

I am very pleased to be in an international forum on "Common Concerns over the Rights of Linguistic Minorities and consensus on the preserving of mother tongues". And it's my honor to consult with the dear participants.

My language is Turkish, in the land of Shams and Shahryar, relying on a 4000 years civil history of Tabriz, firm like Sahand and Sabalan mountains, and alive, dynamic and permanent like Aras River.

Appreciating all the efforts on preserving my mother tongue such as establishing Turkish TV and radio channels supported by public budget and other written and virtual Medias, and establishing the Turkish language department in the University of Tabriz which is among the 10 best Iranian universities. These are effective measures which were taken in order to preserve and transfer our cultural and linguistic heritage to the next generations of my country.

Also, supporting the development of the Tractor Football Club with its millions of fans, that is one of the most supportive teams in the world according to some valid sources, is representing the depth of interest in local and social identities and its capacity to move towards empathy and social participation, which has been considered in the collectivism capacity of the Iranian constitution.

But I would like to mention some vital points about mother tongues in this short time.

The acrimonious historical experience of homogenization influenced by the theoretical version of "Nation-building" and the modernity after the World War I and the horrible consequences of the cultural genocide in Europe and other regions specifically in the Middle East, makes me warn about the universal solutions on multiplicity of identity and mother tongue and repetition of this immemorial mistake.

The political view of great powers and neighboring states to ethnic actions and languages, has made this social issue into a political and security issue and which has faced all identity-oriented actions such as preserving the mother tongue with varied obstacles. That seems to be preserved though diplomatic and international ways

Further, given the significance of relics and historical linguistic identity resources in the survival of mother tongues, taking international steps and mechanisms to record them as a common human heritage is necessary.

At the end, I would like to express my sorrow because of using another language in order to defend my mother tongue.

**The Sabalan Mountain in
East Azerbaijan Province - Iran**

Speech of Dr. R. Motafakkerzad
and Iranian Researcher and Civil Activist in the
Twelfth Session of the Forum on minority Issues
United Nation, Geneva, Switzerland, November 2019

