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Plenary session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims

**Adaptation and integration of the Crimean Tatars
and other repatriates in Ukraine**

Establishment of necessary conditions for the settlement, social adaptation and integration of the Crimean Tatars returning to Ukraine and also the deported Bulgarians, Armenians, Greeks, Germans is a priority area in the state policy aimed at maintaining social-economic stability and national security of Ukraine.

According to the report of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of Ukraine 247,0 thousand deported persons live in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 5,6 thousand reside in Sevastopol, 5,5 thousand – in the Kherson region. The majority of repatriates returned to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 1989-1991, of which 146 thousand automatically acquired the Ukrainian citizenship. In the period of 1992-2005 101,4 thousand deported persons acquired the citizenship of Ukraine.

There are approximately 100,0 thousand Crimean Tatars representatives, most of them (80,0 thousand) living in Uzbekistan, who are expected to return to the Crimea. The process of repatriation could see the return of 1,5-3,0 thousand people a year in the the next decade.

In order to regulate legal status of the persons deported on grounds of nationality and to determine the competences of the organs of the state power and organs of the local self-government concerning repatriates the Government of Ukraine elaborated the draft law of Ukraine “On restoration of rights of persons deported on grounds of nationality”, which has been recently submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for second consideration.

To increase efficiency in addressing social-economic and cultural problems of the Crimean Tatars there is a need to ensure their participation in decision-making processes. The bodies of the executive power and of local self-government continue to take measures to increase participation of the deported persons in the civil service and in the local self-government bodies.

Since 1991 the Ukrainian Government have been proving financing for building houses, engineer communications, social and cultural infrastructure for the Crimean Tatars. In the past 15 years 427,000 sq. meters of residential areas, 7 schools for 2043 pupils have been built, 828 km of water-pipes, 1164 km of power transmission lines, 110 km of roads, 232 km of gas pipe lines have been laid, a number of objects of social and cultural infrastructure have been set up.

On 11 May 2006 the Program of the settlement of the deported Crimean Tatars and persons of other nationalities returning to Ukraine, their adaptation and integration into the Ukrainian society until 2010 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

This program is aimed to address social-economic and cultural-educational problems related to the return of the deported Crimean Tatars and persons of other nationalities to their historical land, their settlement, social adaptation and integration into the Ukrainian society.

The important aspect of social and cultural adaptation of repatriates is to promote the development of national education, study of the native language by children. At present 3472 pupils study in 15 schools with the Crimean-Tatar language of instruction in the Autonomous

Republic of Crimea. Besides, in 33 general educational institutions with the Russian language of instruction, 1029 pupils study in the Crimean Tatar language. 14 children's centers of extracurricular activities with the Crimean Tatar language of instruction function in Simferopol, Evpatoria, Pheodosia, Bilogorsk, Bahtchisarai.

The Government of Ukraine developed a number of measures to ensure publishing of textbooks, other educational materials to address educational needs of the Crimean Tatars. It also provided assistance to the Gasprynskyi Republican Crimean Tatar library, to the Crimean Ethnographical Museum, to the Republican Cultural and Ethnographical Centers of Fine Arts and Theater Development.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea set up a Scientific and Methodological Council for editing educational and methodical literature, dictionaries and reference books in the Crimean Tatar language.

The training of teachers for general educational institutions with the Crimean Tatar language of instruction is provided by the higher educational institutions of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

There are two state-funded newspapers in the Crimean Tatar language "Kyrym" (Crimea) and "Yany diunia" (New world). There is also the Crimean-Tatar division on the state television company "Crimea", whose broadcasting time constitute 7% from total broadcast of the company.