**Item 2 – General Debate: Statement in Response to the OHCHR Report on XJ**

**September 13, 2022**

Thank you Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the release of the much-anticipated and critical report on the human rights situation in Xinjiang.

The report includes appalling accounts of grave human rights violations taking place in Xinjiang that may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity.

These accounts, and the conclusions, add to the mounting evidence of serious, systemic human rights concerns also raised by other independent UN experts, civil society, and courageous victims who have come forward.

The conclusions of the report, and in particular the actions by China’s government against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities, point to systemic, state-led human rights violations by Chinese authorities.

International law prohibits discrimination, including that based on religious or ethnic identity, and protects minorities in the enjoyment of their culture, the professing of their religion and the use of their language.

Canada urges the Government of China to uphold its international human rights obligations and to respond to the concerns and recommendations raised in the report.

Canada strongly believes scrutiny strengthens and helps promote multilateralism more broadly.

Canada continues to work with international partners on coordinated action to address the situation in Xinjiang and to help ensure the Chinese government is held to account for its actions.

Madame (acting) High Commissioner, Canada thanks you and the Office for the critical role you play in ensuring that important and pressing human rights issues are brought to light. We hold the independence and integrity of the Office, in the exercise of its duties in high regard, and stand ready to welcome constructive engagement with the newly appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thank you.

WORDS: 270