



**60th Human Rights Council
September 2025**

Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thank you Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Expert Mechanism and we also stress the importance of Indigenous data. In many contexts, lack of data means that we do not exist, that we are not acknowledged, that we cannot survive.

There is no reliable data on the Karakalpak people, no record of our population, language vitality, health, or the thousands killed, imprisoned, or disappeared simply for being Karakalpak. After the July 2022 massacre of peaceful civilians, fear replaced truth. Any dissident risks reprisals.

The Sovereign Republic of Karakalpakstan is rich in resources, culture and people, however, there is a pattern of violations to their human rights, culture, identity, and existence. Human rights defenders who speak out suffer constant reprisals and transnational repression. These threats also impact their families and loved ones, who are also targeted.

Uzbekistan hides the plunder of our natural resources, silences inquiry, and turns our identity into statistics that serve the oppressor. This denial of data is more than neglect, it is a weapon. It erases our past, strangles our present, and steals our future.

We appeal urgently:

- For Indigenous-led data collection in Karakalpakstan,
- For transparent investigations into grave human rights abuses against the indigenous Karakalpak people, and reprisals against human rights defenders
- For international monitoring to ensure truth

Karakalpaks have the inalienable right to be counted, to be heard, to exist. Let this moment mark the beginning of our restoration, or the enduring shame of silence.