**RES & Climate Impact: Ecocide, Green Reconstruction, Indigenous Perspectives on War-Stricken Ukraine**

The main purpose of the event is to discuss the direct and indirect ecological and economic impacts on climate change, which have already been caused or may occur due to the occupation of Crimea, the full-scale aggression of Russia against Ukraine and the corresponding active military operations on the mainland of Ukraine, the Sea of ​​Azov and the northern part of the Black Sea, as well as determining the degree of negative impact on the traditional way of life of indigenous peoples living in this region.

During the side-event experts will speak about the most acute risks in the area of ​​climate change associated with the occupation of Crimea, full-scale aggression of Russia against Ukraine and corresponding active military actions, as well as the process of recovery of liberated Ukrainian’s territory, determining the degree of impact of these risks on the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples.

The main vectors are the exchange of opinions and the coordination of subsequent activities regarding the assessment of relevant negative climate changes, the analysis of the negative impact of Russian aggression in Ukraine on the environment of Crimea and the related rights of indigenous peoples.

The corresponding negative impacts include atmospheric pollution due to mass extensive emissions of combustion products, the destruction of thousands of square kilometers of forests and plantations, as well as natural soils in the combat zone close to Crimea, the intervention of the occupants in the activities of land reclamation systems and natural watercourses in Southern Ukraine, undermining of the Kakhovka HPP and consequences of the biggest technogenic disaster of the last decade.

Also, the negative impact includes the destruction of the ecosystems of the Black and Azov seas, important for oxygen exchange, due to their pollution by oil products and chemicals from sea vessels and their missile ammunition, as well as changes in ecosystems caused by the mass death of mammals and fish due to noise and explosive pollution during maritime activities. Special risks arise in this zone regarding potential changes in the hydrogen sulphide layer located in the deep-water part of the Black Sea, and the corresponding emissions, in particular due to explosive processes.

Such changes also include an indirect impact through Russian attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power facilities, such as the Zaporizhzhia NPP, and on Ukrainian green energy facilities in the occupied territories and war zones. Potential risks include nuclear incidents caused by Russian military and terrorist activities and the detonation of underwater gas pipelines in the Black Sea by the occupants.

The main negative consequences for the indigenous peoples of Crimea, including the Crimean Tatars, are the destruction or damage due to climatic changes of natural ecosystems and areas of traditional farming, namely: the desertification of the Western Crimea, the deforestation of the Crimean mountains, the destruction and disappearance of marine coastal aquatic complexes, the collapse of biosystems of the Azov seas, soil salinization of the Central and Eastern Crimea.

The ecological risks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have already been identified in some resolutions of the UN General Assembly, OSCE and Council of Europe bodies since 2015, but these actions and the corresponding expert work of UN officials have not yet reflected climate issues. In addition, the mentioned issue was not raised in terms of the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, with regard to sustainable development. Experts will express their thoughts on the term of ecocide and shared their research and advocation experience in this field.

The proposed event will allow the discussion and assessment by intergovernmental bodies, governments of developing countries, nature protection and human rights organizations, and institutions of the world's indigenous peoples of the forms of direct and indirect negative environmental and economic impact of Russian aggression in the field of climate change and related rights of the indigenous peoples. During the event will be describe the efforts both Ukrainian and international prosecuted institutions in the investigation of environmental crimes.

The result should be the development of plans to counteract the corresponding negative processes, at the level of international organizations, governments and non-governmental environmental protection structures, organizations of the indigenous peoples of the world, the inclusion of relevant issues in international documents of legal and political dimensions, in particular, in the dimension of increasing sanctions pressure and international recognition of the Russian regime as a terrorist.

In the wake of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine CSOs in collaboration with municipalities have been instrumental in driving the adoption of renewable energy sources (RES) to ensure sustainable energy independence and resilience. This collaborative effort has been pivotal in equipping critical infrastructures like hospitals and water supply utilities with renewable energy solutions, particularly in areas heavily impacted by the war. The role of municipalities in identifying needs and facilitating the implementation of these projects has been crucial, while the collective efforts of various CSOs have amplified the impact of these initiatives. Together, they have contributed to keep essential services operational during power outages but also laid a strong foundation for sustainable development and green recovery in the country.

These joint initiatives underscore the importance of a collaborative approach in addressing the challenges posed by the conflict, particularly in the energy sector. The deployment of RES in Ukrainian communities has been a testament to the resilience and forward-thinking strategies of local governments and CSOs. While providing immediate relief during power outages, these renewable energy projects are also paving the way for a more sustainable and self-sufficient future. The success of these initiatives serves as a beacon of hope and a model for other regions facing similar challenges, highlighting the potential of renewable energy in fostering long-term development and environmental sustainability, even in the most challenging circumstances.

The target audience of the event is representatives of international organizations, including specialized UN agencies in the fields of ecology, indigenous peoples, human rights, humanitarian issues, transport, economy, etc., relevant officials of national, regional and municipal authorities, scientists and representatives of civil society, including environmental and human rights organizations, indigenous peoples of the world and their self-governing bodies and institutions.

Duration of event 1,5 hour (90 minutes)

Speakers:

***Eskender Bariiev***, Chairman of the Board of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, Head of the Department of Legal and Foreign Affairs of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People;

***Svitlana Boychenko***, Doctor of Geographical Sciences, Leading Researcher at S. I. Subbotin Institute of Geophysics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Professor of the Department of Ecology of the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Member of the Expert Council of Crimean Tatar Resource Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Crimea

***Borys Babin,*** Doctor of law, professor, expert of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, professor of the department of international law of the National Aviation University, professor of the department of public and legal disciplines of Mariupol State University, expert of the Association of Reintegration of Crimea;

***Yevhen Khlobystov***, Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor of the Department of Ecology of the National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Academician of the Academy of Economic Sciences of Ukraine, Member of the Expert Council of Crimean Tatar Resource Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Crimea

***Liudmyla Korotkykh***, Lawyer, Manager of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center;

***Nataliia Kholodova,*** Project Manager at the NGO Ecoclub