

Item 5 (d). Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Stepan Petrov  
NGO Yakutia – Our Opinion

Russia is not a dump of nuclear waste from all over the world:  
every country must recycle nuclear waste on its territory

In 2019 the following problems have worsened in Russia:

- importation of nuclear waste to Russia;
- construction of the 1, 2 hazard classes waste disposal plants without population consent and in dangerous proximity to places of residence of people.

A critical situation is emerging that threatens life and health of the inhabitants of Russia.

It violates the right to favorable environmental conditions of residence and preservation of physical health guaranteed by Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In this regard, We the Coordinator of the Public-ecological movement #StopKambarka, the representative of indigenous people Bashkir Tagir Rashitovich Kagarmanov (Neftekamsk, Republic of Bashkortostan) and the Chief of NGO Yakutia - Our Opinion, the representative of indigenous people Sakha Stepan Yurievich Petrov (Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)) are categorically against:

- importation of nuclear waste from foreign states to the Russian Federation;
- creation of facilities for handling I and II hazard classes waste without consent of the population and in dangerous proximity to places of residence of people.

These problems are related, since the creation of facilities for management of I and II hazard classes waste without consent of the population has the goal, presumably, not to handle Russia's own waste, but foreign waste imported from outside the country, which is indirectly confirmed by the plans to import 12,000 tons of nuclear waste from Germany into Russia in the period 2019-2022 and the plans of the Russian Government to create 7 facilities for handling I and II hazard classes waste in the period 2019-2023. In this regard, Tagir Kagarmanov made a video statement to the Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Dorothea Merkel and German people.

Russian citizens including indigenous peoples should not be exposed to mortal danger from foreign nuclear waste. And in the sphere of spending the state budget there are more priority areas - social support, medicine, education and other vital expenses.

We have sent an Appeal to the Prime Minister of Russia Mishustin. The Russian government sent an appeal to Rosatom from which a negative response was received. We also conducted an independent anti-corruption expertise of the Federal Law No. 170-FZ "On the Use of Atomic Energy" dated November 21, 1995. However, the responses were negative.

On the basis of the above and in order to respect our rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights We, indigenous representatives Tagir Kagarmanov and Stepan Petrov ask the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to propose to the Russian government:

- 1.) to cancel the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation on the construction of a

technical complex for processing and disposal of I and II hazard classes waste "Kambarka" in the Udmurt Republic;

2.) to stop importing nuclear waste from foreign states into the Russian Federation;

3.) to create conditions for the free expression of will and holding of referendums on the construction of facilities for handling I and II hazard classes waste, including not hindering the holding of referenda;

4.) to provide a rationale for the planned volumes of capacity utilization of 7 facilities for handling I and II hazard classes waste created in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 540 dated April 30, 2019,<sup>7</sup> as well as information on the origin of waste planned for processing (from which country and enterprises );

5.) to ensure changes in the law enforcement practice and legislation of Russia based on the implementation of the following guidelines for the disposal of nuclear waste.

1. Each country should dispose of nuclear waste on its territory.

2. Russia must utilize only its own nuclear waste on its territory.

3. Objects for handling I and II hazard classes waste should be built, mainly, in areas remote from places of residence of people.

4. The population of Russia's regions where it is planned to build facilities for handling I and II hazard classes waste should have the opportunity to freely express their will and hold a referendum on this issue.

5. In case of disagreement of the population, obtained as a result of the referendum, the decisions on the construction of a facility for handling I and II hazard classes waste shall be canceled.