

Anti-Discrimination Unit
OHCHR
Ave. Giuseppe Motta 48
Office 236
Geneva

Dated: 16 March 2009

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is thankful to the Secretariat of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference at the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the response from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the United Nations Office at Geneva objecting to TCHRD's accreditation to the Durban Review Conference.

In view of the response made by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Geneva, the TCHRD absolutely rejects with all the unfounded allegations made by the PRC to stain our credibility and stifle the Centre's mandate and work in the promotion and protection of all human rights of the Tibetan people.

Reiterating its strong commitment in ending gross human rights violations, including systematic and institutionalized forms of racial discrimination in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" and other Tibetan areas of PRC, we wish to state that our organization is a respected independent NGO registered in accordance to laws of India.

In the spirit of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter article 1 (3) "...in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion", the Centre has carried out outstanding service to human rights since its establishment in 1996. Towards the realization of its goals to "promote and protect the human rights of the Tibetan people", the Centre has till date conducted 19 workshops educating the Tibetan community on all aspect of human rights and democracy by investing on the potentials of the future generations of Tibetans. Moreover, the Centre has produced 57 research publications till date including both thematic and annual reports on human rights and democracy in Tibet and the Tibetan Refugee Community in South Asia.

The TCHRD wishes to bring to the attention of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference that racism and racial discrimination confronted by the Tibetans remains alarming because they are targeted due to their unique identity as a people. One of the key factors identified behind the popular Tibetan uprising in 2008 is the racial abuse of Tibetans suffer from the government of PRC, its agencies and the Chinese people.

Considering that the Durban Review Conference aspires for the elimination of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, including whether governments have fully

implemented the DDPA, TCHRD view its accreditation to the review conference of utmost importance in order to share our opinion as an independent human rights organisation.

We also wish to remind the Preparatory Committee that the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy was accredited to the World Conference Against Racism (WCR) in 2001 when the General Assembly vote found that we had a legitimate case to make contributions to this World Conference.

The TCHRD feels that work on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination is crucial in order to alleviate the suffering of the oppressed peoples like the Tibetans who have no representations in international human rights forums, including that of the United Nations.

In conclusion, we believe that objecting to participation of recognized and registered NGOs like ours to the DRC, with the politicization of the process, is in itself a highly discriminatory move by the government of the People's Republic of China and which should be opposed. We, therefore, appeal to the Preparatory Committee to recommend that our organisation be accredited to the Durban Review Conference.

We thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Urgyen Tenzin', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Urgyen Tenzin
Executive Director
Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy