

## RESOLUTION

### **‘Indigenous Small-numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East and Climate Change: New Challenges and Global Agenda at Paris, COP 21’**

Indigenous Small-numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation through public and government representatives and experts held consultations in Vladivostok on September 22-23, 2015 and in Yakutsk on October 1-2, 2015. During the sessions the following resolution was elaborated:

We, Indigenous Small-numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (hereinafter – ISPN), reaffirm our right to use the inherited land, manage the resources it provides, save its ecosystems that all contribute to our existence. We reaffirm the right to preserve our unique culture, sacred, archeological and historical sites found all around our Motherland.

We claim the right to social, economic and cultural development that should be based on traditional forms of economic management. Such development should be sustainable, i.e. it should not undermine the balance between the living communities and the nature.

We do realize that the regions of the North, Siberia and the Far East are endowed with the richest raw material deposits. However, we insist that the industrial development of these resources should not infringe on ecological balance, indigenous peoples’ life and their appropriate development.

The North, Siberian and The Far East regions’ industrialization along with the climate change strengthen the current risks and introduce new threats to the life of ISPN. Global warming contributes to the spread of human and animal diseases, ecosystem destruction, coastline erosion, permafrost degradation. It also debilitates agriculture and the access to the traditional nutrition forms.

Global warming increases the ecological risks caused by industry activities manifold. It enhances environmental pollution risks. Landscape and geological changes might lead to the destruction of poisonous litter containers, pipeline rupture, etc.

We agree with the experts that the on-going activities of the man already affect the climate and will not probably cease to do so throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We fully acknowledge the fact that the major problem is not the warming itself; rather, it is its consequences that truly matter. Such consequences involve the increase in the frequency of hazardous natural disasters, rising sea levels, permafrost and glaciers deterioration, coastline erosion, etc.

We agree on the issue that developed states have the obligation to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or else the upcoming changes that the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will witness will do great harm to Mother Earth.

We agree that new strategies on how to adapt to climate change should be provided, since mitigating effects (e.g. greenhouse gas emission reduction) will hardly reverse the process of climate change in future.

We articulate the need of elaboration and implementation of new strategies to prevent and to adapt to negative effects on climate system within the framework of regional and federal programs of social and economic development of the North, Siberia and the Far East regions.

We consider it essential to introduce the national and international sources of financing to engage indigenous peoples' communities in decision-making as regards climate change (Indigenous Peoples Global Fund for adaptation and mitigation efforts addressing the effects of climate change).

We want to see ISPN involved in all the mechanisms, institutions' activities and procedures held by UNFCCC in order to efficiently reduce the climate change effects, to successfully adapt to it, to search for sources of financing, to monitor and reinforce our capacities based on proper concepts of ISPN.

We believe that the indigenous peoples' representatives and the observers of Paris Climate Change Conference play an important role. We are strongly convinced that the key to success is neither denial nor critics. Instead, we believe in the effect of specific suggestions during both the COP21 Report elaboration and on a statewide scale.

We voice our concern that the convention itself and national objectives on gas emission submitted by the states are potent when attempting to curb the global warming rate up to 2 degrees Celsius. We insist on 1.5-degree rate.

In our view, the international convention should provide:

- obligatory review of the national objectives every 5 years;
- world's forests preservation and reconstruction, including boreal forests;
- equal distribution of climate financing (50% to 50%) spent on mitigation and adaptation;
- separate financing of 'losses and damages' problem (this is the issue that can hardly be adapted to);
- elaboration and introduction of low-carbon technologies and adaptation practices;
- mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral collaboration.

We clearly see the need to introduce a separate chapter on boreal forests that are equally important as tropical forests and comprise the largest natural storage of surface carbon. We stress that boreal forest preservation should be stated in the convention in the context of indigenous peoples' rights.

We believe that the new convention should provide transparency on each separate point: emission of gases, adaptation and finances. Therefore, we consider it essential to stop the reduction of seat number for the observer-organizations representatives at the conferences of UN Convention on Climate Change.