

Berlin Declaration 2026

Fifth General Meeting of Europe Tibetan Communities

29–30 August 2026

The Presidents, Vice-Presidents and/or Representatives of the Tibetan Communities across Europe convened for the fifth general meeting in Berlin, Germany from 29 to 30 August 2026 and resolved as follows:

CONDEMN China's so-called “Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress” as a further codification of assimilationist policy aimed at erasing Tibetan language, culture, religion and identity;

VOICE grave concerns that the law legalises transnational repression of Tibetan diaspora and their supporters through extraterritorial reach; and **WELCOME** the European Parliament's resolution, the UN High Commissioner's call for the law's repeal and international community's attention;

CONDEMN the destruction of the Tibetan plateau — source of Asia's major rivers — through mining, deforestation, and mega-dams construction since the annexation of Tibet in the 1950s by the People's Republic of China, and **MOURN** the hundreds killed and missing after the 26 August 2026 flash floods along the Tibet–Nepal border and **RECOGNISE** this disaster as a warning of the risks posed by the indiscriminate exploitation of the Tibetan plateau;

REJECT unequivocally the Chinese Government's interference in the institution of the Dalai Lama, **PLEDGE** our devotion and commitment to the future reincarnation of the Dalai Lama recognised solely by the Gaden Phodrang Trust, and **PRAY** that His Holiness lives long and that the institution flourishes for eons to come;

RESOLVE to strengthen and expand Tibetan language and culture schools across Europe to preserve and promote Tibetan language, culture, and identity, and **COMMIT** to coordinating advocacy campaigns across Europe;

WE CALL UPON European governments, the EU, the UN, and the international community to:

1. Adopt legislation to directly engage the Tibetan people and their democratically elected leadership, affirm their right to self-determination, recognise the Central Tibetan Administration as the legitimate continuity of Tibetan governance, and advocate for its observer status within the United Nations and other international bodies;

2. Appoint an EU Special Representative for Tibet to coordinate policy and advocate for the Tibetan people;
3. Press China to hold result-oriented substantive dialogue without any preconditions with envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration toward a peaceful resolution of the Tibet–China conflict;
4. Adopt legislation and/or formally state that the reincarnation of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is a religious matter solely for the Tibetan Buddhist community, and reject any interference by any other entity including China;
5. Call publicly for repeal of the so-called “Ethnic Unity and Progress Law,” and monitor its impact on Tibetans in both Europe and Tibet;
6. Publicly acknowledge the 168 known cases of Tibetan self-immolations worldwide including the recent self-immolation of Pawo Lobga Rangzen in front of the UN Headquarters, New York and press China to address the repression driving them;
7. Urge China to release all human rights and environmental defenders as well as political prisoners including the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima;
8. Demand that China cease all mining and dam projects destroying the ecologically sensitive Tibetan Plateau and allow independent assessment of the plateau;
9. Press China for full humanitarian and scientific access to the Tibetan side of the flood-affected border region, and implement glacial lake outburst flood early-warning systems across the Himalayas;
10. Support funding for Tibetan language, cultural, and educational programmes within Tibetan communities in Europe, recognising their essential role in preserving Tibetan identity for future generations.

AND HEREBY SO DECLARED.

Berlin, Germany, 30 August 2026