To the President of the Human Rights Council,

We, the undersigned, have the honour to transmit herewith a joint letter on behalf of the undersigned countries.

We would be highly appreciative if you could kindly circulate the present letter and the annex thereto and record them as a document of the 41st session of the Human Rights Council, to be published on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Signed

HE Mr Boudjemâa Delmi
Permanent Representative of Algeria

HE Ms Margarida Rosa Da Silva Izata
Permanent Representative of Angola

HE Mr Yury Ambrazevich
Permanent Representative of Belarus

HE Mr Dieudonné W. Désiré Sougoiri
Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso

HE Mr Rénovat Tabu
Permanent Representative of Burundi

HE Mr Sultan Chouzour
Permanent Representative of Comoros

HE Mr Aimé Clovis Guillond
Permanent Representative of Congo

HE Mr Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta
Permanent Representative of Cuba

HE Mr Tae Song Han
Permanent Representative of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

HE Mr Zénon Mukongo Ngay
Permanent Representative of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr Adem Osman Idris
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Eritrea

Ms Edwige Kounby Missambo
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Gabon

HE Mr Kham-Inh Khitchadeth
Permanent Representative of Laos

HE Mr Kyaw Moe Tun
Permanent Representative of Myanmar

HE Mr Audu Ayinla Kadiru
Permanent Representative of Nigeria

HE Mr Evan P. García
Permanent Representative of Philippines
Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner,

We, the co-signatories to this letter, reiterate that the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) should be conducted in an objective, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner. We express our firm opposition to relevant countries’ practice of politicizing human rights issues, by naming and shaming, and publicly exerting pressures on other countries.

We commend China’s remarkable achievements in the field of human rights by adhering to the people-centered development philosophy and protecting and promoting human rights through development. We also appreciate China’s contributions to the international human rights cause.

We take note that terrorism, separatism and religious extremism has caused enormous damage to people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, which has seriously infringed upon human rights, including right to life, health and development. Faced with the grave challenge of terrorism and extremism, China has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism and deradicalization measures in Xinjiang, including setting up vocational education and training centers. Now safety and security has returned to Xinjiang and the fundamental human rights of people of all ethnic groups there are safeguarded. The past three consecutive years has seen not a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang and people there enjoy a stronger sense of happiness, fulfillment and security. We note with appreciation that human rights are respected and protected in China in the process of counter-terrorism and deradicalization.

We appreciate China’s commitment to openness and transparency. China has invited a number of diplomats, international organizations officials and journalist to Xinjiang to witness the progress of the human rights cause and the outcomes of counter-terrorism and deradicalization there. What they saw and heard in Xinjiang completely contradicted what was reported in the media. We call on relevant countries to refrain from employing unfounded charges against China based on unconfirmed
information before they visit Xinjiang. We urge the OHCHR, Treaty Bodies and relevant Special Procedures mandate holders to conduct their work in an objective and impartial manner according to their mandate and with true and genuinely credible information, and value the communication with member states.

We request that this letter be recorded as an official document of the 41st session of the Human Rights Council and that it be published on the OHCHR website.