

Ukraine

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For almost four years, Ukraine has been resisting Russia's full-scale invasion aggression that has devastated cities, displaced millions, and placed the Ukrainian people, including national minorities under extensional threat. Communities such as Meskhetian Turks and Azov Greeks have seen their historic settlement destroyed. The destruction of cultural centers, religious sites, and museums, along with the dispersal of communities, endangers languages like Urum and Rumaika, and undermines intergenerational cultural transmission. At the same time, (...) occupied Crimea reports continue to indicate systematic human rights violations, primarily affecting the Crimean Tartars. Numerous detentions, interrogations, and arrests have been documented alongside credible accounts of torture and substandard detention conditions. Despite these hardships, national minorities stand united with all Ukrainians. Since 24 February 2022, these communities have consistently defended freedom, statehood, and democracy. They serve in the Ukrainian armed forces, sustain local economies, support displaced families, and engage actively in public administration and international advocacy. Their efforts have been documented in more than 400 reports by the State Service for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience, now compiled with in the Almanac of Resistance, reflecting the contributions of 30 minority communities. Recognition of full contribution of minorities requires ensuring their protection, meaningful participation, and cultural continuity. Their security and resilience are integral to Ukraine's democratic future. We therefore call on international human rights mechanisms to take coordinated and urgent action to safeguard Ukraine's national minorities. I thank you.