

OUTCOMES OF IVTH PARLIAMENTARIANS CONVENTION ON TIBET

November 2005

Action Plan for 4th World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet

19 November 2005

Note: This is a compilation of suggested actions for parliamentarian groups for Tibet to implement in their respective countries.

1. Support for Negotiations between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and China

- Create pressure/awareness/publicity to push for 5th round of talks
- Offer concrete support (e.g. venue, mediation) for the advancement of the negotiation process between HHDL & China
- Establish timeline & benchmarks to evaluate progress in the dialogue process
- Issue resolutions that include triggers for a lack of substantive progress
- Ensure that the Tibet negotiation issue is raised at all levels of interactions with China especially when heads of State visit or receive Chinese leadership and visits of parliamentarians to and from the PRC
- Remind need for negotiations without preconditions
- Leverage Beijing Olympic games of 2008 to significantly advance the dialogue process
- Emphasize that HHDL's position of genuine autonomy respects the territorial integrity of the PRC
- Table globally co-ordinated parliamentary actions (motions, resolutions & press conference) recognizing and supporting HHDL's offer of genuine autonomy

2. Political activities to support the Tibetan cause

- Establish increased and regular co-ordination - with resources - between Tibet Parliamentary Groups (TPG) - especially between regions
- TPGs should familiarize themselves with Middle Way approach
- Invite HHDL and his envoys to address parliaments
- Establish TPG relations with local Tibetan and Buddhist communities
- Urge UN Secretary General and country representatives to engage directly with HHDL and TGiE
- Improve communications (e.g. email network) between TPGs and TGiE
- Arrange for regular meetings between TPG local Chinese ambassador and respective ambassadors to China
- Engage embassies other than Chinese ones also in discussions about Tibet
- Table motion recognizing and welcoming China's engagement in the dialogue process
- Request specific information on specific political prisoners - especially the Panchen Lama
- Declare a "Year of Tibet" in 2007 or 2008
- Organize regular Tibet awareness events within parliaments (e.g. film screenings, talks by TGiE officials & political prisoners)
- Seek concrete and concise answers from governments on the issue of Tibet before and after state visits to and from China
- Establish dialogue with Chinese parliamentary groups
- Ensure discussion of Tibetan issue at all foreign policy meetings
- Seek concrete support on the diverse issues facing the Tibetan people throughout different ministries - beyond foreign affairs
- Engage various international parliamentary bodies on issue of (e.g. IPU)
- Establish relationships with Beijing based media
- Improve co-ordination with local Office of Tibet, Tibet Support Group and Tibetan member of parliament
- Request unrestricted parliamentary visits to Tibet and Beijing
- Emphasize that the Tibet issue reaches beyond the Tibetan Autonomous Region - including Tibetan areas in Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu & Yunnan
- Raise awareness of HHDL's "Guideline for a Future Polity for Tibet"

- Ensure local and international law/instruments to keep Tibetan identity (culture, language, land) in Tibet and in exile
- Establish benchmarks to evaluate government actions on protecting human rights in Tibet (e.g. parliamentarians in countries that have bi-lateral human rights dialogues with China to conduct substantive public hearings to evaluate these processes. 2007 marks the 10th anniversary since the establishment of many bi-lateral dialogues)
- Try to create a "Tibet Desk" in each foreign ministry
- Highlight situation of Tibetans in Nepal
- Engage and educate businesses, especially with regards to corporate social responsibility, that are active in Tibet & China

3. Economic support for Tibetans in Tibet

- Use TGiE guidelines on development as basis for any project in Tibet
- Establish development policies that empower Tibetans to determine their own economic future (see e.g. US Tibet Policy Act 2002)
- Encourage aid programs to be executed by independent agencies/NGOs - not only PRC
- Ensure all programs have an appropriate participation of Tibetans
- Prioritize projects related to education, health & poverty reduction in rural areas of Tibet and ensure focus on girls and women
- Monitor current aid in Tibet provided by own government and other governments and international aid agencies

4. Economic support for Tibetans in exile

- Ensure government funding for TGiE's "Integrated Development Plan" for next 3 years
- Prioritize aid to education, health and economically sustainable programs in Tibetan settlements

The Edinburgh Declaration

19 November 2005

We, the 133 delegates to the IVth World Parliamentarian's Convention on Tibet, held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 18 and 19 November 2005, members of 30 parliaments and associates from countries spanning all the world's continents, on behalf of ourselves and our respective parliamentary groups, have gathered to review and discuss the developments with respect to Tibet since the 3rd World Parliamentarians' Conference on Tibet (WPCT) (Washington D.C. 1997).

The Convention thanks the people of Scotland and the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Tibet and the UK All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet as well as the City of Edinburgh for their hospitality in hosting this convention. It notes the appropriateness of holding this meeting in Scotland, given the many similarities between the genuine autonomy Tibet seeks within the People's Republic of China and the autonomous status Scotland has achieved within the United Kingdom and the UK's current Presidency of the European Union.

The Convention recalls the urgent call by the IIIrd WPCT for negotiations between the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC), on the one hand and His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile, on the other, as the Dalai Lama has proposed for decades. We reiterate our strong support for the Dalai Lama's Middle Way approach to resolve the issue through negotiations in the spirit of non-violence and reconciliation. We commend the Chinese government for heeding this call by inviting the Dalai Lama's special envoys for four rounds of high-level meetings in Beijing and Berne between September 2002 and June 2005. This is a very important, encouraging and necessary development for the resolution of the question of Tibet.

However, the Convention is surprised that these meetings have been so infrequent and is concerned that the dialogue has not been accompanied by any positive changes in China's governance in Tibet, nor by any discernible improvement in the human rights conditions of Tibetans. This is especially disturbing in

view of the Tibetan government's considerable efforts to persuade Tibetans and their supporters to exercise extreme restraint in order to create a conducive atmosphere for talks. In this context, we especially deplore the continued suppression of freedom of expression, culture, religious belief and practice, and the marginalization of the Tibetan language.

The Convention deplores the refusal of the Chinese government to release political prisoners, in particular the Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who has been held in a secret location since 1995, when he was only 6 years old.

The Convention is seriously concerned about the continued influx of Chinese settlers into Tibet, which threatens the identity of the Tibetan people.

The Convention is deeply concerned at China's persistence in implementing the so called 'Western Development Plan', in total disregard of the wishes and concerns of the Tibetan people and despite the obvious damage this is causing to them and their environment and the clear threat its continuation poses for the survival of the distinct culture and way of life of Tibetans, including their language and religion.

The Convention is also concerned at the degradation of the natural environment of the Tibetan plateau, including the Himalayan region, exacerbated by the said development policies of China in the region.

The Convention supports the creation of a zone of ahimsa (peace and non-violence) throughout the Tibetan plateau and is convinced this would provide an important example to the rest of the world.