

*(Translated from Chinese)*

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of joint communication No. OL CHN 1/2018 of 12 January 2018 from the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Government of China wishes to make the following reply:

1. The Government of China has always attached great importance to guaranteeing the freedom of all ethnic minorities to learn, use and develop their spoken and written languages and has taken appropriate measures to that end. At the national level, 13 laws, including the Constitution, the Law on Regional National Autonomy, the Criminal Procedure Law and the Compulsory Education Law, establish the corresponding rules governing the use of spoken and written minority languages; there are also 27 regulations of the State Council and its functional bodies. For example, the decision of the State Council on the accelerated development of ethnic education clearly calls for bilingual education to be carried out on a sound and scientific basis, with education in the country's common language steadfastly supported and respect for and protection of the right of minorities to make use of and receive education in their spoken and written languages, constantly raising the education levels of minorities in their spoken and written languages while encouraging ethnic Han teachers and students to study minority languages and all ethnic minority teachers and students to learn each other's languages. At present, in China there are 10,000 bilingual schools using 29 written languages of 21 ethnic groups in bilingual education, and nearly 5 million students are receiving bilingual education. Over 3,500 types of primary school teaching materials are produced or translated every year in ethnic minority languages China, with a publishing run of 100 million units, thus meeting the basic needs of minority language education of ethnic minority groups.

The implementation by China of bilingual education in ethnic minority areas is a concrete measure whose aim is to respect and guarantee the right of ethnic minorities to receive bilingual education in their spoken and written languages. Practice has shown that providing bilingual education in ethnic minority areas in line with local circumstances is both consistent with the multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural character of the country and a reflection of the Government's constant pursuit of a policy of ethnic equality. It not only meets the specific needs of ethnic minority areas for a bilingual and harmonious life; it is also an effective path for the development of ethnic education and is, all the more so, the only way to promote the collective qualities of the ethnic group.

2. Xinjiang is an autonomous region comprising, among others, Uyghur, Han and Kazakh populations, where numerous languages coexist. Each of its ethnic minority languages is an important element of Chinese written and spoken language and as such has always been used and protected. In accordance with the relative national laws and regulations, the autonomous region has issued documents such as language regulations and an opinion on work to strengthen and improve primary and secondary school bilingual education, providing a clear legal basis for the use and protection of all ethnic minority languages.

The government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region resolutely enforces the State common language education policy, along with the teaching of bilingual education in the ethnic language. It attaches a great deal of importance to the construction of infrastructure for bilingual schools and has invested heavily and done a great deal to improve conditions of study. It has actively worked to raise the level of the qualified teaching staff, to strengthen the quality of education in all subject areas and to gradually raise the overall level of bilingual education, generally raising the culture, ability to find employment and entrepreneurship of young people of all ethnic groups, ceaselessly



improving the overall quality of education. Its efforts have been welcomed by all ethnic groups.

The government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is strengthening its supervision of bilingual education and ensuring oversight of the authorities at all levels as they perform their duty to actively operate the schools, ensuring high-quality bilingual education and the implementation of the bilingual education policy and the national language policy.

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中华人民共和国常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织代表团

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

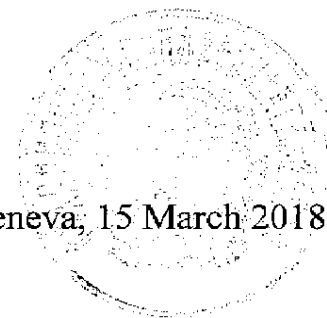
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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's communication [OL CHN 1/2018] dated 12 January 2018, has the honour to transmit herewith the reply by the Chinese Government.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 15 March 2018



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**GENEVA**

人权理事会少数群体问题特别报告员、文化权问题特别报告员、教育权问题特别报告员、言论自由问题特别报告员 2018 年 1 月 12 日联合来函 [OL CHN 1/2018] 收悉，中国政府对来函答复如下：

一、中国政府历来高度重视并采取相应措施，依法保障各少数民族学习使用和发展本民族语言文字的自由。在国家层面，宪法、民族区域自治法、刑事诉讼法、义务教育法等 13 部法律对少数民族语言文字做出相关规定，另有相关的国务院及其职能部门的规章 27 项，如《国务院关于加快发展民族教育的决定》明确提出，科学稳妥推行双语教育，坚定不移推行国家通用语言教育，尊重和保障少数民族使用本民族语言文字接受教育的权利，不断提高少数民族语言文字教学水平，鼓励民族地区汉族师生学习少数民族语言文字和各少数民族师生之间互相学习语言文字。截至目前，全国共有双语学校 1 万多所，使用 21 个民族的 29 种文字开展双语教育，接受双语教育的学生近 500 万人。全国每年编译中小学民族文字教材 3500 余种，出版发行 1 亿多册，基本满足少数民族使用民族语言接受教育的需要。

中国在民族地区实施双语教育，是尊重和保障少数民族使用本民族语言文字接受教育权利的具体措施。实践证明，民族地区因地制宜实行双语教育，既符合中国多民族、多语言、多文种的国情，也体现了中国政府一贯奉行的民族平等

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政策，不仅是民族地区构建双语和谐生活的实际需要，也是发展民族教育的有效途径，更是提高各民族整体素质的必由之路。

二、新疆是一个以维吾尔族、汉族、哈萨克族等多民族共同组成的自治区，多种语言文字并存。新疆各少数民族语言文字作为中国语言文字的重要组成部分，始终得到使用和保护。依照国家有关法律规定，自治区制定颁布了《语言文字条例》《关于加强和改进中小学双语教育工作的意见》等文件，对各少数民族语言文字的使用和保护予以法律明确。

新疆维吾尔自治区政府大力实施国家通用语言文字教学、加授本民族语言文字的双语教育，高度重视双语教育学校的基础设施建设，加大投入，极大地改善办学条件，积极建设高水平的师资队伍，强化各学科教育质量的提升，使双语教育的整体水平逐步提高，各族青年的文化知识和参与就业创业的能力普遍提高，综合素质不断提升，受到各民族的欢迎。

新疆维吾尔自治区政府加大双语教学督导力量，督导各级政府积极履行办学责任，确保高质量的双语教学，确保双语教学政策和国家语言文字政策执行到位。