

Madam Chair, Distinguished members of the Forum,

My name is Namulun Togocho, and I represent the Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center. I would like to bring to your attention some of the issues and challenges the ethnic Mongolians are facing in China. Starting last September, the Central Government of China implemented a new set of educational policy called the "Second Generation Bilingual Education" in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, switching the medium of instruction from Mongolian to Chinese in all Mongolian schools across the region. As a result, a large-scale protest took place. More than 300,000 Mongolian students took to the streets and carried out a total school boycott. The local government arrested more than 8,000 protestors, and many of them are still under detention and imprisonment without legal due process. Following this mass arrest, what is happening in the region now is a new campaign for "Firm Inculcation of Chinese Nationality Common Identity", targeting the entire Mongolian population. Not only the Mongolian language, but also everything in Mongolian characteristics is subjected to removal. Mongolian signs are removed from buildings; Mongolian sculptures are taken down; Mongolian books are banned. We urge the Government of China to deliver what it promised in its constitution: "All ethnic minorities have the right to use and develop their language and written system."

Thank you.