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**Intervention by Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People
10th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous
Issues**

New York, 16-27 May 2011

Item #8 of the provisional agenda: Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues, "Discussion on World Conference on Indigenous Peoples".

Distinguished Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Indigenous elders,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to greet you on behalf of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, the representative body of the Crimean Tatars.

One of the most pressing socio-economic and political problems that exist in an independent Ukraine as a "legacy" from the former Soviet Union, is the problem of repatriation, resettlement and restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people, exposed to massive deportation in 1944 from the Crimea and forcibly kept in places of exile for decades.

The situation of the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine is exacerbated by the lack of specific legislation that would regulate issues related to the repatriation, resettlement and restoration of the Crimean Tatars rights. In this respect, religious, linguistic and land issues as well as effective participation of Crimean Tatars in governance and representative bodies become politically sensitive.

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It is obvious that the elimination of the destructive consequences of deportation of the Crimean Tatar people, carried out by the Soviet regime in 1944, and decades of enforced settlement in places of exile, accompanied by discriminatory government policies, cannot be achieved without broad support from the international community in the ongoing efforts in this direction.

Considering all the mentioned factors, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People has initiated elaboration of the international forum on the restoration of the rights of Crimean Tatars to their homeland, its security and guarantee of development in Ukraine.

We respectfully recommend United Nations Indigenous Peoples Permanent Forum to advice to the Economic and Social Council to hold the International Forum on the restoration of the rights of Crimean Tatars on their homeland, its security and guarantee of development in Ukraine.

Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People is ready to assist Ukrainian government and the UN to develop and deliver to hold the Forum.

We are confident that Permanent Forum is the right venue to communicate on our unresolved issues and propose their solution within this Forum. We believe that change is possible and the Indigenous Peoples' identity must to be preserved.

I thank you.