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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

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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 [AL CHN 19/2025], has the honor to transmit herewith the reply of 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, 18 September 2025



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA



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Receipt is hereby acknowledged of joint communication No. AL CHN 19/2025 from special procedure mandate holders of the United Nations Human Rights Council, to which the Government of China submits the following reply:

1. The English translation of the name “Xizang” [Tibet]

As long ago as 1978, the Government of China issued a report clarifying that the Chinese Pinyin system is the uniform standard for the romanized spelling of Chinese personal names, place names and Chinese-language documents. The word “Xizang” is the standard transliteration of 西藏. States have the sovereign right to determine how their own place names should be transliterated.

2. Protection of the historical and cultural heritage of Xizang

(a) The outstanding traditional culture of Xizang has been comprehensively preserved and passed down. First, the Xizang people’s customs and practices are fully respected. Today, most people in urban and pastoral areas of the Xizang Plateau still maintain the Xizang tradition in their style of dress, dietary habits, architecture, etc., in accordance with their personal wishes. Every year, traditional festivals such as the Xizang New Year, the Shoton Festival, the Butter Lamp Festival and the Bathing Festival are celebrated. Second, extensive efforts have been made to safeguard and catalogue the heritage of Xizang folk culture. A special office has been established to collect and organize literary and artistic materials such as drama, dance, music, vocal art forms, folk songs, proverbs and stories passed down through the generations. At present, there are 2,968 intangible cultural heritage items at all levels in Xizang, 153 traditional theatrical performance institutions and 2,210 cultural heritage transmitters. Among these items, Xizang opera, the Gesar epic tradition and Xizang medicinal bathing have been placed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, while 106 items have been placed on the representative list of national intangible cultural heritage items and 158 rare ancient texts have been placed on the national list of such texts.

As of December 2024, Xizang had surveyed and registered 4,468 cultural heritage locations of various types and 2,373 cultural heritage sites protected at various levels, including 70 under special national protection, 1 world heritage site (consisting of 3 locations: the Potala Palace, Norbulingka and Jokhang Temple), and 43 museums and exhibition halls. Between 2016 and 2024, a total of 2.842 billion yuan was invested to implement 377 projects to protect and maintain cultural heritage. At the end of 2018, Xizang launched a 10-year project to preserve and utilize ancient documents, including the palm leaf manuscripts in the Potala Palace, with a planned investment of approximately 300 million yuan. As of December 2024, the Xizang Ancient Documents Conservation Centre had uploaded 67,000 folios of rare ancient texts to global cloud sharing platforms, completed the inventory and registration of more than 18,000 ancient texts from 1,180 collections, placed 305 ancient texts on the national list of rare ancient texts and restored nearly 13,990 folios of damaged ancient texts.

(b) The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the study, use and development of the Xizang language. It effectively ensures the freedom of the Xizang people to use and develop their own spoken and written language. The Constitution clearly provides that all ethnic groups have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages. More detailed and specific provisions are contained in the Law on Regional National Autonomy and relevant local autonomy laws and regulations. In Xizang and the prefectures and counties in four provinces inhabited by people of Xizang ethnicity, all laws, regulations, resolutions and official documents, as well as newspapers and radio and television broadcasts, use both the national common spoken and written language and the Xizang language. Schools at all levels and of all types have sufficient numbers of Xizang language teachers and offer Xizang language courses. Significant progress has been made in the standardization of Xizang-language technical terms and information technology. Xizang-language coding has met national and international standards, becoming the first ethnic minority language in China to have met international standards. More than 5 million Xizang-language books are printed and distributed in Xizang each year.

Programmes of study on Xizang language and literature are offered by teacher training colleges such as Qinghai Normal University, as well as other institutions such as Minzu University of China and Xizang University. Every year, a certain number of graduates specializing in this field join the teaching profession. Of all the books published in Xizang each year, more than 5 million are in the Xizang language, accounting for more than 80% of the total. There are 14 Xizang-language periodicals and 11 Xizang-language newspapers. Xizang Television's Xizang-language satellite channel broadcasts 24 hours a day.

联合国人权理事会特别机制发送的 AL CHN 19/2025 号来文收悉，中国政府答复如下：

一、关于西藏英文译名

早在 1978 年，中国政府就颁布报告，明确了以《汉语拼音方案》作为中国人名、地名和中文文献罗马字母拼写法的统一规范。“Xizang”一词是“西藏”的标准规范译名。如何译写本国地名，是主权国家权利。

二、关于保护西藏历史文化遗产

（一）西藏优秀传统文化得到全方位保护和传承。一是充分尊重藏族风俗习惯，目前高原城镇农牧区大多数群众按照个人意愿，依然保持藏族服饰、饮食习惯、住房风格等。每年都欢度藏历新年、雪顿节、酥油灯节、沐浴节等传统节日。二是对西藏民间文化遗产开展大量抢救和整理工作。成立专门机构，搜集整理流传于民间的戏剧、舞蹈、音乐、曲艺、民歌、谚语、故事等文学艺术资料。目前，西藏有各级非物质文化遗产项目 2968 个，传统戏剧演出机构 153 个，传承人 2210 名。其中藏戏、《格萨尔》史诗和“藏医药浴法”入选联合国人类非物质文化遗产代表作名录，106 个项目入选国家级非遗代表性项目名录，158 部珍贵古籍入选国家珍贵古籍名录。

截至 2024 年 12 月，西藏调查登记各类文物点 4468 处，各级文物保护单位 2373 处，其中全国重点文物保护单位 70 处，世界文化遗产 1 处 3 个点（布达拉宫、罗布林卡和大昭寺），博物馆陈列馆 43 家。2016 年至 2024 年，累计投入资



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金 28.42 亿元，实施 377 个文物保护维修项目。2018 年底，西藏启动周期 10 年、计划投资约 3 亿元的布达拉宫贝叶经等古籍文献保护利用项目。截至 2024 年 12 月，西藏古籍保护中心在全球“云共享”平台上传珍贵古籍 6.7 万叶，完成 1180 家收藏单位 18000 余函古籍文献的普查登记，305 函古籍入选《国家珍贵古籍名录》，累计修复近 13990 叶破损古籍文献。

（二）中国政府高度重视藏语文的学习、使用和发展，切实保障藏民族使用和发展本民族语言文字的自由。中国宪法明确规定，各民族都有使用和发展自己的语言文字的自由。民族区域自治法和有关地方自治法规中，对此都制定了更加细致具体的条文。西藏和四省涉藏州县，所有的法规、决议、正式文件以及报刊、广播电视都使用国家通用语言文字和藏语文两种语言文字，各级各类学校都有足够的藏语教师，都设有藏语文课程。藏文专业术语规范化及信息技术标准化工作取得重大进展，藏文编码已通过国家标准和国际标准，成为中国第一个具有国际标准的少数民族文字。每年西藏制版发行的藏文图书有 500 余万册。

青海师范大学等师范类高校，以及中央民族大学、西藏大学等非师范类高校中都设有藏语文专业，每年都有一定数量的藏语文专业毕业生加入教师队伍。西藏每年出版的各类图书中，藏文图书有 500 余万册，藏文图书种数占比超过 80%，有 14 种藏文期刊、11 种藏文报纸，西藏电视台藏语卫视实现 24 小时滚动播出。



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