

Speech of Fethi Kurtiy ŞAHİN
Representative of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People

Distinguished madam chair,
Honorable leaders of indigenous peoples,
Dear brothers and sisters,

For 10 year, some states took measures to improve the life standards of indigenous people. In 2014, Ukraine supported the UN declaration in its legal designation of the Crimean Tatars as the indigenous people of Crimea a constituent part of the Ukraine and the *Mejlis* and the *Kurultai* as its indigenous self-governing body.

We look forward to working together with Ukrainian legislators in the introduction of UNDRIP articles into its legislation. I would like to convey to this *augost* body that Crimea is occupied by the Russian Federation.

Madam chair, I regret to say that since the illegal occupation of Crimea, we, as indigenous people are facing political, cultural and social oppression and we are not able to exercise our right to self-determination under article 3 of UNDRIP.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a hope for all indigenous peoples, yet Russia is repeatedly violating this declaration. 3rd, 5th, 18th and 19th articles of the UN Declaration are violated by declaring our *Mejlis* an extremist organization although it is elected by the free will of the indigenous Crimean Tatars. Moreover, 12th and 30th articles are also violated when the Russian armed forces occupied the Crimean Peninsula. These violations are reflected in the UN documents and in the recent decisions of the International Court of Justice.

Madame chair,
13 different recommendations of the Report on the fifteenth session has been ignored by the Russian Federation and its armed forces into the Crimean Peninsula, in which Russia must hold its responsibility in maintain its commitment to international human right tenants. But sadly, it is continuing violations as being the occupying state.

We call Russia to honor UN Charter, to stop prosecution of Crimean Tatars, to revive the work of the true representative body of the Crimean Tatar people the *Mejlis*, to release all political prisoners and Crimean Tatar people should be named as they deserve as indigenous people.

We call all brothers and sisters to support Crimean Tatar people to fulfillment the recommendations of this forum and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.