Events, Meetings and Coordination

Throughout these past few years, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) delegation to the United Nations, in partnership with the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations (WFUWO), held numerous meetings to help organize, promote and actively participate in various events hosted by Ukraine’s Mission to the United Nations and other Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Numerous such events were held, especially during Ukraine’s Presidency of the UN Security Council in February 2017, in an effort to highlight the current situation in Ukraine as well as to mark historic anniversaries – all in an effort to raise Ukraine’s standing in, and develop partnerships with, the international community. After an initial effort at instilling coordinating meetings with our partner organizations in 2015, the UWC delegation revived the concept in 2016, in an effort to coordinate the various Holodomor commemorations of November 2016.

Below are a few highlights of our work:

Yearly Commemorations:

Ukrainian Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism. Ambassador Yuri Sergeyev felt it was important to promote Ukraine within the halls of the United Nations, and in 2015 working in cooperation with UWC organized the first event, which is now an annual commemoration.

The fourth International Mother Language Day Event, held at United Nations New York headquarters took place on March 1, 2018. The event was organized by UWC, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and others under the aegis of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine at the United Nations. Video of the event can be seen here:


On March 10, 2017 the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations sponsored the 3rd observation of Ukrainian Mother Language Day at United Nations Headquarters. This program, entitled "A Celebration of Women's Voices" came together after working together with volunteers from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society, the International Council of Women as well as UN representatives of the Ukrainian World Congress and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, was joined on the dais by Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations General Assembly.

The program was moderated by Bogena Dergalo, UN Youth Representative for WFUWO. The historian, university professor and social activist Dr. Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak delivered the keynote
address. Other highlights included a clip from the forthcoming feature-length drama Julia Blue (2017), written and directed by Roxy Toporowych. Shot entirely on location in Ukraine, this love story focuses on a bright and idealistic student activist from Ukraine's West and a wounded soldier returning from the war in the East.

Recitations of poetry and prose will included the writings of Lesia Ukrainka, as well as the Crimean Tatars poems of Ayshe Ake and Sabriye Erejepova. Violin accompaniment during the readings was performed by members of New York Virtuoso Orchestra of New York. The program closed with performances by the all-girls Soloveiky Chorus of Philadelphia, and special performance on Ukraine’s National Instrument, the bandura, by Halyna Bodnar and Julia Stupen. Video of event can be seen: http://webtv.un.org/watch/un-international-mother-language-day/5355500166001/?term=&page=4

On February 22, 2016 UWC joined the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian National Women’s League of America and Volya Institute in a celebration of International Mother Language Day.

The event at United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA, focused on the significance of language as the main guarantor of a nation’s cultural legacy. Presentations addressed contemporary Ukrainian issues, specifically, Ukrainian Identity and Language in Ukraine after the EuroMaidan, and Persecution of Mother Tongue and the Violation of Cultural Rights in Occupied Crimea.

As Ukraine is forced to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages have become primary targets for the Russian aggressor attempting to nullify the local population’s cultural identity on occupied territories. Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar schools have been closed, Russian language text books have replaced Ukrainian language text books, and instruction in the mother language on these territories leads to persecution.


#CrimeaUkraine

Crimea remained an issue of significant importance to the UWC UN Committee. Working in tandem with Ukraine’s Permanent Mission to the UN, along with the WFUWO as well as our Crimean Tatar community, various events were organized to underscore the illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. Below are a few highlights:

“Cry of the Indigenous Crimean Tatars in occupied Crimea”

On Tuesday, April 25, UCCA’s delegated representatives of the Ukrainian World Congress to the United Nations joined members of the Ukrainian American and Crimean Tatar communities at a special program at the United Nations, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine. Coinciding with the 16th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, this official side-event was co-organized by the Mejlis of the Indigenous Crimean Tatar People, their supreme plenipotentiary representative and executive body. Moderating the discussion was Ayla Bakkalli, USA Representative of the Mejlis and a member of the Executive Board at the World Congress of Crimean Tatars. Additional representatives of the Mejlis on the panel included Eskender Bariev and Gayana Yüksel, a journalist with Crimean news agency QHA.

Entitled “Cry of the Indigenous Crimean Tatars in the occupied Crimea,” the program also featured remarks by Ukraine’s Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Marc Behrendt of Freedom House, and Rachel Denber of Human Rights Watch. A highlight of the program included a specially produced film recounting
the early days of Russia’s invasion of Crimea, the Crimean Tatar resistance to this occupation, and the growing list of those murdered or imprisoned by Russia for opposing them. Also attending the event, and participating with statements and questions of their own, were official representatives of the UN delegations of the United States, the European Union, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, among others.

UN Crimea Resolution

On December 19th the UN General Assembly adopted (70- in favor; 26-against; and 77-abstained) resolution entitled, “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine).” The resolution provided a clear definition that the autonomous republic as well as the city of Sevastopol are a part of Ukraine, condemned the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, as well as the massive human rights violations in Crimea. The resolution calls upon the Russian Federation to fulfill its obligations under international law, to release the illegally detained citizens of Ukraine and cancel its decision to ban The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people. The document also urges the Russian Federation to grant international human rights mechanisms, in particular the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, unimpeded access to Crimea in order to monitor human rights situation and asks the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a separate thematic report on the situation in the peninsula.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) was held in the United Nations from April 24 – May 5, 2017. UWC Reps once again attended general session and side events alongside the Crimean Tatar community.

The majority of delegations at the 16th session spoke about the development of education, health care, the problem of equitable use of natural resources and lands belonging to indigenous peoples, whereas the Crimean Tatar representatives focused on in the current realities such as survival under occupation.

This year’s Crimean Tatar delegation to the UNPFII included Gayana Yuksel, member of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and director of the Crimean News Agency (QHA), as well as Fethi Kurty Sahin, representative of the Youth Commission of the Crimean Tatar Association of Culture and Mutual Aid Center in Turkey, and Eskender Bariev, member of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people. All three also represent the World Congress of Crimean Tatars (WCCT).

Over the course of the week, Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian Voices emphasized the decision of the International Court in the Hague demanding the Russian Federation to re-authorize the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people as a demonstration of the support of the international community not only to the Crimean Tatars, but also to Ukraine as a whole.

Holodomor

Over the past few years, regular meetings were organized and held with Ukraine’s Permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to discuss plans and cooperation between the UWC and the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations to commemorating the Holodomor. UWC’s General Secretary & Chair of the Holodomor Committee, Stefan Romaniw, attended several of these meetings. During this report period, the following commemorations were organized:

Solemn Requiem Service

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America annually commemorates the Holodomor. The annual Requiem Service and National Commemoration of Victims of the Holodomor Genocide takes place at Manhattan’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The UCCA works with the Permanent Mission of the Ukraine to the United Nations in an effort to invite foreign diplomats to attend the solemn requiem service. Speakers have included Ukraine’s Ambassador to the UN, Volodymyr Yelchenko and William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations; and the leader of the Crimean Tatars, Mustafa Dzhemilev, a member of Ukraine’s Parliament, among many others.

UN Holodomor Commemoration
On December 8, 2017, the Permanent Mission of the Ukraine to the United Nations organized a Commemorative Event dedicated to the victims of the Holodomor, to honor the millions of innocent victims who perished in Ukraine during Stalin’s genocidal famine. Speakers included Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Sarah Mendelson, U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky, former ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Ayla Bakkalli, Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the United Nations. UWC and WFUWO, along with other Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar representatives, assisted with putting together the program and a UWC moderated the panel. The event concluded with a video presentation produced by the Holodomor National Awareness Tour, a subdivision of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

#GenocideVictimsDay

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly established December 9th as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. On this day in 2016, Ukraine’s Permanent Mission to the UN paid tribute to the millions of Ukrainians who were starved to death in 1932-1933 by the Soviet regime, as well as the Indigenous Crimean Tatars deported by Josyf Stalin in the 1944 Surgun.

**Community Meetings with President Petro Poroshenko**

For four consecutive years, the UCCA organized, in coordination with the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations (PMUUN), community meetings with President Petro Poroshenko and Mrs. Maryna Poroshenko, during their official visits to New York City to attend the United Nations General Assembly. Below are a few highlights of each meeting:

**September 25, 2018** - During a working visit to the United States, President Petro Poroshenko and his wife Maryna Poroshenko met with leaders of the Ukrainian community in the United States. At the beginning of the meeting, the representatives of the Ukrainian community congratulated Petro Poroshenko on his birthday, noting that it was already September 26 in Ukraine, and sang “Mnohaya Lita” for the President. The Head of State thanked them for their greetings and noted that he was very touched. The President also thanked the Ukrainian community in a joint struggle for Ukraine’s freedom and independence, stating, “you are absolutely crucial in shaping global solidarity in support of Ukraine.” He also stressed the importance of receiving the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and thanked the community for their efforts to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide of the Ukrainian people. President Poroshenko awarded UCCA’s President Andriy Futey the Order of Merit for his significant contribution to strengthening US-Ukraine bilateral relations; and bestowed the Order of Princess Olga to curator and librarian of the Ukrainian museum and library of the Stamford diocese of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in USA Lubow Wolynets.

**September 2017** - At the request of UCCA, President Petro Poroshenko and his wife, Maryna Poroshenko, met with leaders of the Ukrainian community and representatives of Crimean Tatar organizations in the United States. During the roundtable meeting, the head of state thanked the Ukrainian community for their support and assistance, stating, “Never in the history of the Ukrainian state, after the restoration of independence, has Ukraine felt such great assistance and unity of all Ukrainians in the world aimed to implement the tasks the Ukrainian state faces today.” Various issues were discussed during the meeting including: steps of the U.S. Congress to help Ukraine, including its approval of defensive lethal weapons; the importance of supporting the Crimean Tatars; ratification of the Association Agreement with the European Union; the course of reforms, in particular, the recently approved educational reform; and the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor.

**September 18, 2016** - During the meeting, President Poroshenko stated that it was symbolic that he started his visit to the US by meeting with leaders of the Ukrainian American community, and was thankful that the meeting was also attended by representatives of the Crimean Tatar community. President Poroshenko congratulated the attendees on the 25th anniversary of restoration of the Ukrainian independence and noted that the given event had been overshadowed by the “black cloud of war” for the third year in a row;
he urged the community to continue advocating for stronger sanctions against Russia, as well as lethal weapons and other military assistance for Ukraine. The Head of State presented decoration of the President of Ukraine - jubilee medal "25 years of independence Ukraine" to Larissa Kyi, President of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee and Maria Shust, Director of the Ukrainian Museum in New York, for their contribution to the strengthening of Ukraine’s international authority, promotion of its historical heritage and modern achievements; and expressed gratitude to Tamara Olexy, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America for her work.

September 27, 2015 -Coordinated with the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations (PMUUN) UCCA organized a community gathering on September 27, 2015, to welcome President Petro Poroshenko and First Lady Maryna Poroshenko prior to the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Andrij Futey, executive vice-president of the UCCA, presented a special gift, an icon of the Virgin Mary written by well-known Ukrainian American iconographer Daria Hulak-Kulchytsky, from the Ukrainian American community to the president on the occasion of his birthday. President Poroshenko thanked the Ukrainian American community for their contributions to the international support for Ukraine, as well as, to the development of the Ukrainian army. He concluded his remarks stating that it would be a "good tradition" to begin every foreign visit with a meeting with the diaspora, calling them “true heroes who made a significant contribution to Ukraine’s struggle for freedom and are now making a vital contribution to the reformation of the country. Following his remarks, Mr. Poroshenko bestowed the Order of Princess Olga (III grade) on UCCA President Tamara Olexy; and presented the Order of Danylo Halytsky to the family of Ukrainian American Mark Paslawsky, who was killed in Donbas defending the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine from militants and occupants.

Special Commemorations/Events

30th Anniversary of Chornobyl
As part of a program to bring attention to the ongoing 30th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hosted a special exhibit entitled “Chornobyl 360” at the United Nations. The cross-media exhibition opened on November 8th with Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Pavlo Klimkin, in attendance. “Chornobyl 360” was on display at the United Nations Headquarters until November 18, 2016. The UWC and WFUWO delegations to the United Nations actively promoted this event and participated throughout the commemorations.

75th Anniversary of Babyn Yar
To mark the 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy, the largest mass killing perpetrated by the Nazi regime in Ukraine, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN, together with the Permanent Missions of Israel and the United States, organized a commemorative program on October 13, 2016 in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber. The event included a Moment of Silence for the innocent victims of the tragedy, a short video address of the President of Ukraine, and remarks by the Permanent Representatives of Ukraine, Israel and the United States. In a special moment survivors from Babyn Yar were recognized before a candle lighting ceremony. The evening concluded with classical music concert with the participation of renowned Ukrainian musicians. The UWC and WFUWO delegations to the United Nations actively promoted this event and participated throughout the commemorations.

Protests and Demonstrations

In September 2015 we Organized and coordinated with various ethnic communities several protests prior to President Putin’s first appearance at the UNGA in 10 years.
- September 27, at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza across from the United Nations;
- September 27, Solidarity March from Grand Army Plaza proceeding up towards the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nation;
- September 28, at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza when Putin was scheduled to give his address to the General Assembly;
- Coordinated with advocates for the following groups who mobilized their communities to come out for each protests: Ukrainians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Belarusians, Georgians, Circassians, Crimean Tatars, Russians, Women’s Groups and LGBT Rights advocates.
- Pictures, press coverage and graphics here: https://www.facebook.com/events/452703821579303/
- Andrij Dobriansky spent September 28, at the UNGA Press Pen and was picked up for live on-air commentary following the addresses of Presidents Poroshenko and Putin.

**Additional Meetings/Events**

- Coordinated with the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations (PMUUN) and other Ukrainian NGOs on organizing a gathering of women leaders of Ukrainian diaspora organizations with First Lady Maryna Poroshenko at the PMUUN in September 2015. Tamara Olexy attended the meeting as well as a subsequent gathering with the First Lady at the Ukrainian Museum in New York attended by 20 adopted children from Ukraine now living with 12 families that came from different parts of the United States.

- On September 29, 2015, Tamara Olexy attended a high-level discussion entitled The Future of Eastern Europe: Empowerment of Women hosted by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė. Also attending the meeting were:
  - Madeleine Albright, former US Secretary of State;
  - Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova;
  - Vera Savchenko, sister of Ukrainian POW Nadiya Savchenko;
  - Mariia Ionova, Member of Ukraine’s Parliament and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration;
  - Svitlana Zalishchuk, Member of Ukraine’s Parliament and Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Euro-Atlantic cooperation and Euro-integration
  - Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered a video greeting.

- In October 2015, coordinated with PMUUN to bring out attendees for a special exhibit at the UN entitled Ukraine and UN: United by Peace, highlighting Ukraine’s history as a founding member of the United Nations and former member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in advance of the UNGA voting on prospective members for the UNSC in 2016-17.

- In October 2015, coordinated meeting with Ambassador Sergeyev, PMUUN staff and Ukrainian NGOs to pre-plan possible events in 2016.

- On November 25, coordinated National Commemoration of the Holodomor, Stalin’s Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Coordination includes working with PMUUN staff as well as the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations (PMUSUN).

- Attended and assisted in generating attendance for a UN side event on November 25 organized by the PMUUN and the Youth Delegation of Ukraine to the United Nations entitled Ability Beyond Disability, highlighting civil society efforts working to foster growing acceptance for those living with disabilities in Ukraine.

- On December 2, 2015 Andrij Dobriansky appeared on Turkish Radio Television to debate Vyacheslav Matuzov, Chairman of the Russian Friendship Society with Arab Countries, one week a Russian Sukhoi Su-24 was shot down by Turkey. Program can be found here: https://youtu.be/s8tkscK_9lU?list=PLUW304lJeu3XZ4t7UUhXcivtS2_lwrw-zh

- On December 4, 2015 Andrij Dobriansky spoke on a panel at the Scandinavia House in New York organized by the Joint Baltic American National Committee, discussing security and economic developments in Eastern Europe alongside a representative of the Permanent Mission of the United
States to the United Nations, the Consul General of Latvia to the United States, and others, including activists such as Bill Browder.

- Working with PMUUN, developed program of Remembrance of the Holodomor, Stalin's Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33 at the United Nations. Coordinated event to fall on the inaugural International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide (December 9), invited community and UN attendees.
- Andrij Dobriansky attended and spoke at press conference organized by the Syrian American Council in the aftermath of Russian bombing of Syria, as US and Middle East Diplomats met at the United Nations.
- Also on December 11, met with Minister Pavlo Klimkin and reacquainted UWC observer team with recently appointed Permanent Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko.
- On December 13, 2015 Andrij Dobriansky attended the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development meeting dedicated to The Paris Climate Agreement & the Road Ahead. Following the conclusion of the meeting, he was invited to speak at the Committee’s January meeting.
- In early January 2016, coordinated with PMUUN to bring out attendees for a special exhibit at the UN entitled Ukraine Exists.
- In December, coordinated meeting with Ambassador Yelchenko, PMUUN staff and Ukrainian NGOs to coordinate for commemorations and events in 2016.
- Coordinated with PMUUN staff to bring out attendees for a special reception on February 5, 2016 welcoming Ambassador Yelchenko to his new appointment and introducing him to various Ukrainian organizations and UN NGOs.
- On February 10, 2016 Andrij Dobriansky appeared on Turkish Radio Television to discuss developments in Ukraine since the Revolution of Dignity.
- Coordinated with PMUUN staff and other Ukrainian NGOs to bring out attendees for a special round table discussion on March 17, 2016 at the United Nations Trusteeship Council on the occasion of the Second Anniversary of the adoption of UNGA Resolution “On the Territorial Integrity of Ukraine”, which featured testimony from Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev.
- Coordinated with World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations UN representatives and PMUUN staff to bring out attendees for a special round table discussion with Ukrainian NGOs on March 17, 2016 at the PMUUN on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Commission on the Status of Women Conference.
- On March 18, 2016 Andrij Dobriansky attended the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development meeting dedicated to Domestic Violence Against Women & Girls: A Major Obstacle to Women’s Empowerment.
- On March 18, 2016 participated at a Crimean Tatar community meeting with Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev.
- At the invitation of the Executive Committee of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, Andrij Dobriansky travelled to Vilnius, Lithuania to participate in meetings on April 11-13, 2016. He was a
guest of the Lithuanian government which organized a corresponding International Conference on
**Mass Violation Of Human Rights In Occupied Crimea** at the Lithuanian Parliament, alongside:
- H.E. Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- H.E. Mustafa Dhzemilev, Leader of Crimean Tatars, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- H.E. Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Chair of World Congress of Crimean Tatars, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- H.E. Linas Linkėvičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania
- H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Professor, First head of state of Lithuania
- H.E. Stanislav Shushkevich, first head of state of independent Belarus
- Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Chair of Committee on European Affairs of Seimas
- Emanuelis Zingeris, Deputy Chair of Committee on European Affairs of Seimas, Signatory to the Act of the Re-establishment of the State of Lithuania
- Vilija Aleknašė-A Abramikienė, Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Deputy Head of Seimas Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

- Working with PMUUN staff, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations and other Ukrainian NGOs, organized a special exhibit to be on display at the United Nations for 10 days on the occasion of the 30th Commemoration of the Nuclear Disaster at Chornobyl in April 2016.
- Coordinated with PMUUN staff and other Ukrainian NGOs to bring out attendees for the United Nations General Assembly Opening Dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of Chornobyl on April 26, 2016.
- Attended as observers the UNSC meeting on April 28, 2016 which featured testimony by Vadym Prystaiko, Ukraine’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ertuğrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, testified via videoconference from Kyiv, on the illegal suspension of the monitoring of Luhansk checkpoints. Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Group, reported on ceasefire violations approaching alarming numbers just a few days before Orthodox Easter holidays. Also discussed was the recent decision to ban the activities of the Mejlis, the representative body of the Crimean Tatars, and other pressing human rights concerns. Minutes here: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7683](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.7683)
- From May 8-May 12, 2016, Andrij Dobriansky attended the 15th Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFIS) alongside Ayla Bakkalli, USA Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis; at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Eskender Barriev, Member of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis; Emine Dzapparova, First Deputy Minister of Information Policy of Ukraine; and PMUUN staff.
- On May 10, 2016 Andrij Dobriansky attended a PFIS side event organized by the Estonian Institute on Human Rights, entitled Indigenous Crimean Tatars: Strategies for Survival and Securing Rights
- On May 12, 2016 Andrij Dobriansky attended a PFIS side event at the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations, entitled Environmental Justice and Indigenous Peoples
- Participated at May 18, 2016 commemorations of Stalin’s 1944 Genocide of Indigenous Crimean Tatars across New York City.
- On May 24, 2016 Andrij Dobriansky attended the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development meeting dedicated to The Role of Education in the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Prior to the meeting, Andrij Dobriansky was invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Executive Board of the NGO-CSD.
- On June 22, 2016, Andrij Dobriansky attended a High-Level Political Forum & Stakeholder Engagement with Peter Thomson, President-elect of the 71st United Nations General Assembly, organized by the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.
On June 22, 2016 attended a reception at the PMUUN on the occasion of 25th anniversary of non-stop air services between Ukraine and the United States.

NGO Committee for Sustainable Development (NGOCSD-NY).

In 2016, a member of the UWC delegation joined the Board of the NGO Committee for Sustainable Development (NGOCSD-NY). Andrij Dobriansky was elected to serve as Executive Secretary, alongside fellow board members from the WFUWO delegation and others. Since 2015, Andrij has chaired numerous monthly general meetings on behalf of the Board, presenting entrepreneurs, UNF and UNDEP speakers, and, among others, Ambassadors from Small Island Developing States, including the President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly.

Some events and meetings attended by the UWC delegation to the United Nations 2016-2017:
- September 29, 2016 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Global Partnerships
- October 27, 2016 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Supporting Mental Health
- November 1, 2016 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- November 11, 2016 – NGOCSD-NY Working Group Meeting on Mental Health with Ambassador Caleb Otto & Dr. Judy Buster-Otto from the Mission of Palau
- November 30, 2016 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Philanthropy
- December 1, 2016 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- December 20, 2016 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Sustainable Action in 2017 and Beyond
- December 20, 2016 – Mission of Ukraine Reception in honor of Ukrainian Armed Forces Day
- December 23, 2016 – CKY board meeting
- January 17, 2017 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- January 26, 2017 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Interfaith Partnerships
- February 7, 2017 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- February 13, 2017 – UN Security Council: Protecting Critical Infrastructure From Terrorist Attacks
- February 21, 2017 – UN Security Council: Conflicts in Europe
- February 24, 2017 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Impact of Terrorism on Sustainable Peace and Development
- February 28, 2017 – Mission of Ukraine Reception to mark Ukraine’s historic Chairmanship the UN Security Council
- March 2, 2017 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- March 15, 2017 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Women Entrepreneurs
- March 28, 2017 – Ukrainian NGO Coordinating Committee
- April 26, 2017 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Refugees & Immigrants
- May 16, 2017 – Timothy Snyder event & “Ukrainian Insights” Art Exhibit at UN
- May 31, 2017 – NGOCSD-NY meeting: Anti-Bullying.

Report was prepared by Tamara Olexy
Chair of the UWC’s International Council on UN Affairs since 2016