

World Uyghur Congress

Today's theme highlights a key challenge in international peacebuilding and accountability processes. Unrepresented communities are often encouraged to participate, yet their perspectives remain insufficiently reflected in the design and implementation of these mechanisms. For Uyghurs, this gap is particularly evident. We are told to rely on international institutions, yet China, which is committing atrocities against Uyghurs sits on the Human Rights Council, blocks investigations, silences witnesses, and intimidates our communities across borders. Peacebuilding cannot be credible when perpetrators can shut down accountability from within the system itself. This is why we have resorted to people's tribunals, like the Uyghur Tribunal in 2020, and strategic litigation to seek accountability. Despite this, Uyghur communities continue to act as builders of peace and agents of justice. As Uyghur CSOs, we document abuses, preserve testimonies, support survivors, and engage with parliaments, courts, and civil society, often under great threat of transnational repression by the Chinese government. Based on this, we urge member states and the UN to implement the following measures:

- 1) Peacebuilding frameworks must ensure that unrepresented voices are not only heard, but integrated into decision-making at every stage;
- 2) Accountability mechanisms must be equipped to address situations where cooperation from relevant actors is limited;
- 3) Transitional justice cannot wait for a post-conflict moment while atrocities continue;
- 4) Modern forms of repression, including digital surveillance and transnational repression, require updated tools and stronger protection measures [CHINA-POINT OF ORDER]

What we need is not permission to speak, but political will from the international system to act. Thank you.