

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

Dharamsala, India, 9 April 2009

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) thank the secretariat for inviting us to respond to the latest letter from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organisations in Switzerland concerning our accreditation to the Durban Review Conference. The Centre would like to make the following points:

1. We have serious reservations about the legality of China's objection to our accreditation to the Durban Review Conference when the objection came almost a year after the original deadline was set by the First Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Durban Review Conference.
2. Our accreditation to the Conference was delayed due to the request from the Government of India and not due to any objection from government of China.
3. While we had submitted detailed information in response to government of India's request, our submission was not registered by the Secretariat as we informed the Second Prepcom and this resulted in the issuance of two contradictory documents concerning our accreditation at the Second Prepcom of the Conference documents, A/CONF.211/PC.3/7/Add.2 of 7 October 2008 and A/CONF.211/PC.3/7/Add.2 of 8 October 2008.
4. Since it was government of India which had requested information about our organisation, document A/CONF.211/PC.3/7/Add.2 of 8 October 2008, technically should have given India 14 days to review our information and not all Governments. Of course, after the response from the Indian Government, it is in the domain of the plenary of Preparatory Committee, for other Governments to react, especially when the decision has to be taken on our accreditation.
5. The contention, that "the TCHRD has hitherto failed to provide the full details" proves that government of China actually did not review the 34 pages of documentation about our organisation already submitted on 18 April 2008 to the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, including by fax.
6. On China's contention that our organisation does not meet the criteria of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, we will only state that like many NGOs without ECOSOC Consultative Status, we were accredited to the World Conference Against Racism by a General Assembly vote. Our accreditation to the WCR clearly showed that we met the criteria as set in ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31.

7. Finally, as to China's other contention that Tibetans are not oppressed people, allow us to attached the following article by a Chinese which was recently posted on China Digital Times Network because this is a view of a Chinese national for the international community to know.

8. China in its reply to the TCHRD letter states that "violent criminal activities premeditated by separatist group in Lhasa in March 2008 resulting in the death of 18 innocent persons and injuries to hundreds of persons". This statement is biased and in itself highlights the state-practice of racist attitude and policy since there has also been deaths of at least 135 Tibetans according to our independent documentation while the other sources cites death of 210 peaceful Tibetan protesters as a direct result of China's "people's war" military crackdown launched on the Tibetan Plateau since 10 March 2008.

We thank the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference and appeal to All Governments to support our accreditation to the Durban Review Conference, as the support received by the International Campaign for Tibet which is accredited to the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Urgyen Tenzin

Executive Director

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Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy