

The Human Rights Council can assist in promotion of good practice of using Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by state bodies in different countries.

In Republic Sakha (Yakutia), the biggest region of Russia the Constitutional court made a right and honourable decision, taking account declaration.

Constitutional court adopted the Decision No.4 -p of October 21, 2016 in the case the interpretation of the provisions of article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia).

The Decision stated that the territory of Yakutia is the native land and historical homeland of the Sakha people, the source of its economic well-being, unique cultural and linguistic identity, and the constitutional and legal status of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia) is a form of its socio-political and state-legal organization as a national community in the Russian state.

Unfortunately, Russia did not endorse of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Russian authorities only recognize rights of small-numbered indigenous peoples with less than 50,000 inhabitants but do not recognize rights of other indigenous peoples with more than 50,000 members, for example, Sakha people with about 400,000 members. Republic Sakha (Yakutia) exceeds the area of France by 5 times, Italy — 10 and England by 13 times.

Despite the existence of natural resources (diamonds, gold, oil, gas) majority of multinational people of Yakutia live in poverty. Yakutians do not receive tangible benefits from the resources extraction. Yakutia have many problems such as unfavourable ecological situation, alcoholism, suicide, crime.

Russian high-ranking officials lobby interests of the resource extraction companies that aim to minimize costs through non-payment of compensation to local population and refusal to finance activities to ensure industrial and environmental safety. It is one of main reasons for non-approval of UNDRIP. It is important to note that international law on indigenous peoples does not infringe upon the rights of other peoples. Regrettably, Russia's federal authorities do not understand it.

WE URGE the Human Rights Council appeal to the Russian government:

1. to recognize the status of indigenous peoples with more than 50,000 members;
2. to approve the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples;
3. to implement the rights of indigenous peoples in Russia in according to provisions of international law on indigenous peoples.