

**Message of the chief of the Nivkh tribe of Siberia, Vladimir Sanghi, who, for reasons of health, could not attend the Symposium**

*“To the Symposium of the Indigenous Peoples, United Nations, Switzerland, September 10th to the 13th, 2013.*

*My dear comrades and veterans of the world movement of Indigenous Peoples!*

*Dear young generation of Indigenous Peoples of the world who are to inherit their Father and Mothers' achievements in the movement of their peoples into the state of self-government and autonomous existence,*

*I accepted the invitation to participate in this Symposium with enthusiasm, especially because I have something to say, something I would like to share. However, a sudden illness has forced me to stay in Moscow.*

*It has been six years already since that eminent day when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which gave all Indigenous Peoples, without a distinction of their place of residence, the same and equal rights for their development. It should be noted that all continents and all countries do not yet successfully enjoy all of the Declaration's postulates. Today's Symposium will contribute to the introduction of useful experience of different Indigenous Peoples in the fulfillment, within their communities, of their rights affirmed in the Declaration. However, it is worth stressing that a huge percentage of the indigenous population has no strongly developed political views. And I insist it is necessary to teach them according to the following principle: seeing once is better than hearing twice. It's important to organize seminars and trainings for representatives of different Indigenous Peoples in the countries where the local Indigenous Peoples have already created their developed autonomies. For example, in the last working years of the UN Working Group on the Declaration, together with social figures and chiefs of practically all the tribes, an Inuit Autonomy was created in Canada. It would be of great use for the other Indigenous Peoples, who up until now, have not yet managed to realize the postulates of the Declaration in their territories - for instance, the Nivkh, who have lived in the Sakhalin Island for thousands of years - to meticulously study how the Inuit people in Canada resolved the self-determination issue. They might learn how their autonomy provides them the renaissance of their ethnic identity, the renaissance of their spirituality, their language and ancestral hearts, their traditional right to ancestral lands, the provision of ethnic education and up-bringing of children, the economic and social development, the creation of the self-determination mechanism and hierarchy and the interaction of the federal organs of state power.*

*I wish success to this Symposium!*

*Vladimir Sanghi*

*Founder of the Social Movement of Low Number Indigenous Peoples in Russia*

*Founder and first President of the Association of Low Number Indigenous Peoples of  
North Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation*

*Honorable President of this Association*

*Chief of the Nivkh tribe*

*Writer*