with 13 other Asia-Pacific nations, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the largest free-trade agreement in history which covers 30% of the world's population and economic output. There is also the China-South Korea Free Trade Agreement which is another agreement signed by China and South Korea. China and South Korea will provide reciprocal treatment to each other’s financial companies entering their own capital markets, which means that the relevant approval process will be simplified and the barriers to entry into the financial markets of both sides are expected to be lowered. The agreement also includes that Korean construction companies in the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone can contract cooperative projects in Shanghai without being restricted by the proportion of foreign investment (foreign investment accounts for more than 50%). The Chinese side is considering allowing Korean travel agencies to recruit and visit South Korea in China. In addition, China and South Korea also promised that after the signing of the agreement, they will continue to carry out service trade negotiations in the negative list model and carry out investment negotiations based on the pre-access national treatment and the negative list model.

### **4. Has my country taken any steps towards solving this issue? If not, what are some potential solutions I could propose or support?**

South Korea does not have any solutions to solve this matter as it first does not want to initially attack China and disturb any relations and trade relations that it has with China. South Korea is however in favour of any solutions that have the end result of this crisis being terminated and the Chinese not perpetrating a single race-based solely on their race.

# China

While this topic is one that is important, the delegate of China holds that international involvement is unnecessary in the question of establishing rights for Uyghur Muslims. Full of ignorance of and bias against China, some people from the US and other Western countries have recently made groundless accusations against and disseminated many fallacies about China's human rights conditions concerning Xinjiang. Even a small discrepancy will lead to a great error. Malicious lies will, still worse, result in huge misconception and misunderstanding. China has held, since 2014, education camps in efforts of fighting a war on terror by combating religious extremism at its roots. The issue persists that the extremism may spread more and so China continues to help those in need and educate them, and Xinjiang's education programs improve life chances for trainees. The trainees come out fit for society and enjoy a better life, as opposed to the lies and belittlements of transfer to manufacturing or production of goods and using forced manual labour.

China firmly holds that the problem of Uyghur muslims is unique to china and doesn't warrant meddling from other nations, especially due to its sensitive nature. The issue at hand is of the treatment of the group of people in China known as Uyghurs, most of who currently reside in Xinjiang. The idea of education camps in its current form wasn't in place until 2014. The problem persists but China's war on terror against religious extremism has been going on for longer than just the issue of the Uyghurs. China's success in tackling the issue has increased with higher school enrolment rates, and more educational institutes constructed and improved in Xinjiang than ever before, so China believes the current way of helping the Uyghurs in China is more effective than setting up a direct international response from nations with its numerous complications.

China proposes therefore, that direct international involvement be minimised as much as possible in a delicate matter like this which involves fragile geopolitical climates and allow China to tackle the situation. While indirect involvements like monetary aid are not discouraged at all, China believes we can fight the war on terror. Each trainee is taken care of like the model citizen they become and to make sure of their safety China can use surveillance networks to catch forced labour and cut the problem before it can grow.

## UNHCR

China's Xinjiang province in the western section of the country is dominated by agricultural communities and minority groups. Approximately 45% of its population are Uyghur Muslim, 40% are Han Chinese, and 5% come from other ethnic backgrounds. This ethnic and cultural diversity, along with historical tensions over claims to the region, have led to years of conflict that have only escalated in recent years. Uyghurs believe their ancestors were indigenous to the area, whereas government policy considers present-day Xinjiang to have belonged to China since 200 BC. Prior to the 20th century, at the time of the Chinese dynasties, both Uyghur nationalist and Chinese rulers claimed rule over their region that is now present day Xinjiang. At times, various Chinese emperors asserted their control over the region, but it wasn't until the Qing dynasty brought about Chinese westward expansion that brought the region under Chinese rule. After some initial tensions, the region was formally brought under Chinese control in 1884. Moving ahead to the 20th century, the region saw vast political instability from 1928 to the beginning of the Chinese revolution. During this tumultuous time period, ethnic Uyghur Muslims living in this region were able to claim independence and from the state of First East Turkestan Republic, only to be overtaken by Chinese warlords who were supplied by the Soviet Union. In 1944, a similar uprising of Turkic Uyghur Muslims took place, this time with aid from the Soviet Union. This uprising resulted in the creation of the Second East Turkestan Republic, which was eventually overtaken by the People's Liberation Army during the Chinese communist revolution. In 1955, The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was established granting some levels of religious toleration to the ethnic Uyghur population of the region. Throughout the 1980s, political and religious control of the Uyghur population varied city by city in the region. Uyghurs in Turpan were treated favourably by China with regard to religion, while Kashgar and Hotan were subject to more stringent government control. In one case, communist officials in Turpan ignored Chinese law and allowed the Islamic Education of Uyghur children. Despite some political tensions and the rise of the East Turkestan People's Revolutionary Party, who vied for independence in the region, religious and ethnic tensions remained low. This changed in 1996, when new legislation was introduced that resulted in hundreds of Uyghurs being subject to persecution under Chinese law. This resulted in the rise of what is internationally known as Uyghur or Turkish militant groups. These groups have carried out dozens of attacks across the region and across China. Their aim is to advocate for and protect the rights of the Uyghur people living in China from government oppression. Some of these militants are even going as far as calling for independence for the Uyghur people in Xinjiang. In response to these threats, the Chinese government introduced legislation known as the strike hard campaign designed to target separatist unrest. It was these harsh policies that led to the strict regulations, surveillance, and control of the Uyghur people in the Xinjiang region. Current Chinese minority policy is based on affirmative action, and has reinforced a Uyghur ethnic identity that is distinct from the Han population. Different regions of Xinjiang enforce different levels of religious persecution over the people, but in recent years, government policy has been marked by mass surveillance, increased arrests, and a system of re-education camps, estimated to hold a million Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minority ethnic groups. It is currently estimated that 100,000+ Uyghurs are being held in several mass prison camps, that the Chinese government says are being used to fight terrorism. In 2016, an in depth report from the economist found that Uyghurs faced difficulties travelling within Xinjiang and lived in fenced-off neighbourhoods with checkpoint entrances. The report even found that in the Capital of Xinjiang, each Uyghur apartment door has a QR code so that the police can easily see photos of the homes authorised residents. These restrictions on travel and reported detention camps have captured

the attention of the worldwide community, who have denounced the Chinese actions, and called for a greater international response to the deepening crisis. Recently, the United States House of Representatives worked to pass a resolution that explored the possibility of sanctions against the Chinese government. Twenty-two nations have publicly written a letter to UNHCR that condemns Chinese human rights abuse and encourages this body to take action before the situation escalates into a genocide or a mass exodus of Uyghurs from the region. The UNHCR also takes note of the serious issue regarding the deportation of fleeing Uyghurs. Hundreds of Uyghurs fleeing China through Southeast Asia have been deported back 8 by the governments of Thailand, Malaysia, and others, drawing condemnation from the U.S. and the UNHCR. These incidents have online strengthened international desire to resolve the crisis and prevent ethnic cleansing of the Uyghur population.

### **Statement of the Problem:**

Since 2014, the People's Republic of China has operated Vocational Education and Training Centers, or to the Western world, re-education camps, in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. These camps, established by General Secretary Xi Jinping, are estimated to have detained more than 1 million Chinese Uyghur Muslims without trial or charge. Since the Uyghur population in the region are an ethnic minority to the Han Chinese population, the international community is concerned that the Chinese government in engaging in activities that constitute ethnic cleansing. As of 2018, it was estimated that the Chinese authorities may have detained hundreds of thousands, of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Hui and other ethnic Turkic Muslims, as well as Christians and some foreign citizens. These people have reportedly been kept in these secretive internment camps throughout the region, information which has been verified by U.S. Department of Defense, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the international community at large. The reports detailed the abuse and mass detention of ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region. Many other reports have outlined the systematic state oppression of the Uyghur and other Muslim minorities, which includes increased surveillance, police and military brutality, and loss of freedom of movement within the region. The Chinese have responded to these reports by stating that the issue is a sovereign matter, and that it is about counter-terrorism and de-radicalization in Xinjiang. China has also repeatedly denied the existence of these camps. 5 The United Nations High Commission on Refugees has been working to examine the crisis in Xinjiang to ensure that human rights for the Uyghur and other ethnic minorities are protected. Hundreds of Uyghurs fleeing China through Southeast Asia have been deported back by the governments of Thailand, Malaysia, and others, drawing condemnation from the UNHCR. The UNHCR condemned the deportations, stating that sending these people back to the region they had escaped was "a flagrant violation of international law." Human rights watch along with the UNHCR, issued a statement saying that "The risks to Uyghur forcibly returned to China are grim and well established, so it's urgent to protect anyone in Thailand who the Chinese claims is a Uyghur against forced expulsion or return."

## Cuba

### **I. Cuba's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?**

Cuba, ocially the Republic of Cuba, has shown active involvement on the issue of the Uyghur Muslims in China. As our president, Miguel Marion Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, stated at the general

debate of the UN General Assembly's 76th session, we will stand our ground. Cuba firmly supports China's stance on the question of Uyghur Muslims and will continue to vocalize this. We, along with 44 countries, applaud the Chinese government for their goals and all they have already achieved. China's people-centered philosophies are to be commended and have allowed them to advance sustainable economic and social development, increasing employment, eradicating poverty, and improving living conditions. Most importantly, China has promoted and protected the human rights their people deserve, a quality that Cuba appreciates in other countries. China's actions in response to the despicable terrorism and extremism the country has phased have not gone unnoticed. Their measures, all of which were in accordance with the law, to protect its citizens and safeguard the human rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are exemplary. We compliment China for its success in providing such a stable environment where all Chinese people have been able to enjoy a terrorist attack-free life for the last three years. They have shown they have nothing to hide through their openness, allowing more than 1000 people into the city to witness its achievements. China's transparency about the situation allows Cuba to support their government in the choices they make in regards to the handling of the situation in Xinjiang. In fact, when it comes to the situation in Xinjiang, Cuba believes it is imperative to respect the confirmed facts, rather than making unfounded allegations against China to interfere only out of political motivations and bias. Instead, we propose to promote and protect human rights through constructive dialogue and cooperation as the politicization of human rights is a widespread issue that Cuba firmly opposes. China has received unfair and meaningless criticism and accusations from the very countries that have colonized others and committed genocide. Hence Cuba believes there should not be any foreign interference in China's internal affairs, including the ways in which China decides to take care of its people.

## **II. Cuba's relationship with the Chinese Government**

Cuba and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations in September 1960 which have grown into mutual, beneficial, and friendly cooperations at a fast pace, particularly since the 1990s. Our two nations have enjoyed increasing political trust, shared our congratulations and condolences when they were in order such as but not limited to the presidential reelection and natural disasters respectively. Frequent exchanges and visits have taken place to maintain and strengthen Cuban-Chinese relations. China and Cuba have and continue to support each other in international affairs. Through mutual understanding, the nations have cooperated and coordinated closely on elections at multilateral organizations as well as on the finding of solutions to issues such as climate change and human rights. China and Cuba have respect for each others' sovereign internal affairs and as a result, experience good mutual relations such as being members of the Belt and Road Initiative for trade. Trade continues to proceed smoothly, China still being Cuba's second-largest trading partner and Cuba being China's largest in the Caribbean region. Furthermore, the two countries have had vibrant exchanges that showed respect for each other's culture, education, health, science, and technological advancements. Although Cuba and China were on opposite sides of the Sino-Soviet split during the Cold War and Mao Zedong accused Fidel Castro of "revisionism", relations between the two have improved ever since China came to Cuba's help after the Soviet Union collapsed. The current state of the relationship between Cuba and the Chinese Government is well-represented by President Xi Jinping's statement from 2014, "The two countries advance hand in hand on the road on the path of the construction of socialism with its own characteristics, offering reciprocal support on issues related to our respective vital interests." As a country that is often unjustly and unfairly criticized for our economic and social development model, Cuba understands the injustice and

## **III. Steps Cuba has taken towards solving this issue and further potential solutions.**

As mentioned previously, Cuba has been actively involved in the issue. The initiative was taken to have our representative Ana Silvia Rodríguez Abascal make a statement on behalf of all 45 countries that were in support of China's policies regarding the Uyghur Muslims within the context of the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues) in 2019. She vocalized our support for the Chinese Government and the measures they have taken to improve the situation in Xinjiang, outlining the progress made in the process. At the 46th session of the UN

Human Rights Council, Cuba again delivered a (joint) speech, this year on behalf of 64 countries in which we continue to share our firm support for China's position on the Xinjiang situation as well as opposing double standards on human rights issues. Not only were China's claims supported by Cuba, our ambassador also criticizes the countries that were not in support of China for their hypocrisy and highly egotistical belief that they are still the center of power. By countering their claims with the West's abundance of oppression of the people, including but not limited to colonization and genocide, Cuba is taking active steps towards solving the issue of the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. Cuba will continue supporting all international voices opposing interference in the Internal Affairs of nations that are not their own. We will further oppose any and all groundless accusations China receives in regards to its situation in Xinjiang as well as the false propaganda that attempts to restrain and control nations such as China and ourselves.

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## Cameroon

In the past 60 years, the industrial revolution has reached China, and we have seen a cooperative and reliable trade partner rise to power in Asia. We, as the country of Cameroon, are therefore very happy and honoured to be able to keep up such a strong economic relationship to the People’s Republic of China. Through the forum on China Africa Cooperation, Cameroon has received generous development finance from China. This approach of China to cooperate with developing countries, especially in Africa and support them in their economic growth is remarkable and is just another example for their true and genuine beliefs in good, healthy and sustainable development.

Cameroon truly believes, that China has made remarkable achievements in protecting and promoting human rights through development.

Hence, the delegation of Cameroon finds criticism on the management of the public safety situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) not just and inequitable.

As stated by the regional government, the purpose of the „Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism“ is only and without exception to regain control and combat terrorism in this rather unstable region of China. As far as the delegation of Cameroon can assess, this very campaign was launched to support the population of Xinjiang to stabilise their country and terminate the numerous terrorists attacks from recent years. According to statements of the Chinese government, this plan is working out, and global society has seen a decrease in terrorist attacks. These measures go hand in hand with lifting Xinjiang’s people from poverty, as their main goals behind the campaigns were the consolidation of Xinjiang’s economy and unstable society.

Although reeducation camps were established, Cameroon is convinced that the trainees’ personal dignity and freedom are fully protected at all times, as deputy governor Aierken Tuniyazi assured in 2019. He additionally stated that no trainees would be imprisoned in detention camps.

Results of counter-terrorism and deradicalisation measures in Xinjiang have effectively safeguarded the basic human rights of people of all ethnic groups. Furthermore, the delegation of Cameroon advocates China's attempts trying to illuminate the situation and being responsive by for example inviting diplomats, international organisations officials and journalist to Xinjiang to investigate the situation and creating a clearer picture of the issue for all parties involved. However, there have still been several accusations against China violating Human rights and suppressing majorly Uyghur populations in the Xinjiang region. Cameroon therefore calls upon the UN and all member states to approach the Xinjiang situation in an impartial manner with true and genuinely credible information. It is of utmost importance that an attempt on agreeing on a solution on the issue, is conducted in an objective and non-politicised matter.

Thus, we expect western countries to refrain from employing unfounded charges against China and criticise China for national campaigns, which have no relation to international politics.

China has Cameroon's full support on this issue.

## Israel

Honorable chairs and fellow delegates,

We the delegation of Israel recognize that the Uyghur crisis in the Chinese Xinjiang region is not one which should be addressed lightly or neglected. Detaining innocent citizens without any real reason is a clear case of a lack of justice and peace, going directly against one of the seventeen United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). As of June 2021, Israel fully condemns the inhuman actions taken by the Chinese government in the mistreatment of the Uyghur Muslims held in the detention camps. We are deeply saddened and concerned by the reports emerging from said camps and feel that more transparency is necessary in order for proper action to be taken and for peace and justice to be obtained.

Israel has signed on to the condemnation issued by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in June at their 47<sup>th</sup> session. This has been agreed upon in accord with the United States and Canada and the condemnation as a whole was brought forward by Canada. It is important to note that we did not sign on to this by force, from Canada or the US, but rather by choice.

Israel has had close ties with the Chinese government since 1992, both countries relying on each other for needs such as economic and military support, however, we have decided to look at this issue objectively as we believe that it is of a greater urgency than any previously made ties, we have made with China that may still be intact. Therefore, we unequivocally stand by the statement released during the UNHRC session of June 2021. We do however not see a way in our current state to completely detach ourselves from the Chinese government as

we rely heavily on them for the successful functioning of our own economy amongst other aspects.

It has been discussed by the media that we do not truly support the initiative taken by Canada in condemning the actions taken by the Chinese government due to our financial and economic ties to the nation, however this is simply not true. We believe that it is unrealistic to think that diplomacy and economy as the two are not completely interlinked and can therefore function in unison.

As a liberal democracy, we cannot stay silent on this issue and hope to see the necessary actions taken in order to free those held in the camps and obtain justice against those who are responsible. We believe that the first step towards achieving this would be an increase in transparency from the Chinese government as to what the exact activities are from within these camps and who is in charge. From there it will become clearer as to what steps must be taken in order to free in necessary rehabilitate the Uyghur Muslims who are unrightfully being detained.

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## Japan

***Question of: Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and manufacturing PPE.***

The persecution of minorities is a crime against humanity. Evidence is appearing proving that the Chinese government entails the forced transfer of people, the imprisonment of an identifiable, ethnic minority group and the disappearance of individuals. Systematically imposed by a government, this is the most extensive violation in the world today of the principle that individuals have a right to liberty and dignity simply because they are people.

So far, the delegation of Japan’s concrete measures on the matter consists of our signing of the HRC41 letter, which calls on China to uphold its national laws and international obligations and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief, in Xinjiang and across China. We also call on China to refrain from the arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang.

Following this HRC41 letter, our prime minister Mr Kishida states that he backs the idea of passing a new resolution condemning China's treatment of the Uyghur minority.

Ultimately, Japan, considers the need to act, in offering asylum to Uyghurs, setting targeted sanctions on abusive officials and banning PPE and cotton produced with forced Uyghur labour. Despite the pandemic putting extra strain on the global availability of PPE such as mouth masks and Surgical gloves, Japan cannot accept human rights violations associated with production of these items. In addition, Japan will call on its national fashion industry and on any fashion company exporting their goods to Japan, to source their cotton ethically. If required, import restrictions may be applied to prevent contaminated products from entering our country.

Japan is of the opinion that other delegations should speak up, too. China's regime is not impervious to shame. If it were proud of its harsh actions in Xinjiang, it would not try to hide them. Nor would it lean on smaller, dependent countries to sign statements endorsing its policies there.

China and Japan share a long history of trade, cultural exchange, religion, writing system, architecture, law, and philosophy. Since 1860, Japan and China have been trading partners. And it would like to continue this fruitful relationship with China in the coming years. However, it cannot accept the ongoing human rights violations.

***Question of: Establishing a coordinated response.***

The persecution of minorities is a crime against humanity. Evidence is appearing proving that the Chinese government entails the forced transfer of people, the imprisonment of an identifiable, ethnic minority group and the disappearance of individuals. Systematically imposed by a government, this is the most extensive violation in the world today of the principle that individuals have a right to liberty and dignity simply because they are people.

The persecution of the Uyghurs is a crime against humanity: it entails the forced transfer of people, the imprisonment of an identifiable group and the disappearance of individuals. Systematically imposed by a government, it is the most extensive violation in the world today of the principle that individuals have a right to liberty and dignity simply because they are people.

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Over the past years, China's economy has flourished and the Communist Party's power is largely endorsed and legitimized by China's economic progress and the welfare increase that its citizens have experienced. Any strong breach in this economic progress will likely undermine the Party's legitimacy.

A joint economic response by China's main trade partners, will not only demonstrate a strong, global condemnation of the injustice affecting the oppressed minorities in Xinjiang and the Chinese people, it will also impact the ruling CCP Party in its vulnerability: the support of the Chinese people.

## Malaysia

The issue of the persecution of the ethnic minority that are the Uyghur Muslims in China, Xinjiangs, is an issue that Malaysia, its representatives, and people deem as of the utmost importance – in light of the experiences Malaysia has faced as a country in handling its cultural differences (61.3% Muslims, 19.8% Buddhists, 9.2% Christians, 6.3% Hindus and 1.3% Others). Not only does Malaysia believe this issue needs to be carefully examined in order to boost international success and relations, Malaysia is actively working towards religious freedom and understanding of all ethnic groups (as stated by our constitution: “Islam is the religion of our federation, but other religions may be practiced in peace and harmony”), as well as condemning all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism. These acts, however, should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation, or ethnic group.

## I. Establishing a coordinated International response to the Issue of Uyghur Muslims in China

The oppression of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, an autonomous territory in Northwest China, as reported by numerous credible sources, has led to the detainment of over a million Uyghurs and “re-education” for at least two million. The violation of the human rights of the Uyghur people (accusations made by reports from the Human Rights Watch last September) is something that Malaysia, a country wherein the protection of basic human rights is enshrined in its constitution, cannot accept. Although Malaysia wishes to remain on good terms with China, Malaysia must also prevent the alienation of its own population. Saiffudin Abdullah, Malaysia’s foreign Minister, said in a statement: “Malaysia will neither blindly support any reports provided by the Chinese government nor openly criticize China.” In 2018, then-premier Mahathir Mohamad’s decision to release 11 Uyghurs was strongly opposed by Beijing, however Mahathir said the men had “done nothing wrong.” Last year, Malaysia announced a partnership with an international institute (ISTAC – the Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization). Hundreds of people marched to the Chinese embassy in Kuala Lumpur last year, demanding an end to the oppression, and Mohd Asri bin Zainul Abidin (an influential Islamic preacher and jurist) strongly encourages nations of the Muslim world to exert economic pressure on China for its treatment of the Uyghurs by boycotting Chinese products.

Malaysia strongly believes that in order to resolve the Uyghur Muslim issue in China, immediate action must be taken. Malaysia holds itself accountable for not having taken action beforehand due to the fears of economic and political reprisal from China and for actions taken by representatives of the Malaysian government (such as Mujahid Yusof Rawa’s comments on Muslim oppression in China being “Fake news” and calling Uyghur internment camps “training centers”). Although Malaysia recognizes its good relations with China (Both being members of APEC – Asia – Pacific Economic cooperation promoting free trade throughout the region, being members of ASEAN supporting intergovernmental cooperation and Malaysia’s encouragement of the OBOR or One Belt One Road initiative which is a global infrastructure development strategy), it cannot remain unbiased on the present issue and must hold this nation accountable for its actions.

Firstly, Malaysia has agreed they will not extradite any Uyghur Muslims to China (as declared by minister in the prime minister’s department Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof in a written parliamentary reply) and will grant safe passage to other countries if they feel their safety is in danger. South East Asia being an important transit point for Uyghur Muslims, when attempting to escape the oppression by the Chinese government, any Uyghur Muslims will be given protection even if there is a request from the people’s republic of China. As mentioned previously, the Malaysian government has appointed the ISTAC and, the

Malaysian bar council even pointed out the repression facing Uyghurs in China. Malaysia's government has also been seen taking measures against

the mistreatment of Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar and have supported the Palestinians in the Middle East, showing how vocal and willing Malaysia is to implement change for the better.

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## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asian

### **Issue: Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and manufacturing of PPE**

#### **I/ Background Information United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

On August 9th 1973 was established in order to fulfil the Social Council's Resolution 1818 (LV) resolution. The current headquarters locations are in Beirut, Lebanon. The purpose of this commission was to incentivise and stimulate economic and social development, strengthen cooperation and promote overall development between member states. The current

member states of this organisation are Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The main objectives of this commission are; to support economic and social development; promote interaction between member countries; to encourage the exchange of experience, best practice and lessons learned; achieve regional integration and ensure interaction between Western Asia and other regions and finally, to raise global awareness for the circumstances and needs of member states. The commission operates under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). They work closely with the divisions of the Headquarters in New York and United Nations specialized agencies, as well as with international and regional organizations. Some of its regional partners include the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

## **II/Past Actions and Achieves of ESCWA on this issue:**

### **A.Treatment of Muslims in Xinjiang**

Since ESCWA operates under the UN ECOSOC, it participated in raising the question of Uyghur Muslims in March 2021. The questions were mainly concerning poor human rights practices in Xinjiang specifically with forced labour, coerced family planning and also discrimination based on religion and ethnicity.

### **B.The question of forced labour**

One of this organization's fundamental purposes includes economic cooperation between its member countries. ESCWA regularly gets involved with intergovernmental organisations within the League of Arab Nations and the Middle East as a whole. This is to ensure gender equality and as well as make sure that forced labour is not taking place. ESCWA has condemned forced labour and even though it is currently focused on forced labour within member nations, this organisation is still strongly against it and will follow the orders of UN ECOSOC.

### **C.Manufacturing of PPE in Xinjiang**

Due to the exploitative nature of Uyghur muslims, during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Egypt and other members of ESCWA have created a temporary ban on PPE products from China and temporality traded amongst themselves.

### **D.Cotton collection and exploitation**

Cotton and commercial trade between China and ESCWA members have decreased over recent years however, there is still an energy trade partnership on which the deal is primarily based on [Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)]

### **III/Proposals/aims the country or organization would like to achieve on the guiding issues during the conference**

#### *A.Manufacturing of PPE in Xinjiang*

- Trade amongst other member nations
- Conduct further studies into where things are coming from (like the Australian report)
- Impose some sanctions that will be detrimental for the Chinese government

#### *B.The question of forced labour*

- Public condemnation from national officials
- Further investigation on the basis of international labour laws
- Further intervention by UN ECOSOC

#### *C. The treatment of Uyghur Muslims*

- Willingness to accept/provide refugees by ESCWA member nations
- Encouragement for all ECOSOC and UN member nations to do the same
- Funding an official investigation to uncover the full extent

#### *D.Cotton collection and exploitation*

- Provide more technological support for the Xinjiang region directly to harvest cotton

- A establish a similar relationship to the of the BRI for cotton trading with slave free countries
- Encourage fashion and cotton using countries to move find different suppliers with the subsidising from their governments.

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**Advisory Panel on the Question of Uyghur Muslims in China (APQUMC)**

## **BELGIUM**

### **I/ Background information on Belgium**

The Kingdom of Belgium is one of the most important countries in northwestern Europe. Since its independence from the Netherlands in 1830, Belgium has been a democracy headed by a constitutional monarchy. Today, the country is ruled by the Head of Government, Prime Minister Alexander de Croo, and the Head of State, King Philippe. Belgium is viewed as one of the main powers in diplomacy. For over seventy years, the Belgian capital of Brussels has served as the location for the headquarters of various international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

Belgium, which is one of the most densely populated countries on the planet, accepts and respects all religions and cultures. Belgium is a secular nation that has no official religion. Within the national territory, there are various Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim communities, who are all viewed equally by the eyes of the law.

Belgium has always been one of the main economic references in Europe. This is because, being a member to many continental treaties and organizations, Belgium's economy is almost always linked to that of Europe as a whole. Belgium also has a very strong and intricate transport system. This, in combination with its large industry, allows Belgium to be the fifteenth largest trading nation on the planet. Most of Belgium's imports consist of raw materials, raw diamonds, pharmaceuticals, oil products, among others. Its main exports are chemicals, machinery and equipment, finished diamonds, and metals. Belgium's main trade partners are Germany, France and the Netherlands, within the EU, and the United Kingdom and the United States overseas.

Being one of the United Nations founding members and a proud signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Belgium is a firm protector of human dignity, democracy, freedom, and human rights. Therefore, Belgium will always be completely against any sort of genocide, crimes against humanities, and violations to the human rights specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## **II/ Past achievements and attempts of Belgium on the issues**

Since the disappearance of the family of Belgian Uyghur Mr. Abdull Tursun in the territory of Xinjiang in 2019, Belgium has been actively involved in processes involving the questions of the Uyghur population in the People's Republic of China. Because of this, the Belgian government strongly supports the Belgian Uyghur Association and is now a member of the World Uyghur

Congress (WUC). In addition, the Belgian Parliament's External Affairs Commission held a hearing to discuss these issues. During this, people directly involved in the conflict, namely Qelbinur Sidik, a former camp teacher, and Koen Stoop, WUC's EU Policy coordinator, were able to speak. On June 15, 2021, soon after the hearings were concluded, the Belgian parliament passed a joint motion officially recognizing crimes against humanity and genocide as being perpetrated against the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, becoming the sixth parliament in doing so. Amongst the series of actions called for in the joint motion, were those of terminating the bilateral extradition treaty with China and blocking the ratification of the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement in Investment, which had been previously frozen.

### **III/ Objectives, aims and possible solutions posed by Belgium on the issue**

Belgium seeks nothing more than being a leading role in the efforts to end the human rights violations taking place in the Xinjiang region, preferably by diplomatic means. In order to do so, Belgium has come up with various possible solutions, most of which are mentioned in the Belgian Parliament's joint motion of June fifteen. Some of this proposals are:

- Belgium would encourage countries with a similar mindset to collaborate in attempts to ask China to grant meaningful access to the Xinjiang region to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or the European Union.
- Invite other UN countries to sign the two written letters aiming to raise awareness for the Uyghurs issue and to move the file forward.
- Encourage the People's Republic of China to ratify the instruments of international law to which it is not yet a party of.
- Encourage the topic to be taken to and discussed by the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
- Belgium will also continue to support the team of experts previously appointed by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Philippe Goffin, to constantly monitor the situation in China.
- Finds it important that nations give government funding and support to organizations specifically designed to solve this issue, like the WUC or the Belgian

Uyghur Organization.

- Invite nations to follow Belgium's example and cancel or freeze trade relations with China as much as possible.

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## Nepal

### 1. What is my country's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?

Although Nepal has not made it clear exactly what the stance on the Crisis is, it can be inferred that Nepal has a relatively neutral stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China. Nepal is dependent on China for a lot of economic ties and investments and therefore is not one of the main countries condemning the actions of the Chinese government. Although, Nepal does not support the alleged way that the Uyghurs are treated due to the direct infringement on the rights of these people.

### 2. What is my country's relationship with the Chinese government?

China plays a major role in the development of Nepal through foreign direct investments, is responsible for approximately 90% of them, and also through the belt and road initiative for building highways and airports in Nepal helping them to create trade routes and to increase development. Nepal also subscribes to the one china policy.

China provided support during the aftermath of the earthquake in 2015 and sent medical aid. It also took up the sale of fuel to Nepal after India blocked the trade routes in 2015 for five months which saved the Nepalese economy. Prior to 2015, Nepal had been very dependent on India as the source of economic support, but after the debacle with the trade routes in 2015 Nepal has been gaining this support from both India and China. The influence that China has over Nepal has grown immensely, partly through the increase in leverage that Beijing has over Nepal due to the large trade deficit between the two countries. As part of diplomatic relations between the two governments, they signed agreements such as transit protocol and free trade agreements as well as creating the possibility for Nepal to have access to multiple land and seaports.

However, in January 2020 during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, China limited the amount of produce that goes through the two main trade routes between the two countries

to 5% of what it was prior to the pandemic. It has used the threat of the coronavirus as the excuse but has kept the trade limited even after the easing of lockdown and the spread of the vaccines. The Nepalese government has condemned the Chinese government for these actions but nothing has changed as of yet. China did however provide 1.6 million doses of the vaccine to the Nepalese government as aid during the pandemic.

3. Is my country party to any international agreements that concern this or similar issues?

Nepal has signed many international agreements that relate to human rights and the use of torture or degrading techniques. Nepal signed the universal declaration of human rights in 1990. It has also ratified treaties, including the convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the international covenant on civil and political rights, the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, and the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide. All of these relate to the issue of the Uyghur Muslims in China as the alleged actions go against the majority of these treaties should they prove to be true.

4. Has my country taken any steps towards solving this issue? If not, what are some potential solutions I could propose or support?

No, due to the issues mentioned above with economic and diplomatic relations with China they have yet to take any steps towards solving this issue. There are some groups in the country that disagree with the treatment evident in China as some protests were held in Kathmandu by the Muslim population in Nepal. The protesters asked for a UN fact-finding mission to be sent to China. This may be a solution that Nepal could support as it isn't directly stating that China is at fault but allowing for them to prove the true intentions behind the camps and the alleged treatment of the Uyghur Muslims. I think the solutions that Nepal could support would depend largely on what the fact-finding mission was to find. Although, they are unlikely to support actions that are too aggressive or direct due to the importance of the Chinese influence in Nepal and are likely to stay neutral to the issue.

## Saudi Arabia

### *Question of: Establishing a coordinated response*

Saudia Arabia has signed the letter to the UNHRC defending China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang region. The relationship between Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China has not always been strong. In 1975, Saudi Arabia refused to recognise the People's Republic of China as a country, despite the desire of the People's Republic of China to build relationships and accept Saudi Arabia's policies. Later, on July 21th 1990, Prince Bandar Bin Suldan, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States

paid a visit to Beijing with an agreement to establish diplomatic relations. A few days later, diplomatic relations were established in Riyadh. At this point, Saudi Arabia ended over forty years of diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

### *The trade structure between Saudi Arabia and China*

Oil is said to be the origin of the relationship, while Saudi Arabia has long depended on China for arms sales, including weapons it could not buy anywhere else. Currently, China and Saudi Arabia are close and strategic allies and the relationship is becoming significantly warmer. A lot of the oil from Saudi Arabia gets exported to Asia, especially to China as King Abdullah adopted a pro-Asian, "look east" trade policy, with more than half of Saudi oil going to Asia. In recent years, China and Saudi Arabia have strengthened cooperation in the energy and financial sectors, the One Belt One Road initiative, and have signed numerous agreements in various areas. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman also hinted that China could strengthen its diplomatic presence in the Middle East while declaring that "Saudi Arabia is ready to work hard with China for global and regional peace, security and promote prosperity. It is likely that this relationship will remain strong in the future.

Saudi Arabia, together with almost every country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (the UAE, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain) has signed the pro-China letter for a lot of important reasons. The ongoing Belt and Road Initiative is very important to Saudi Arabia, as it is with the whole relationship with China. As said, Saudi Arabia depends on China as a big part of the economy and also military bonds. This is why we think it is better to support China to reeducate a small group of people instead of threatening China and risking the emergence of a significantly bigger problem.

Saudi Arabia recognises it is very difficult to create a solution every country will agree with, especially China. It is of great importance to maintain good relationships with China to maintain peace. This is why it is crucial to let China involve in the discussion and respect their decisions, for example not having signed the Rome Statute.

Saudi Arabia wants to remind every delegation that with the grave challenge of terrorism and extremism, China has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism and radicalisation measures in Xinjiang, including setting up vocational education and training centres. We are concerned about the status of muslims everywhere in the world but we support China's actions against terrorism and extremism and the politicisation of human rights. We also support its developmental policies that have lifted people out of poverty. This is why it is of great importance that China gets support to fulfil their goal of banishing terrorism and extremism.

Saudi Arabia also expresses its concern of western countries pressing China to stop reducing chaos and terrorism. This may lead to heavy conflicts where not needed. China is an important country and should not be treated harshly because this will cause serious conflicts.

***Question of: Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and manufacturing of PPE***

Saudi Arabia recognises this has to be a very serious issue for which a simple solution is not enough seeing as it has not been resolved yet. It is an issue that has to be discussed about by every country and has to be thought about thoroughly. This is because worldwide action has to take place and every factory and brand has to be checked on any actions against Uyghurs.

As can be seen on the image, there is a high amount of cotton fields in the region of Xinjiang. This is also the place where terrorism and extremism is being fought against by the Chinese government. This however does not indicate any forced labor and does not have to mean anything horrible.

China should not be able to provide so much from this work of the Uyghurs, if it is forced or not. It is important that China is held accountable but also to maintain a good relationship. Risking the relationships with China may cause more problems and could lead to a global conflict. It is of great importance that negotiation is held respectfully and that China remains happy with what comes out of all the negotiation. The difficulty of the issue is that not every country and factory has the money to check or to be checked on their actions.

It goes against privacy laws and is maybe even unnecessary seeing as the Uyghurs are a small group of the worldwide population. There also is not much evidence if there even is a violation on the rights of Uyghur Muslims in the industry in Xinjiang.

It is important that transparency is achieved and that brands and factories are being held accountable when evidence is found of forced labour against Muslim Uyghurs. This however is difficult because a majority of the time evidence is being withheld by the company or brand.

Saudi Arabia once again expresses the importance of treating China well and respected and value their decisions and laws as they set an example for the fight against terrorism and extremism for every country.

# KUWAIT

## **I/Background information on Kuwait**

The State of Kuwait is an emirate located in the Arabian Peninsula, Western Asia. The country shares borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia as well as having a coast to the Persian Gulf. Kuwait is a constitutional monarchy ruled by the Al Sabah family and as of 2020, the Emir is

Currently the population is 4.67 million of which, two thirds are foreign nationals (expatriates).

Kuwait is one of the richest countries in terms of GDP per capita and its economy is largely based on oil exports followed by aircrafts/spacecrafts. The country is also advanced in terms of steel manufacturing, domestic needs regarding steel are satisfied by the local industry. Oil industry plays a huge role in the country's economy, it makes up almost half of Kuwait's GDP. In 1976, the oil industry has been fully nationalised, and the oil companies in Kuwait are government-owned. Oil industry is, therefore, controlled by the government, consequently government controls most of the economy.

Nevertheless, the range in economic sectors are limited and in the face of a crisis Kuwait's economy is usually shaken. For instance, the price fall of oil in 2020 had a large economic impact on Kuwait. This issue in economic diversity in Kuwait had been already identified over a decade ago when Kuwait initiated a national development plan called Kuwait Vision 2035 in 2010. It aimed to diversify the economy and encourage investments to entrepreneurs and small businesses. One of the sectors that Kuwait aims to grow is science and technology. The country has been investing in scientific research and initiating programmes to increase the number of patents and papers published.

A clear example of this would be the Belt and Road Initiative which was originally launched by China to increase economic activity and cooperation with Western Asian countries. The project consists of several smaller plans such as Al Mutlaa City or Mubarak Al Kabeer Port that led to improvements in economic relations between Kuwait and China. The quota for China's investments has been set to \$1 billion in 2013 and China is Kuwait's biggest trade partner since 2016. Apart from Kuwait's oil export to China, these projects required China to invest in other sectors besides energy. China and Kuwait signed an agreement in 2018 that strengthened cooperation in defence industry between the two countries. Jaber Al-Sabah. The official religion in Kuwait is Maliki Sunni Islam, however the system is secular in Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-terms of legislation, education, etc. Majority of the population is Muslim although there are other religions present such as Christianity or Hinduism.

## **II/ Past achievements and attempts of Kuwait on the issues**

A. Establishing a coordinated response

- In 2018, 12 diplomats from different countries had a chance to visit Xinjiang and see the vocational education and training centres. Kuwait was one of those countries and this trip demonstrated that there was no concrete evidence of human rights violations. Kuwait's stance on the issue was solidified when it was made clear by this visit that China's sole intention is to assure social harmony.
- Besides, Kuwait has made attempts to cooperate with other countries and discuss the issue in question. In 2019, a response letter was written during a Human Rights Council session, addressed to countries that wrote a separate letter condemning China's actions. Kuwait, alongside 50 countries, stated its stance in the face of this Western attempt of slander. The response letter points out to the damage caused by separatism, terrorism and religious extremism and admires China's efforts for preserving safety and security in Xinjiang.

#### B. Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and the manufacturing of PPE

- Regarding Uyghur Muslims' rights in industry, Kuwait, unlike Western countries such as USA or UK, refused to impose sanctions on the officials or bans on the products. Kuwait maintains its endorsing stance towards China and China's actions.
- A trading agreement made in 2018 confirmed a strategic partnership between Kuwait and China. The agreement encompasses mutual economic alliance as well as cultivating political trust. This political move implies that Kuwait will support China, if necessary, in international issues such as the one in question, in order to ensure sovereignty and territorial integrity of China.

### **III/Objectives, aims and possible solutions proposed by Kuwait on the issues**

#### A. Establishing a coordinated response

- The ideal solution would be to carry out a coordinated response that avoids intervention to China's internal affairs. Any intervention would compromise China's sovereignty and internal peace. Nevertheless, Kuwait acknowledges that there might be countries who might refuse to settle with a passive position which suggests that the process is likely to go less smoothly.
- The previous alternative can be reinforced by a planned visit for diplomats from several countries to the vocational education and training centres. A similar trip has already been done in 2018 and Kuwait was one of the participants. The visiting

diplomats can confirm that the rights of Uyghur Muslims are respected which would serve as a justification for halting any international intervention.

B. Ensuring the rights of Uyghur Muslims in industry in Xinjiang, specifically the cotton industry and the manufacturing of PPE

- A possible way of solving the issue would be to request China to sign a statement which clarifies that there are no violations of Uyghur Muslims' human rights in Xinjiang. Once the statement is made official, countries that previously imposed sanctions and/or bans should withdraw them.

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# Netherlands

## 1. What is my country's stance on the Uyghur Crisis in China?

The Netherlands has taken a stance of condemning the Uyghur Crisis in China. In 2019, the UN ambassador of the Netherlands signed a joint letter to the UNHRC condemning the treatment of the Uyghur minority and urged the Chinese Government to close the re-education camps in Xinjiang. In addition, the Netherlands was the first country in Europe to release a statement that the treatment of the Uyghur minority in China amounts to genocide in February 2021. Although this was a non-binding motion, it was still a crucial move taken by the Dutch Parliament to declare the treatment of the Uyghur Crisis as “genocide”. Some in the parliament, such as Sjoerd Sjoerdam of D66, has stated “what is going on in Xinjiang involves terrible abuses against the Uyghur Muslim minority, and we should not mince words and call it genocide”. This statement by Sjoerdam was supported by a majority of the parliament and believes that China's actions fall under UN resolution 260, or the genocide convention.

However, despite the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stef Blok agreed that there are large-scale human rights violations happening in China, the cabinet of the Netherlands did not want to use the word genocide until the UN, or the International Criminal Court have ruled on the matter.

## 2. Relationship of the Netherlands with the Chinese government

The bilateral relations between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Netherlands began in 1954. However, because the Netherlands supported the Republic of China based in Taiwan in 1981, there were some tensions between PRC and the Netherlands. As a result, the bilateral relationship was downgraded to the level of Charge d'affaires. Nonetheless, the diplomatic relation was fully restored when the Netherlands agreed not to conduct trade in relation to defense hardware with the ROC.

The Netherlands and the PRC enjoy a relatively strong economic tie, as the Netherlands is often considered to be the “gateway” of Europe possessing the port in Rotterdam. The Netherlands is one of the largest trading partners with China within the EU. Chinese exports

to the Netherlands include goods such as textiles, furniture, mechanical and electrical products, and plastics. Dutch exports to China include goods such as beverages, minerals and chemical products.

On a side note, there have been multiple state visits by high-ranking Chinese officials to the Netherlands, such as Xi Jinping, the paramount leader of China and Li Keqiang, the premier of China.

However, with the Netherlands releasing a statement that condemned China's actions in Xinjiang concerning the Uyghur minority, the bilateral relations worsened in recent years. The Chinese embassy in the Netherlands has responded to the statement released by the Dutch parliament saying that there is no genocide in the Netherlands, and that any interference with China's internal affairs

### 3. Has NL signed any international agreements that concerns human rights violation

The Netherlands is a party to international human rights agreements with many deriving from the Universal Declaration of Human rights. The Netherlands has signed and ratified human rights agreements ranging from the international Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Social Charter.

### 4. Potential solutions/what NL had done to solve the issue

Aforementioned, the Netherlands has sent a joined letter to the UNHRC, urging China to close the re-education camps. The Netherlands has also passed a non-binding motion calling the Uyghur treatment by the Chinese Government, a "genocide".