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Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. My name is Gulnara Abbasova. I give my intervention on behalf of the Foundation for Research and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea. I represent Crimean Tatars.

I'd like to remind once more that Crimean Tatars are the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea and then the Minority.

Under this agenda item we are discussing I would like to speak on issues related to effective representation. The practice of other developing or newly appeared states demonstrates that the minorities are underrepresented and Ukraine is an example to it. A reason for it may be single-member majoritarian system of parliamentary election used by states due to its convenience. Usually minority communities are widely scattered throughout the country with no large concentration as it corresponds the Crimean Tatars in the Crimea and they are not able to elect the parliamentary representatives of their ethnicity and usually the majority is not inclined to elect a minority representative. So the Crimean experience shows that guaranteed representation for the Crimean Tatars is of utmost importance. We suggest that the Crimean government should apply the system of quotas in the Crimean Parliament and the Ukrainian Government should inspire the Crimean authorities to introduce this system before the next parliamentary election

The Crimean Tatars keep repatriating to the Crimea. Now they constitute 12% of the Crimean population, but only 4% is engaged in the administrative, legislative and executive power-bodies of the Crimea. The situation on the political representation of the Crimean Tatars has improved but not that much. After the 2002 parliamentary election there are 8 Crimean Tatar members of the Crimean Parliament and 2 Crimean Tatar members are represented to the Ukrainian Parliament. This number is not enough for full participation in the political life of the Crimea and affection the decision-making process on their own motherland. The matter is the majoritarian system of parliamentary election doesn't match the actual ethnic situation in the Crimea. And it must be changed. No matter how many complaints were brought by the Crimean Tatars the

Ukrainian government doesn't consider it an important issue. However, the full restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatars is impossible without effective participation in the decision-making process of the Crimea.

Another sore point is that in the year 2000, under the Ukrainian President's decree the self-governmental body of the Crimean Tatars with the President consultative status was established, but in fact it doesn't work. It means that since the year 1988 the Crimean Tatars don't have any legitimate representative body through which they could affect their life and protect their rights.

We recommend Ukraine to reconsider the laws concerning political representation and adapt them to the situation in the Crimea with further consultation with the relevant international organizations and agencies.

Ukraine should take positive experience from other countries that have already made progress in effective participation of the minorities.

The international organizations should invite Ukraine to study the international law standards concerning the effective participation of the minorities with further application into practice.

We insist that Ukraine fully implements all recommendations and requirements of the international organizations in particular, Council of Europe's recommendation 1455 (2000) called Repatriation and Integration of the Tatars of Crimea that "invites the Government of Ukraine and the regional authorities of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea to study the experience of other member-states of the Council of Europe concerning the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples, with the view to securing the effective representation of the Crimean Tatars in national, Crimean, and local public affairs and for this purpose to take into account the Council of Europe's 1995 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the June 1999 Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life elaborated at the request of the OSCE's High Commissioner for National Minorities".

We call upon Ukraine to take into consideration the proposals made by the Election Observation Mission of the Council of Europe which "strongly regrets that a system guaranteeing representation for significant minority has not been established in the Crimean Parliament". Thus we once more state that there is a necessity to introduce a quota system.

So it will be much more appreciated by Crimean Tatars if Ukraine, which is trying to integrate into the International Community, keeps to international instruments and strives for implementation of them effectively and in a constructive way both for Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian Government.

Thank you Mr Chairman.