

Dear Chairperson, dear participants of the first session of the UN Expert Mechanism on Observing the Rights of the World's Indigenous Peoples!

May I bring to your attention the information on the modern situation of small indigenous peoples communities in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Russian Federation. The area of the Krasnoyarsk Territory covers 2.3 million square kilometers which equals 13.7 % of the Russian Federation area (that is 42 % of forest, 4 % of water, 2 % of agricultural lands, 23 % of deer and horse pastures). According to the results of the 2002 census, there are 16.409 thousand people of the small indigenous community groups in the Krasnoyarsk Territory (evenk-4632, selkups-412, kets-1189, choulymtsty-159, dolgano-5805, nentsky- 3188, ensi-213, nganasani-811)

I would like to emphasize the example of one Siberian community, the Chulym Turks. The data of the 2002 census has shown that there were 656 Chulym Turks in the Russian Federation, particularly 497 in the Tomsk Region, and 159 in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. The modern Chulym Turks are the descendants of the ancient Turkic tribes who have inhabited this land since the 5th-8th centuries AD.

In 2005 the Chulym Turks of the Krasnoyarsk Territory organized a territorial neighborly small indigenous people community "Chulym" and at the moment are actively involved in assigning water reservoirs and land areas on the basis of the Federal Law "On the Territories of the Traditional Nature Management by the Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation". Nevertheless, this law has not been in operation since model regulations on the legal regime of such territories has not been worked out by the Russian Federation Government. Without the documents with the right of use the lands on the territories mentioned, the members of the "Chulym" community who have traditionally carried out such nature management have no opportunity to acquire a long-term license with the right to use the fauna objects and with the fishing quota. Falsely and with gross violations, on the lands of the traditional habitation of the Chulym Turks there was organized a national biological wildlife preserve of a Territorial importance "Chulymskiy" with an area of 14800 hectares. In the borders of the wildlife preserve there remained lakes, meadows, former villages, tribal burial places, and the indigenous people were banned from visiting and using the tribal territories for the life activity. In the winter this year around ten lakes on the wildlife preserve territory were under suffocation which led to mass fish kill, about which the heads of the appropriate organizations of the Territorial Administration, Territorial Prosecutor General's Office were warned in advance in written form and over the telephone. For this reason the Chulym Turks found themselves without the means of subsistence. In Pasechnoye Village, where the major number of the Chulym Turks of the Krasnoyarsk Territory live, there is no manufacture, not even a shop; on the other hand, there is an elementary school and a leisure center. The Chulym Turks, like their ancestors, basically carry out the traditional life style: gathering, fishing, hunting, subsistence agriculture and farming. The products of this activity are used both for covering the people's own needs, as well as for selling in the district center. For encouraging the revival of the national activities, traditions and folklore, the "Chulym" community regularly organizes the autumnal festival "Aypay" ("The Month of Richness"). This year, on the threshold of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the "Chulym" community received the following for the year of 2008 by the Territorial goal-oriented program of "Small Indigenous Peoples of the North": 1) bus "PAZ-32053" to carry out the population's transportation to the district center to the healthcare agencies, social care etc. (around 190 people); 2) van "UAZ" to organize the shipping of the products of the traditional means of management (mushrooms, berries, nuts, fish total amount gathered: around 10 tons) and selling them on the local market; 3) refrigerator chest for storing the production of the traditional management in the laying-in season.

Dear colleagues, summarizing the results of my talk, I would like to emphasize that our Government and society takes measures aimed at creating the conditions allowing the small indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation, along with all the Russian citizens, to realize their constitutional rights.

It is important to mention that on the 13th of September 2007 the UN Secretary General Pan Gi Mun called the adoption of the declaration 'a victory of the indigenous peoples in the whole world'. It certainly will affect the Russian national legislation regarding the small indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation, the state politics and the subsequent positive steps of the federal and regional authorities.

In conclusion of my talk I would like to thank the UN Voluntary Fund for the travel grant, the communities of the indigenous peoples of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Valeriya Lemskaya (a postgraduate student of Tomsk State Pedagogical University), and the Government of the Krasnoyarsk Territory.