



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Reimagining Tibetan Democracy and Governance

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), formerly the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, is in its 65th year of existence. The Dalai Lama's devolution of his political authority in 2011, which ended a 369-year-old practice of vesting both spiritual and temporal authority in the Dalai Lama, was a major test for the CTA and the nascent Tibetan democracy.

Reimagining Tibetan Democracy and Governance, a new report published by the Asia Freedom Institute and released on the 64th Anniversary of Tibetan Democracy Day, looks at the changing internal and external environment impacting the CTA. It outlines the need for major reforms to strengthen Tibetan democracy and governance in exile and revitalize the CTA.

The report identifies three key challenges necessitating a reimagining of Tibetan democracy and governance in exile: Xi Jinping's rejection of dialogue and policy of complete assimilation; The 14th Dalai Lama's succession; and a fragile Tibetan democracy. Recommendations for reforms include: clearer articulation of the nature of the Tibetan polity; adoption of a Swiss model of collective leadership and power; and enhancing the vibrancy and transparency of Tibetan democratic institutions.

The report authored by Kelsang Aukatsang, AFI President, states "there is a need for a new democracy and governance paradigm where the CTA is transnational, elevates advocacy and movement building to the forefront, and prioritizes a core set of programs that transforms the current two Tibetan communities in South Asia and the diaspora into one."

The document can be downloaded from www.asiafreedominstitute.org.

AFI promotes democracy, human rights and religious freedom in China and Tibet.