

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,**

**13rd session**

**12-23 of May 2014**

**Agenda item 3, Good Governance**

**Statement**

**of International Public Organization**

**Foundation for Research and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea**

**Presented by Nadir Bekirov**

**Madam Chairperson!**

Since beginning of March of 2014 the armed conflict between two State members-founders of UN takes place in the Eastern Europe region. The subject of conflict is the territorial belonging of Crimea (Crimean peninsula on Black Sea).

Both sides have their arguments, which they use to justify their behavior before and during conflict. The interim result is that Ukraine has lost de-facto control and its jurisdiction over Crimea but has the support of the majority of UN member States, which recognize the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Russia de-facto realizes a political and judicial control over Crimea although that is not recognized de-jure by the most of the members of International Community.

The situation of Crimea several times was considered by the UN Highest level bodies such as general Assembly and Security Council, which still were unable to make the decision which would be accepted by all sides of conflict.

Against this background the world's attention loses sight of the fact that Crimea is not just ordinary part of the territory of the parties of conflict but the native land of three Indigenous Peoples Crimean Tatars, Karays (Karaites) and Krymchaks, which are rather small and very vulnerable for the threat outgoing as from the fact of any military activity on their territory as for disregard of their natural rights by all parties of conflict. Indigenous Peoples of Crimea were not the initiators or sponsors of that disagreement but against their will and desire became the victims of the scramble. One of the most terrible incidents was a case of father of three children Reshat Ametov, who was kidnapped by paramilitaries, outrageously tortured and ferociously murdered.

All these processes are being in total incompatibility with the principle of Good Governance.

This is well-known fact that both Ukraine and Russia abstained at the time of the voting of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by General Assembly and have not changed their attitude towards this Declaration yet unlike a lot of other UN member-states, who recently supported that Declaration.

The legal manipulations with the intention to escape the recognition and observation of Indigenous Rights of Crimean Tatars, Karays and Krymchaks in Crimea makes them vulnerable for any oppression from dominating population and Government controlling that territory.

That policy as very dangerous and not being in compliance with the International standards concerning the Rights of Indigenous Peoples one.

**In this connection I kindly ask Permanent Forum:**

1. To include into its recommendations to ECOSOC and other UN Agencies and Officials:

a) to pay their attention to the situation of Crimea not only from point of view of inter-State conflict but from the point of view of necessity to ensure the physical safety and recognition and observation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples i.e. Crimean Tatars, Karays (Kraites), Krymchaks on that territory.

b) To continue the monitoring of the Human Rights including Indigenous Rights,

c) To propose to the Special Reporter on the Discrimination against Indigenous Peoples to visit Crimea in order to collect information directly related to the situation of the Indigenous Peoples

d) To the UN Human Rights Council to consider the situation in Crimea with the participation of Human Rights NGOs and Civil Society representatives, particularly Indigenous organizations and activists,

e) To UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to arrange the special international meeting on the situation of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea,

f) To request the Human Rights Council to hold a special session on the human rights situation in Ukraine in particular in Crimea.

g) To propose to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to visit Crimea in order to collect information and data related to the situation of the Indigenous Peoples.

h) To recommend to all Treaty Body monitoring mechanisms during their review of relevant states party reports to pay special attention on the situation of indigenous peoples in Ukraine.

i) To include the delegation of the representatives of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea into the mandatory participants of World Conference of Indigenous Peoples 2014.

2. To propose to the UN founding-members Ukraine and Russia:

a) To find the solution of their dispute by exceptionally peaceful and diplomatic measures, to stop any military activities and not to try to involve the Indigenous Peoples and persons in that conflict.

b) To support officially UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to use it as a basis for their policy and legislative acts concerning Crimea and Crimean Indigenous Peoples, this shall be worked out as soon as possible,

c) To ensure the full participation of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea in accordance with the concept of Free, Prior, Informed Consent,

d) To hold back from the threat and persecution of Indigenous organizations and activists defending the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea by the methods of non-violence and public discussions,

e) To recognize the right of the persons belonging to the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea to preserve their citizenship, or to change it or to have dual citizenship on their own choice, to come and to stay in Crimea from the areas of their exile without any negative consequences for their civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights in Crimea.

**Thank you for our attention.**