International Uyghur Forum Declaration

June 11–13, 2026 — Berlin, Germany

From June 11 to 13, 2026, the International Uyghur Forum — jointly organized by the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) and the Uyghur Center for Democracy and Human Rights (UZDM) — was successfully held in Berlin, Germany, under the theme "Ten Years Since the Camps: From Recognition to Accountability — What's Next?"

We thank the 80 distinguished speakers, more than 20 lawmakers, and the over 200 participants from 25 countries who contributed to the Forum, and we welcome the productive discussions on strategies, legal avenues, and accountability measures to address the ongoing Uyghur genocide.

Key Issues Highlighted by the Forum

With new conflicts emerging around the world, the situation in East Turkistan has increasingly fallen out of the international spotlight. Yet nearly a decade after the onset of what many governments, legal experts, and independent bodies have recognized as genocide, Chinese policies in the region have not fundamentally changed, despite sustained advocacy by civil society, policymakers, and international stakeholders.

Contrary to the Chinese government's claims that the mass internment system has been dismantled, evidence indicates that repression remains widespread. Millions of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples continue to face arbitrary detention, lengthy prison sentences, forced labour, intrusive surveillance, and severe restrictions on their fundamental rights. Numerous multinational companies remain implicated in supply chains linked to Uyghur forced labour, despite growing international scrutiny and regulatory efforts.

At the same time, forced assimilation has intensified. New legislation promoting "ethnic unity" has further restricted the use of the Uyghur language and undermined Uyghur cultural identity, while the destruction and appropriation of cultural heritage continues. Uyghurs living abroad are increasingly subjected to transnational repression, including intimidation, surveillance, and threats directed at both themselves and their family members in East Turkistan. China's growing development and export of advanced surveillance and artificial intelligence technologies also raise broader concerns for civil liberties and human rights worldwide.

These challenges are compounded by wider geopolitical dynamics. China's expanding economic influence — including through debt-dependent relationships with partner countries — and its efforts to reshape elements of the international rules-based order have made coordinated international action on the Uyghur genocide increasingly difficult.

Recommendations

On Solidarity Building

- Communities and nations under the rule and threat of the People's Republic of China — including Uyghurs, Tibetans, Southern Mongolians, and the peoples of Taiwan and Hong Kong — should cooperate with one another and strengthen their relations. Participants expressed solidarity with all who seek common ground in facing these shared challenges.
- The struggles of the Uyghur, Tibetan, Southern Mongolian, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese peoples, and of other dissident communities, are intrinsically linked to one another and to the broader global struggle for democracy and human rights. Participants recognized that the pursuit of democracy and human rights worldwide depends in part on securing the rights of Uyghurs.

On Transnational Repression

- It is not enough to define transnational repression; governments must implement accountability measures that identify individual perpetrators and protect victims under clear legal frameworks, both national and international.
- Governments need to put in place protective measures to shield their citizens from China's transnational repression, which violates state sovereignty and targets universities and democratic institutions.
- States should provide safe havens for human rights defenders and diaspora communities facing serious threats, and should facilitate family reunification for individuals at significant risk of transnational repression.

On Uyghur State-Imposed Forced Labour

- Non-binding CSR principles alone are insufficient; there must be genuine accountability for companies that engage in Uyghur forced labour in their supply chains.
- Existing and forthcoming forced-labour legislation must be diligently enforced and must explicitly recognize the distinct risks posed by state-imposed forced labour.
- Legislation should sanction investment in institutions and companies that use or encourage the use of Uyghur forced labour, following a "follow the money" principle in pursuing accountability.
- Countries need to diversify their supply chains, particularly in industries implicated in Uyghur forced labour.

On Multilateral Cooperation

- Democracies should form a united front to counter the threat posed by the CCP and to advance Uyghur rights. The issue of Uyghur rights must not fade from public consciousness.
- We must continue advocating and engaging with existing multilateral institutions, and explore new accountability mechanisms and avenues beyond the UN.
- International development budgets should be increased as a way of drawing developing countries toward more democracy-oriented models of development. Taiwan's "democracy plus development" model should serve as an example that development does not require authoritarianism.

On Supporting Uyghurs

- The stories of individual victims and survivors must be highlighted, particularly those of Uyghur intellectuals who have disappeared.
- Parliaments that have recognized the Uyghur genocide should adopt resolutions marking its tenth anniversary.
- Within the European Union, member states should adopt a more united approach to the EU-China High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights.
- The international community must call for the release of the millions of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples held in the camps.
- Chinese government officials, particularly those in the central government, must be sanctioned for their involvement in the Uyghur genocide and held accountable.
- Further research is needed on how Chinese disinformation is deliberately spread to undermine recognition of the Uyghur genocide and to influence key domestic policy decisions.
- Women are often among the first targets in times of conflict and genocide. Governments should use all available tools to protect women's rights and to investigate violence against Uyghur and Turkic women.
- Democratic states should make mental health resources available to Uyghurs in the diaspora, and should build coalitions with women's rights organizations and groups

working on gender-based and sexual violence, particularly ahead of submissions to the United Nations.

- Democratic states should oppose China's new Ethnic Unity Law and the threat it poses to Uyghurs and should sanction those responsible for drafting it should the Chinese government proceed with implementation.
- Democratic countries should protect Uyghur refugees and asylum seekers by granting them refuge and by calling for their non-refoulement in third countries.
- The international community should provide better support for cultural preservation works, including on linguistic and historical initiatives.