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11 March 2011

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 78th session, the Committee considered the situation of the small-numbered indigenous peoples from Nanai District of the Khabarovsk Krai, on a preliminary basis, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, in light of information submitted by a non-governmental organisation.

The Committee expresses its concern about information received according to which the new federal law "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russia Federation" which was to be adopted in 2010 contains amendments on the Fishery law which will reportedly affect negatively traditional economic activities of small-numbered indigenous peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and the Far East. The Committee is concerned that the new federal law may aggravate the situation of those indigenous peoples as compared with previous fishery rules, by preventing them from selling fish for their livelihood.

It is alleged that, under the new law, authorities may impose restrictions on fishing without any consultation with the indigenous peoples' community. It is alleged that vesting constituent entities with the right to determine the areas of catching may result in the allotment to indigenous peoples of areas little suitable for fishing. Moreover, use of fishing grounds will reportedly be allowed for industrial purposes and sold at auctions, making them inaccessible to the indigenous communities.

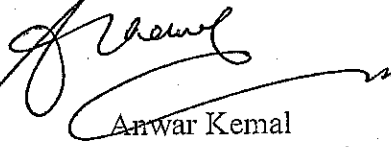
The Committee requests the State party to inform the Committee on measures taken to ensure that the application of the new law will not endanger fishing activities and livelihood of the Nanai District indigenous peoples as well as other indigenous peoples in other regions of the Russian federation. In this context, the Committee recommends that the State party conduct an impact assessment of the new law on the traditional economic activities and sustainability of those populations and ensure their effective participation in the process pertaining to its implementation.

H.E. Mr. Valery Loshchinin
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to UNOG
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In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to urgently receive information on all of the issues and concerns as outlined above, before 31 July 2011.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue a constructive dialogue with the Government of the Russian Federation, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anwar Kemal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anwar Kemal
Chairperson of the Committee
on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination