



Submission No 20

Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogue Process

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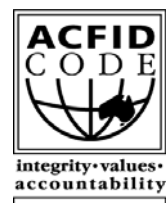


AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL
FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO Australia's Human Rights Dialogue Process

**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE,
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DEFENCE AND TRADE**

April 2005



1. European Union Human Rights Dialogue Processes

1.1 Further information on the European Union Guidelines in Human Rights Dialogues

The Council of the European Union (EU) adopted the 'European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues' on 13 December 2001. These guidelines are available in full at http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/doc/ghd12_01.htm and are attached to this submission as Appendix One.

In December 2004 the Council of the EU approved a report on the implementation of the EU guidelines on human rights dialogues with third countries. The report

presents an overview of the different types of EU dialogue on human rights and draws a list of key areas of concern aimed at helping the Union whenever a new human rights dialogue is initiated with a third country¹.

ACFID has been informed by the Council of the EU this report is an internal EU document and is not publicly available². ACFID recommends the JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee request a confidential copy of the Council of EU's report into the implementation of the EU guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues in order to inform the decisions and outcomes of its inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogue Processes.

1.2 EU-China Dialogue Seminars

ACFID highlights for the Human Rights Sub-Committee the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue Seminars, coordinated twice yearly by the 'EU-China Human Rights Network' on behalf of the European Commission, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of the European Union.

Topics of discussion at the seminars have included 'Right to Health', 'Right to Social Security', 'Gender and Law', 'Prevention of Torture, and National Human Rights Institutions' and 'Capacity-building of NGOs, and 'Judicial Guarantees of Human Rights'. The outcomes and recommendations of the Dialogue Seminars aim towards 'contributing to a more practical and concrete focus in the formal dialogue process'³. Reports and findings of seminars are published in full and further information is available at <http://www.eu-china-humanrights.org/welcome/page0.php>

ACFID recommends that Australia draw on the outcomes of the EU-China seminars in order to better inform the topics and discussions of its own human rights dialogues with China. ACFID also

¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/gac.htm#hr131204 accessed Tuesday 26 April 2005.

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³ EU-China Human Rights Network, <http://www.eu-china-humanrights.org/news/page0.php> accessed Tuesday 26 April 2005.

recommends Australia consider feasibility of holding similar seminars with its other dialogue partner countries Iran and Viet Nam

1.3 Benchmarks used by the European Union in their human rights dialogues

In January 2001 the European Council made public the benchmarks for assessment of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogues. These are⁴:

- a. Ratification and implementation of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- b. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms (including accepting visits from the Special Rapporteur on Torture, providing invitations to other Special Rapporteurs, following up recommendations from human rights mechanisms and rapporteurs and implementing the agreement with the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights)
- c. Compliance with the Economic and Social Council guarantees for the protection of those sentenced to death and provision of statistics on the use of the death penalty
- d. Reform of administrative detention, introduction of judicial supervision of procedures, respect for the right to a fair trial and the right of the defence
- e. Respect for fundamental rights of all prisoners, progress on access to prisoners and constructive response to individual cases raised by the EU
- f. Freedom of religion and belief, both public and private
- g. Respect for the right to organise
- h. Respect for cultural rights and religious freedoms in Tibet and Xinjian, taking account of the recommendations of the UN treaty bodies, halt 'patriotic education' campaign in Tibet, access for an independent delegation to the young Panchen Lama who has been recognised by the Dalai Lama

In a contribution to the EU's own assessment of its human rights dialogues with China, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and Human Rights in China (HRIC) recently provided the EU with an independent assessment of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue⁵.

As part of their report to the EU, FIDH and HRIC identified corresponding human rights indicators for each EU-China Human Rights Dialogue benchmark, to be used in assessing progress in human rights standards in China (Appendix Two). These indicators include universally accepted UN tools such as the Human Development Indicator (UNDP), and Gender Related Development Index (UNDP), as well as other indicators such as the Worldwide Press Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders).

ACFID recommends Australia's Bilateral Human Rights Dialogues adopt a similar range of benchmarks and assessment indicators as those laid out by the FIDH and HRIC in order to monitor progress in the improvement of human rights in each of Australia's human rights dialogue partner countries.

Preliminary assessments of the human rights situation in China, Iran and Viet Nam should be established before each Australia Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue commences. Following dialogues, an assessment of human rights issues based on the application of indicators such as those suggested by FIDH and HRIC would provide insight into the progress, or lack thereof, towards greater protection of human rights standards in the respect countries.

⁴ FIDH/Human Rights in China Preliminary Assessment of EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, February 2004, <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/cn2502a.pdf>

⁵ FIDH/Human Rights in China Preliminary Assessment of EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, February 2004, <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/cn2502a.pdf>

There are numerous factors that will contribute to the enhancement of human rights in any given country, and ACFID recognises the complexities in linking human rights dialogues with tangible outcomes. Establishing benchmarks and indicators for Australia's human rights dialogues is an area where ACFID recommends close coordination with other states engaged in human rights dialogues. Similarly, more effective coordination and information sharing should be developed with the UN and its human rights mechanisms.

2 ACFID engagement with NGOs in Iran in order to provide feedback or reflection on the first [Australia-Iran Human Rights] Dialogue

The ACFID secretariat does not have direct contact with NGOs or civil society in Iran. Relatively few (less than five) ACFID member agencies have direct development programs in Iran. It has not been possible for ACFID to obtain a view from NGOs in Iran on the value of Australia's Human Rights Dialogue with Iran.

ACFID does note the widely accepted view from governments and NGOs observing Iran that the general human rights situation in Iran is now worse than in recent years⁶. Civil society and NGO activists have been increasingly targeted when speaking out on human rights issues. There are serious restrictions on freedom of expression in Iran that make it difficult for any NGO in Iran to publicly express a view on bilateral human rights dialogues. Iranian organisations that have been involved in human rights advocacy (and would be in a position to comment and reflect on perceived value of Australia's human rights dialogues with Iran) have increasingly found work conditions in Iran untenable. For example, the International Consortium for Refugees in Iran (ICRI), operating since 1993 in Iran was forced to cease operations in August 2004 due to obstacles in securing permits for their operations. The ICRI had assisted in capacity building and advocacy for local organisations.

⁶ Refer to sources such as US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Iran, released on 28 February 2005 (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41721.htm>), Amnesty International Annual Report 2004.

European Union guidelines on Human rights dialogues

Council of the EU - 13 December 2001

1. Introduction

In its conclusions of 25 June 2001 the Council welcomed the Commission communication of 8 May 2001 on the European Union's role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries, which represents an invaluable contribution towards strengthening the coherence and consistency of the EU's policy on human rights and democratisation. In its conclusions the Council reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of coherence and consistency, integration of human rights into all its actions, openness of its policies and identification of priority areas. As part of the process of implementing those Council conclusions, the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) undertook to establish guidelines on human rights dialogues in consultation with the geographical working parties, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. Current situation

The European Union is engaged in human rights dialogues with a number of countries. Those dialogues are in themselves an instrument of the Union's external policy. That instrument is one of a range of measures which the EU may use to implement its policy on human rights, and constitutes an essential part of the European Union's overall strategy aimed at promoting sustainable development, peace and stability. However, there are at present no rules to determine at what point it should be applied. It should also be said that there is room for greater consistency in the EU's current approach towards dialogues, which at present employs several different types:

2.1. dialogues or discussions of a rather general nature based on regional or bilateral treaties, agreements or conventions dealing systematically with the issue of human rights. These include in particular:

2.1.1. relations with candidate countries;

2.1.2. the Cotonou Agreement with the ACP States and the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement with South Africa;

2.1.3. relations between the EU and Latin America;

2.1.4. the Barcelona process (Mediterranean countries);

2.1.5. political dialogue with Asian countries in the context of ASEAN and ASEM;

2.1.6. relations with the Western Balkans;

2.1.7. bilateral relations in the framework of association and cooperation agreements.

2.2. dialogues focusing exclusively on human rights. At present there is only one regular, institutionalised dialogue devoted solely to human rights between the European Union and a third country, namely that with China. This is a highly structured dialogue held at the level of senior human rights officials. At one time the European Union also maintained a human rights dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This type of dialogue, focusing solely on human rights, has so far only been used with countries with which the European Community had no agreement and/or where the

agreement contained no "human rights" clause. The fact that such dialogue exists does not preclude discussion of the human rights issue at any level of the political dialogue;

2.3. *ad hoc* dialogues extending to CFSP-related topics such as that of human rights. For instance, the EU currently maintains dialogues with Cuba and Sudan at the level of heads of mission;

2.4. dialogues in the context of special relations with certain third countries, on the basis of broadly converging views. With the United States, Canada and the associated countries these take the form of six-monthly meetings of experts, with the Troika representing the EU, before the Commission on Human Rights and the annual United Nations General Assembly. The main objective of these dialogues is to discuss issues of common interest and the possibilities for cooperation within multilateral human rights bodies.

In addition to dialogues at EU level, a number of Member States also maintain dialogues with various third countries at national level.

The guidelines on human rights dialogues would have several aims, namely to:

- identify the role played by this instrument in the global framework of the CFSP and the EU's policy on human rights;
- strengthen the coherence and consistency of the European Union's approach towards human rights dialogues;
- facilitate use of that instrument by defining the conditions in which it is to be applied and made effective;
- notify third parties (international organisations, non-governmental organisations, the academic world, the European Parliament, third countries) of this approach.

Political dialogues with the ACP countries under the Cotonou Agreement have their own detailed arrangements and procedures as laid down in Article 8 of the Agreement. However, for consistency's sake, exchanges of news and experience will be held on a regular basis in the COHOM Working Party framework.

3. Basic principles

3.1. The European Union undertakes to intensify the process of integrating human rights and democratisation objectives ("mainstreaming") into all aspects of its external policies. Accordingly, the EU will ensure that the issue of human rights, democracy and the rule of law will be included in all future meetings and discussions with third countries and at all levels, whether ministerial talks, joint committee meetings or formal dialogues led by the Presidency of the Council, the Troika, heads of mission or the Commission. It will further ensure that the issue of human rights, democracy and the rule of law is included in programming discussions and in country strategy papers.

3.2. However, in order to examine human rights issues in greater depth, the European Union may decide to initiate a human rights-specific dialogue with a particular third country. Decisions of that kind will be taken in accordance with certain criteria, while maintaining the degree of pragmatism and flexibility required for such a task. Either the EU itself will take the initiative of suggesting a dialogue with a third country, or it will respond to a request by a third country.

4. Objectives of human rights dialogues

The objectives of human rights dialogues will vary from one country to another and will be defined on a case-by-case basis. These objectives may include:

- (a) discussing questions of mutual interest and enhancing cooperation on human rights *inter alia*, in multinational fora such as the United Nations;
- (b) registering the concern felt by the EU at the human rights situation in the country concerned, information gathering and endeavouring to improve the human rights situation in that country.

Moreover, human rights dialogues can identify at an early stage problems likely to lead to conflict in the future.

5. Issues covered in human rights dialogues

The issues to be discussed during human rights dialogues will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, the European Union is committed to dealing with those priority issues which should be included on the agenda for every dialogue. These include the signing, ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments, cooperation with international human rights procedures and mechanisms, combating the death penalty, combating torture, combating all forms of discrimination, children's rights, women's rights, freedom of expression, the role of civil society, international cooperation in the field of justice, promotion of the processes of democratisation and good governance, and the prevention of conflict. The dialogues aimed at enhancing human rights cooperation could also include – according to the circumstances – some of the priority issues referred to above, (in particular the implementation of the main international human rights instruments ratified by the other party), as well as preparing and following up the work of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York and of international and/or regional conferences.

6. Procedure for the initiation of human rights dialogues

6.1. Any decision to initiate a human rights dialogue will first require an assessment of the human rights situation in the country concerned. The decision to embark on a preliminary assessment will be made by the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM), together with the geographical working parties, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The assessment itself will be made by COHOM in coordination with the other Working Parties. Amongst other things the assessment will look at developments in the human rights situation, the extent to which the government is willing to improve the situation, the degree of commitment shown by the government in respect of international human rights conventions, the government's readiness to cooperate with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms as well as the government's attitude towards civil society. The assessment will be based, *inter alia*, on the following sources: reports by heads of mission, reports by the UN and other international or regional organisations, reports by the European Parliament and by the various non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights, and Commission strategy papers for the countries concerned.

6.2. Any decision to initiate a human rights dialogue will first require the defining of the practical aims which the Union seeks to achieve by initiating dialogue with the country concerned, as well as an assessment of the added value to be gained from such dialogue.

The European Union will also, on a case-by-case basis, establish criteria for measuring the progress achieved in relation to the benchmarks and also criteria for a possible exit strategy.

6.3. Exploratory talks will be held before a human rights dialogue with the country concerned is initiated. The aim of those talks will be twofold: first to define the objectives to be pursued by any country accepting or requesting a human rights dialogue with the EU and to determine possible ways of increasing that country's commitment towards international human rights instruments, international human rights procedures and mechanisms and the promotion and protection of human rights and democratisation in general; and subsequently to update the information in the reports following the preliminary assessment. The talks will also provide an opportunity to explain to the country concerned the principles underlying the EU's action, as well as the Union's aims in proposing or accepting a human rights-specific dialogue. The exploratory talks will preferably be led by an EU Troika team of human rights experts representing the capitals, in close consultation with the Heads of Mission accredited in the country concerned. An assessment of the exploratory talks will then be carried out. The European Union will decide in the light of that assessment whether or not it wishes to continue on a more structured and institutionalised basis.

6.4. Any decision to initiate a human rights-specific dialogue will require discussion within the Working Party on Human Rights and its prior agreement. The final decision to initiate a human rights dialogue lies with the Council of Ministers.

6.5. The geographical working parties, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms should also be involved in this decision-making process.

6.6. Should the assessment be a negative one and/or the European Union decide not to initiate a human rights dialogue, the European Union will consider whether other approaches might be appropriate, such as emphasis on the human rights aspect of the political dialogue with the country concerned, *inter alia* by including specialist human rights knowledge in the political dialogue team.

6.7. The Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) will be responsible for following up the dialogue, where necessary together with the other bodies concerned, viz. the geographical working parties, the Heads of Mission, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. Practical arrangements for human rights dialogues

Flexibility and pragmatism are the keywords in the context of the practical arrangements for human rights dialogues, which should thus be determined on a case-by-case basis, by joint agreement with the country concerned. The arrangements will cover aspects such as where and how often the dialogue is to be held and the level of representation required.

To ensure that the discussions are as fruitful as possible, the dialogues should, as far as feasible, be held at the level of government representatives responsible for human rights. For the sake of continuity, the European Union should be represented by the Troika – at the level either of representatives from the capitals or of Heads of Mission.

The European Union will ensure that dialogue meetings are regularly held in the country concerned. This approach has the advantage of giving the EU delegation a better opportunity to gauge for itself the situation on the spot and, subject to the agreement of the country's authorities, to contact the people and institutions in which it is interested. Traditionally, dialogues whose primary purpose is to discuss issues of mutual interest and to strengthen human rights cooperation are held in Brussels. That tradition should preferably be maintained.

As far as possible, the European Union will ask the authorities of countries involved in the human rights dialogue to include in their delegations representatives of the various institutions and Ministries responsible for human rights matters, such as the Justice and Interior Ministries, the police, prison administration etc. Likewise, civil society could become involved under the most suitable arrangement in the preliminary assessment of the human rights situation, in the conduct of the dialogue itself (particularly by organising meetings with civil society at local level in parallel with the formal dialogue), and in following up and assessing the dialogue. The European Union could thus signify its support for defenders of human rights in countries with which it maintains exchanges of this kind.

The EU will as far as possible give the human rights dialogues a degree of genuine transparency vis-à-vis civil society.

8. Consistency between Member States' bilateral dialogues and EU dialogues

Information exchange is essential if maximum consistency between Member States' bilateral dialogues and EU dialogues is to be ensured. Exchanges of this kind, particularly on the issues discussed and the outcome of discussions, could be conducted by COREU or the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM). The diplomatic post of the current Presidency in the country concerned could also gather relevant information on the spot. Where appropriate, informal *ad hoc* meetings between the members of the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM), the relevant geographical working parties, and the European Parliament could be considered. It would also be possible to consider holding informal *ad hoc* meetings with other countries which maintain human rights dialogues with the country concerned (as in the case of the current dialogue with China). Such meetings should involve the COHOM Working Party, and the geographical working parties or study groups.

The technical assistance afforded by the European Union in the area of human rights and democratisation in the countries with which it maintains a dialogue should take into account developments in the dialogue and its outcome.

9. Consistency between human rights dialogues and EU Resolutions to the UNGA and the CHR.

Human rights dialogues and Resolutions submitted by the European Union to the UNGA or the CHR on the human rights situations in certain countries are two entirely separate forms of action. Accordingly, the fact that there is a human rights dialogue between the EU and a third country will not prevent the EU either from submitting a Resolution on the human rights situation in that country or from providing support for an initiative by the third country. Nor will the fact that there is a human rights dialogue between the EU and a third country prevent the European Union from denouncing breaches of human rights in that country, inter alia in the appropriate international fora, or from raising the matter in meetings with the third countries concerned at every level.

10. Assessing human rights dialogues

All human rights dialogues will be assessed on a regular basis, preferably every year.

The assessment will be made by the current Presidency, assisted by the Council Secretariat, and be submitted for discussion and decision to the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) in cooperation with the geographical working parties, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedom.

Civil society will be involved in this assessment exercise. The task will involve assessing the situation in relation to the objectives which the Union set itself before initiating the dialogue, and will examine how

much added value has been provided by the dialogue. The examination will look particularly closely at the progress made on the priority areas of the dialogue. If progress has indeed been made, the assessment should, if possible, analyse how far the European Union's activities have contributed to that progress. If no progress has been made, the European Union should either adjust its aims, or consider whether or not to continue the human rights dialogue with the country concerned. Indeed, a dialogue assessment must allow for the possibility of a decision to terminate the exercise if the requirements given in these guidelines are no longer met, or the conditions under which the dialogue is conducted are unsatisfactory, or if the outcome is not up to the EU's expectations. Likewise, a decision may be taken to suspend a dialogue which has proved successful and has therefore become redundant. Such matters will be dealt with by the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) as a matter of priority.

As for dialogues aimed at strengthening human rights cooperation, particularly those held within international and regional bodies, the assessment will focus on those areas in which cooperation could be further improved.

11. Managing human rights dialogues

Given the prospect of increasing numbers of dialogues, the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) will have to consider the problem of how these should be managed. Continuity is a very important factor, as is the strengthening of the structures supporting the current Council Presidency in the preparations for the dialogues and their follow-up. To prepare each dialogue properly will also require input from the geographical working parties, the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) and the Committee on measures for the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council Secretariat's support is essential in terms of centralising all the data, preparing both the content and the logistics, and following up the dialogues. The European Union could also consider, on a case-by-case basis, the possibility of associating a private foundation or organisation specialised in the field of human rights with one or more dialogues. In this connection, Sweden's experience (the Wallenberg Institute) in the context of the exploratory talks with North Korea (Brussels, June 2001) could be assessed.

12. The human rights position in political dialogues

As indicated in paragraph 3, the European Union will ensure that the issue of human rights, democracy and the rule of law is incorporated into all meetings and discussions it has with third countries, at every level, including political dialogue. The European Union undertakes to include human rights experts in the EU delegations. The decision on who will provide the expert knowledge will be taken on a case-by-case basis, but with an eye to continuity. Although this type of discussion does not afford the possibility of dealing with human rights issues in any great depth, the European Union will endeavour to raise the priority issues referred to in paragraph 5 with the country concerned.

Appendix Two:

FIDH / HRIC: Integrating EU-China Dialogue Benchmarks and Human Rights Indicators

<http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/cn2502a.pdf>, page 22.

EU Benchmarks	Area of Progress	Indicator of Progress
1. Ratification and implementation of the ICCPR and ICESCR	<p>ICCPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right to life, to be free from torture and slavery, and to liberty and security, • right to freedom of movement, association, thought, religion and expression, • right to equality before the law, to privacy, to equality within marriage, and to the enjoyment of culture. • prohibiting all forms of discrimination <p>ICESCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right to self-determination, • right to gender equality, • right to fair wages and safe working conditions, • right to form or join trade unions, • right to social security, • protection of family, • right to adequate standard of living, • right to housing, • right to health, • right to education, and • right to cultural life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporters Without Borders: World Press Freedom Ranking • Journalists/ Internet activists imprisoned • People imprisoned for their religious beliefs • Imprisoned labor activists • World Bank: Governance Matters III • UNDP Human Development Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDI, GDI, GEM, HPI-1, Gini • Number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS • Access to essential drugs • Illiteracy and primary education enrolment rates (women & migrant children)
2. Cooperation with HR mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of MOU • Visits by Special Rapporteurs • Recommendations and Working Group visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual cases responses • Follow-up and implementation of recommendations and working group visits
3. Compliance with ECOSOC guarantees for the protection of those sentenced to death and provision of statistics on use of the death penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to a Fair Trial • Provision of Death Penalty Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people executed per year • Extensive use of death penalty
4. Reform of administrative detention, introduction of judicial supervision of procedures, respect for the right to a fair trial and the right of the defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of administrative detention • Introduction of due process protections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing recommendations of UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention • Government responses to individual cases • Number of RTL camps • Number of people in RTL camps
5. Respect for fundamental rights of all prisoners, progress on access to prisoners and constructive response to individual cases raised by the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of due process protections • Access to prisoners • Responses to individual cases that provide specific and relevant information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing regulations • Number of political prisoners • Government responses to individual cases
6. Freedom of religion and belief, both public and private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing space for independent churches and civil society groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number imprisoned for religious beliefs • Number of Falungong practitioners' deaths related to police custody, torture and beatings
7. Respect for the right to organise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing the existence of independent unions while reversing China's declaration regarding the ICESCR 8.1(a) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing independent trade unions • Number of imprisoned labor activists • Assessing labor union regulations
8. Respect for cultural rights and religious freedoms in Tibet and Xinjiang, taking account of the recommendations of the UN treaty bodies, halt "patriotic education" campaign in Tibet, access for an independent delegation to young Panchen lama who has been recognized by the Dalai Lama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending patriotic education in Tibet • Allowing education in Uigher and Tibetan language • Access for an independent delegation to the young Panchen lama who has been recognised by the Dalai Lama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education reform • Access to Panchen Lama • Number of Han Chinese in Tibet and Xinjiang