

Salekhard Declaration
Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East
The Russian Federation
the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014

We gathered in Salekhard 27-29 March 2013 representatives of 41 indigenous people of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation

We support the decision and resolution of the UN General Assembly A/66/296 of 17 September 2012 a plenary meeting of the General Assembly - the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014, to exchange views and best practices in the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and the implementation of the objectives of the Declaration of the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Endorse and support the Inari Declaration of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the Sami and organizations in Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, in Inari, Finland, 27 - 28 June 2012 and the Arctic Declaration of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, adopted on 23-24 October 2012 in Nuuk by Inuit and Saami representatives.

We affirm the right of our people to the use and possession of the land of our ancestors, to manage its resources and protect its ecosystems, which is a precondition for our survival, the preservation of our unique cultures and the protection of sacred sites and archaeological and historical sites located in the territories of our peoples.

Once again, we declare the right of indigenous peoples to socio-economic and cultural development, which should be based on traditional forms of nature use that does not disturb the balance of nature and our communities, and that means being completely stable.

We are fully aware that the Arctic region, including Siberia and the Far East, has rich reserves of minerals needed in the modern economy. Industrial development of the resources should not violate the ecological balance, destroy livelihoods of indigenous communities nor hinder their development.

We affirm the need to preserve and develop the system of regulation of economic activity in the Arctic, as well as the need for a strategy to ensure the preservation and development of traditional culture in the face of climate change and industrial growth in the circumpolar regions.

We require the participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the creation of such a strategy: from research to implementation, as well as their participation in all decision-making.

We are convinced that such a strategy should also take into account traditional knowledge, as well as flexibility of traditional culture, embodied in its mechanisms of adaptation to changing climatic and economic conditions.

We request the following be included in the final document of the World Conference:

To reaffirm that indigenous peoples are free and equal to other nations in the exercise of their rights, including human rights;

To reaffirm that the indigenous peoples and communities are entitled to the full satisfaction and effective implementation of the human rights recognized in international law, the rights and freedoms recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Emphasize that the language of indigenous peoples is a key element of their cultures and to recognize that indigenous peoples have the right to use their language in all aspects of life;

Recognize the need for effective and concrete measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, including the rights recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with special attention to the rights to land, resources and the right to self-determination;

To reaffirm that the rights recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world;

Declare that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to take effective measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the objectives of the Declaration;

Consider that the International Labour Organization Convention number 169 "On Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries" is a competent international standard for the protection and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Recognize that in order to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples it is appropriate to establish a voluntary international mechanism to receive and deal with complaints about violations of indigenous peoples' rights to their territories, lands and resources and / or their right to self-determination;

We offer the following recommendations:

The right to self-determination and development of the territory and natural resources

To encourage States to urgently fulfill their commitments to implement the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination, paying particular attention to how this right may be exercised;

Recommend States, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to establish national committees or other institutions of co-management, consisting of representatives of the State and indigenous peoples with a view to reaching agreement on the content and scope of rights in land, water and other resources;

Encourage States not to develop and implement agreements on the use of lands and resources for commercial purposes, as well as for the protection of the environment, if these agreements are harmful to the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples or violate human rights, including the right to their traditional economic activities;

Encourage countries of the Arctic Council to develop and introduce additional institutional instruments to regulate the activity of corporations in the arctic regions of their countries, taking into account the known consequences of their actions in the face of climate change and the likelihood of unforeseen risks;

Encourage States to promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles of the United Nations on business and human rights through agreements with indigenous peoples on the basis of their free, prior and informed consent;

To encourage States in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to urgently undertake a comprehensive review of existing national legislation, including the provisions of the constitution to guarantee their full compatibility (or their superiority) with existing international standards of human rights of indigenous peoples;

Consider the denial or disregard of the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and the right to territory, land and resources as a fundamental violation of the collective human rights;

In the field of social policy

Recognize the need for effective measures to provide indigenous peoples guarantee of the full satisfaction of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights law, including the right to culture, language and education;

Encourage States to provide children and young people belonging to indigenous peoples, access to education in their own culture and their own language, to ensure that the educational system is also adapted to the cultural identity, experience and heritage of indigenous people;

To encourage States to promote the development of high-quality cultural and adapted educational and health policies, programs and services for indigenous peoples, taking into account their needs, history, identity, values, beliefs, cultures, languages and knowledge, to ensure adequate funding of the policies, programs and services;

To encourage States to promote indigenous peoples to develop their own academic institutions, research programs and mandatory standards with the participation of the indigenous peoples, all studies should be carried out at the same time taking into account ethical considerations;

In the field of international cooperation and development of the UN system

To encourage States to reconsider the policy of national and international cooperation and funding programs in order to develop effective policies and programs for greater recognition and

implementation of the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention number 169 "On Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries "at the national and global levels;

To encourage States to provide annual reports to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant agencies and institutions of the United Nations on measures taken for the effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

To encourage States to report on measures taken to implement the recommendations and reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their reports within the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council;

Urge states, including the Russian Federation, that are not endorsing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to join the countries that confirmed and took upon themselves the obligation to follow the principles and rights of the Declaration;

We appeal to international and national organizations and all countries with a call for solidarity to support our actions. Industrial development of the Arctic in conditions of the global climate change may not only lead to the loss of Arctic ecosystems, but also to the loss of traditional culture, which is not just unique, but it is the only sustainable option in the modern world. Traditional economy does not violate the balance between nature and society, and therefore its preservation and development will make it possible to find a stable version of the modern industrial civilization.