

**Enhancing good governance and empowering
communities through
inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all**

**Madam President,
Madam Secretary General,
Distinguished colleagues,**

For the Crimean Tatar people, inclusion and good governance are not abstract ideas. They are questions of identity, dignity and the right to live freely in our own homeland.

I am a Crimean Tatar and a Muslim. I was born in Uzbekistan because my family, like the entire Crimean Tatar people, had been deported from Crimea by Stalin's regime in 1944. Only decades later were we able to return home.

But in 2014, Russia occupied Crimea, and another generation again faced repression and fear.

**Good governance begins when a State sees
diversity not as a threat, but as part of its
strength.**

Ukraine has chosen this path. In 2021, our Parliament recognized the **Crimean Tatars as an Indigenous people** and protected our identity and right to representation.

In occupied Crimea, we see the opposite. Since the occupation began, 548 people have faced political imprisonment or politically motivated prosecution, including 281 Crimean Tatars.

This September, Russia again conducted so-called elections on occupied Ukrainian territory.

Occupation does not create sovereignty. An illegal vote cannot make Ukrainian territory Russian. Crimea is Ukraine — today and tomorrow.

I therefore invite you to join us on **7 December in London for the Fifth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform.**

Our goal is not simply to return Crimea to Ukraine. It is to return freedom to Crimea — and Crimea to the people who call it home.

Thank you.