



## **International Uyghur Forum - Declaration**

**October 30 - 31, 2023**

**Tokyo, Japan**

From October 30-31, the International Uyghur Forum (IUF), organised by the Japan-Uyghur Parliamentary Caucus (JUPC), the Japanese parliamentary caucus to investigate and take action on human rights abuses committed by China (JPCHC) and the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) in cooperation with the Japan Uyghur Association (JUA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), was successfully completed in Tokyo, Japan.

We express our gratitude to the 80 esteemed speakers, 70 parliamentarians, and the 200+ participants from 25 countries, who have made crucial contributions to our Forum and value the productive discussions on strategies, legal avenues and accountability measures to address the current Uyghur genocide, as well as the erosion of democratic systems in Hong Kong, military tensions in the vicinity of Taiwan, and China's threat to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **The International Uyghur Forum highlighted the following issues:**

The Uyghur genocide unfortunately continues, despite the efforts of governments, parliaments, and human rights organizations worldwide, to bring an end to the atrocities. Despite recent claims by the Chinese government, that the internment camps have closed down, the situation is exacerbating, with millions of Uyghurs still arbitrarily detained in the Chinese concentration camps, and others facing extended prison sentences. The atrocity crimes involve indoctrination, torture, sexual violence against Uyghur women, family separation and state-imposed forced labour implicating major global industries. More so, the Chinese government is strengthening its mass disinformation campaign and actively engages in spreading their propaganda narrative, globally. Meanwhile Uyghurs in the diaspora are facing transnational repression, impacting their safety and the lives of their families in East Turkistan, and China's AI dominance poses a threat to global civil liberties.

## **The International Uyghur Forum has developed the following recommendations:**

### **On Solidarity Building:**

- Communities and Nations such as Uyghurs, Tibetans, Southern Mongolians, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, who are under the rule and threat of the People's Republic of China should cooperate with each other and strengthen relations. The participants express solidarity with all, who seek common ground to face common challenges.

### **On Transnational Repression:**

- Scholars should work on the creation of a universally recognised definition of "Transnational Repression", which includes, but is not limited to the active silencing of Uyghurs and other communities through harassment, intimidation and threats;
- Governments need to put in place protective measures for their citizens to protect them from China's transnational repression. Transnational repression violates state-sovereignty and targets Universities and democratic institutions.

### **On Japan:**

- Japan should start its own documentation efforts on the Uyghur genocide;
- The Uyghur genocide should be an important factor when Japan engages in economic trade with China;
- Japan should provide an education that prioritise human rights to Japanese youth and children;
- Japan should strengthen the international human rights system to counter China's efforts to undermine the international rule-based law.

### **On Supporting Uyghurs:**

- The stories of individual victim-survivors need to be highlighted;
- Within the European Union, member states should be more united on a shared approach to the EU-China High-level dialogue on human rights;
- Chinese government officials, especially from the central government, need to be sanctioned for their involvement in the Uyghur genocide and held accountable;
- More research needs to be conducted on how Chinese misinformation is being deliberately spread to undermine the Uyghur genocide. Deliberately falsified information is targeting domestic policies to further influence key decisions;
- Governments need to work together with UNICEF and UNESCO and engage with these institutions regarding their failure to protect Uyghur culture and heritage;
- Women are often one of the first targets in times of conflict and genocide. Governments should employ all necessary tools to protect women rights, and investigate the violence against Uyghur and Turkic women;
- Democratic states should make mental health resources available to Uyghurs in the diaspora community; There needs to be coalition building efforts with women's rights organisations and different groups working on gender- and sexual-based violence, particularly ahead of submissions to the United Nations.

### **On Democratic Country Support:**

- Standard Setting: States need to reevaluate their engagement with China, as the deteriorating human rights situation in the country becomes normalised;
- More research and documentation needed on China's promotion of propaganda tourism to foreign delegations;
- Non-Western countries should become the champions for Uyghur human rights.

#### **On Uyghur State-Imposed Forced Labour:**

- Companies need to prove that they are not engaging in forced labour (Reversal of the burden of proof);
- Current and upcoming legislations on forced labour need to be diligently enforced;
- Divestment from China: governments should not reward the regime with trade deals if it does nothing to stop the Uyghur genocide;
- Increase legal risks, making China uninvestable;
- Countries need to diversify their supply chains (specifically those industries implicated in Uyghur forced labour);
- Regulations must pose a serious financial risk to companies.