

Note for the file – Meeting with Mr. [REDACTED], Counselor, PM of China, 7 February 2013

Background: The meeting was requested by Mr. [REDACTED] following his email requests addressed to different parts of OHCHR (HRCB, CSS), in which he provided names of some 13 individuals and asked OHCHR to inform him if any of those individuals were accredited by NGOs for HRC22.

Meeting: In consultations with Eric Tistounet (HRCB), **June Ray (CSS)** met with Mr. [REDACTED], accompanied by Lidiya Grigoreva (CSS) and Emma Reilly (HRCB).

Mr. [REDACTED] (he has human rights brief in the PM of China since October 2012):

- began by explaining, inter alia, his country's increased openness towards and engagement with UN in general; the engagement with OHCHR and the HR programme is part of that policy. He noted that China will come up for the UPR in October, and this year its periodic report will also come before CERD, and possibly CEDAW next year.
- noted that there has been a tendency of the PM to steer clear of points of order, whenever possible, however, he had to make a point of order at the Forum on Minority Issues in Oct 2012 when the speaker (Dolkun Isa) was attacking government policies.
- also remarked on his country's increased openness to civil society organizations and proposals to bring some NGOs to Geneva. He noted his country's increased readiness to address sensitive issues such as the death penalty, including through the academic seminar, to which OHCHR contributed.
- elaborated on the PM's concerns regarding 'political sensitivities' as compared with 'security' issues and underlined how important it is for the PM to ensure that the security of their delegates is not undermined by certain individuals. He stated that the PM applies different criteria to UNOG security to ensure the safety and dignity of their delegates.
- stated that while they are also in direct contact with UNOG on the issue, they would like OHCHR to provide them with information on whether or not the named individuals have requested accreditation prior to the session.
- appeared to indicate that a 'no objection' formula would fit the PM's requirements, though this was not stated explicitly.
- also mentioned that the PM was holding meetings with other officials, and noted that his country was planning to increase its voluntary contribution.

JR

- emphasized that the UN took security considerations very seriously and every request on security grounds was followed up through the usual UNOG procedures, with which the PM is familiar.
- explained how OHCHR, including CSS, works with civil society actors.
- further explained the constraints in terms of time and human resources, and indicated that accreditation for the session had not yet begun.

The meeting concluded with JR signalling that Mr. [REDACTED]'s proposals would be studied with other colleagues.

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