AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

IOR 40/9564/2025
17 June 2025

-Check against delivery-

ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 2: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

HUMAN RIGHTS MUST POINT THE WAY OUT OF OUR CURRENT PERIL

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-ninth regular session
16 June – 9 July 2025

High Commissioner,

We thank you for your report and update raising alarm across a range of issues, far too many for us to address now. The trend lines are deeply concerning. As your report notes, "[t]he global consensus around international norms and institutions continues to face serious threats, with rapid global changes and upheavals that further decentre human rights and its fundamental principles."

We agree with you fully: human rights must point the way out of our current peril. You call for a "global coalition". We agree and believe indigenous peoples and civil society must be a strong part of any such coalition.

We recognize your office's important activities in Sri Lanka and urge you to use your forthcoming visit as an opportunity to call on the government to support the work of the Sri Lanka Accountability Project and heed victims and survivors in their calls for extending its mandate.

We urge your office to strengthen its monitoring and reporting on Ethiopia and elaborate on how future atrocity crimes could be prevented.

We share your concerns on China, including on Hong Kong and Tibet, and on individual cases of human rights defenders. This August will mark three years since your office published a report on Xinjiang concluding that crimes against humanity may have occurred. Despite your engagement subsequent to the report, and as you stated yesterday, worrying reports of human rights violations continue to emerge from Xinjiang. We call on you to provide a public update to the report, including an assessment of the implementation of OHCHR recommendations, prior to the next session of this Council.

Finally, in light of your office's independent fact-finding inquiry in Bangladesh, how can this Council and UN human rights mechanisms support accountability and reforms in this country?

Thank you