

Oral statement to the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Panel discussion: Early warning and genocide prevention

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Italics only for written version.

Your Excellencies,

We strongly agree, *as stated in HRC resolution 55/13*, that acting promptly on early warning signs can prevent atrocity crimes, and that impunity for such crimes contributes to their further occurrence.

In 2022, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) issued a [landmark decision](#) under its Early Warning and Urgent Action procedure on the situation in the Uyghur region (Xinjiang), referring it to the attention of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. The CERD recalled the OHCHR's 2022 Xinjiang [report](#), which found that China may have committed crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim populations.

The violations underpinning the commission of atrocities identified by the OHCHR continue to be documented by UN bodies, most recently in the 2025 ILO [Report](#) on the Application of *International Labour Standards*, referred to in the High Commissioner's [global update](#).

The CERD's referral is the first, and so far, only referral by a UN Treaty Body to the UN Office. The [absence of follow-up](#) on this substantive precedent and clear early warning sign risks damaging the UN's atrocity prevention architecture. Dear Acting Special Adviser Gamba, what action does your Office intend to take in line with your mandate to act upon this referral?

Mr. President,

Last week, the Thai authorities deported 40 Uyghurs to China, prompting strong condemnation from the High Commissioner and the UNHCR, who stated this was a clear violation of international law, *including the principle of non-refoulement*. Thailand disregarded [compelling UN recommendations](#) and evidence solely on the basis of China's 'assurances' that they would incur no harm. Such conduct is not compatible with the obligations of members of this Council.

To all panelists: what measures should States adopt when they host on their territory individuals transiting or seeking asylum who are at grave risk in their home country, in light of UN-documented atrocity crimes?

Thank you.