

Good afternoon! I welcome all the participants of the Forum,  
And thank you the Chairman ... for the opportunity to speak.

I am from the Republic of Sakha, Russia, and would like to send you sincere greetings from the people of Sakha to all children of the Earth:  
«Aan Doyduttan tumsbut Sire Iye o5olorugar Itii -Isting e5erde!»

Last year, at the 15th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations, I spoke about new bill, that let everyone get 1 hectare of the land of the Republic of Sakha for free. The people of Sakha were against of this the distribution: numerous protests were held; the activists of the social movement "Sir" appealed to the Russian State Duma a request to withdraw from the bill the territory of the Republic of Sakha. However, without results. The distrubution of the land is in full swing now

Another danger, our people faced today is an attempt of removing the status of specially protected natural areas (SPNA) approved by municipal deputies. We all know that Specially Protected Natural Areas are necessary for the conservation of endangered species of animals and plants, as well as the preservation of the natural habitat of indigenous peoples and their traditional forms of activity.

In September 2016, the municipal deputies of the Nyurba District created SPNA «Markha» on the territory of the Nyurba ulus. However, almost immediately, the first vice president of the diamond mining company ALROSA Igor Sobolev filed a complaint to the prosecutor's office against Nyurba municipal deputies, where he states that there was an illegal seizure of the federal forest fund by the SPNA «Markha».

However, we are sure that the real reason for this complaint is that the SPNA «Markha» possesses a diamond-bearing Ust-Nakynskoye deposit

within its boundaries, and the existence of the Special Protected Natural Area «Markha» prevents diamond mining by the ALROSA.

Unfortunately, the prosecutor of the Nyurba ulus, Artem Ilyin, supported ALROSA's complaint and going to appeal to the court against Nyurba municipal deputies' decision to create a Specially Protected Natural Area "Markha".

It must be noted that there are about 100 specially protected natural areas on the territory of the Republic of Sakha, which were created by decisions of local deputies. This precedent threatens existence of all these specially protected natural areas with local (municipal) status, and threatens the ability of indigenous people of Sakha to protect their rights to their ancestral lands.

There is a tendency around the world to increase corporates' responsibility to respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Our Sakha Republic is very rich in natural resources. There are a lot of industrial mining of the diamonds, gold, gas, oil and other natural resources. We, Sakha people, demand to respect the rights of indigenous peoples and ecological standards by transnational mining corporations and other business enterprises.