STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton regarding the case of missing of Chinese Human Rights defender, Ms Cao Shunli

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I am deeply concerned by the sudden disappearance of Ms Cao Shunli on 14 September, the day she was due to travel to Geneva to participate in human rights promotion activities. For years, Ms Cao Shunli has been advocating that the Chinese government includes independent civil society organisations in the preparation process of the United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR). She had also planned to attend China's UPR Interactive Dialogue on 22 October.

The EU asks for clarification on Ms Cao's whereabouts. The EU also urges China to ensure the full participation of civil society in the UPR process, including in the 22 October session, as stipulated by UPR regulations."

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