Information from the Russian Federation

Response to the request of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

on ensuring the rights of indigenous children

The Russian Federation has acceded to most international human rights instruments, including the International Covenants on Civil and Political, and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, etc.

The key provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are reflected in the current Russian legislation and law enforcement practice. In 2019 Russia submitted its sixth and seventh periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention, covering the period from 2011 to 2019.

The principles of non-discrimination, the priority of the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development and respect for the views of the child are set out in a number of laws, such as Federal Act No. 124 of 24 July 1998 on basic guarantees of children's rights in the Russian Federation, Federal Act No. 323 of 21 November 2011 on basic health care in the Russian Federation, as well as in sector-specific regulations (Federal Act No. 1807-1 of 25 October 1991 on the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation, Federal Act No. 323 of 22 November 2011 on the rights of children).

"On the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation, and on 9 October 1992

No. 3612-1 "On the fundamentals of legislation in the area of culture" and No. 74-FZ of June 17, 1996, "On the principles of legislation in the area of culture".

Act No. 74 of 1996 on ethnic cultural autonomy

No. 273-FZ on Education in the Russian Federation of December 29, 2012, etc.).

The rights and interests of indigenous children are also taken into account on the basis of legislative acts of the federal level, e.g,

"On Guarantees of the Rights of Small Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation" of 30 April 1999, "On General Principles of the Organization of Communities of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" of 20 July 2000, "On Territories of Traditional Nature Use of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" of 7 May 2001, and the legal acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation in whose territory live the small indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation.

All constituent entities of the Russian Federation, including regions inhabited by small indigenous minorities, have an Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child (Federal Act No. 501-FZ of 27 December

In all constituent entities of the Russian Federation, including the regions inhabited by small indigenous peoples, there is an ombudsman for children's rights (Federal Act No. 501-FZ of 27 December 2018 on ombudsmen for children's rights in the Russian Federation), whose mandate includes monitoring the implementation, observance and protection of children's rights and taking measures to prevent and suppress violations of children's rights. The protection of the rights of orphans, children deprived of parental care and other categories of children in difficult circumstances is a priority.

Decree No. 240 of the President of the Russian Federation dated 29 May 2017 declared the period 2018-2027 the Decade of Childhood in the Russian Federation. The plan of measures for its implementation is a continuation of the work started within the framework of the National Strategy of Action for Children (2012-2017). The main focus is on such areas of work as support for families with children, children's health and safety, including nutrition, healthy and active lifestyle, sports education, and education.

On the basis of the documents mentioned, the constituent entities of the Russian Federation have developed regional strategies (programmes) of action relating to children, tailored to the demographic, ethnic, religious and other characteristics specific to each region.

Particular attention in the practical work of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in whose territory indigenous minorities live is being given to measures to improve the accessibility and quality of medical care in sparsely populated and hard-to-reach areas.

New standards are being introduced for medical care for members of small indigenous minorities in such common illnesses as diseases of the circulatory system, the digestive organs, the respiratory organs and malignant neoplasms. Special attention is being given to the development of a system for the protection of motherhood and childhood and the introduction of telemedicine. Work is under way to set up a telemedical infrastructure at federal level, at the level of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and at the level of interdistrict centres for emergency and specialized medical assistance.

In addition, with a view to ensuring primary health care in the far north, Siberia and the Russian Far East in rural and remote areas and at nomadic camps, it is planned to develop mobile medical teams using rough terrain vehicles and, in certain cases, water, rail and air transport.

For example, in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District (YN

Pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, as well as congenital anomalies. In order to reduce infant mortality, measures are being taken to improve primary health care and emergency medical assistance by air ambulance (more than 20 flights are made annually to pregnant women and children in the region) and to introduce telemedical technologies, including for perinatal monitoring and remote counselling for women during pregnancy to detect foetal malformations at an early stage.

The Government is also making efforts to establish an effective system for disease prevention, ensuring that all children receive preventive medical examinations at least once a year, and improving the quality of medical care in educational institutions. A high level of coverage of children by preventive vaccinations under the National Immunization Calendar has been maintained in the Russian Federation, exceeding 97 per cent, whereas the level recommended by the World Health Organization is 95 per cent.

The system of social support measures for families with children and children, including indigenous children, is being strengthened and expanded in the form of federal and territorial allowances and compensations, organization of recreation and year-round health improvement for children, rehabilitation measures for children with disabilities, etc. For example, in order to preserve the traditional economic activities and cultures of the small indigenous minorities of the North, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area-Yugra has prepared a list of professions and specializations connected with carrying out traditional economic activities and developing the original culture and native languages of the small indigenous minorities of the North. Students in these occupations receive State support. Every year, about 800 students from low-income families and those studying in the specialties included in this list receive compensation for tuition fees, food, textbooks and clothing, travel for holidays from the place of study to their place of residence and back, accommodation in a dormitory and an additional monthly allowance.

Close attention is paid to the education of small indigenous minorities in the Russian Federation. Indigenous small peoples in Russia have one of the highest levels of education among indigenous peoples in the world. All are entitled to free general, vocational and, on a competitive basis, higher education. Many regions provide subsidies for free higher education. Support is given to indigenous students in the form of monthly stipends, reimbursement of expenses for first and second higher education, and financial assistance for postgraduate students.

According to data from the 2010 national census, 98 per cent of representatives of small indigenous minorities over 15 years of age have general education, 40 per cent have vocational training, 12 per cent have higher education, 0.3 per cent have postgraduate studies and only 2 per cent have no primary education. Even in the most remote northern territories, educational institutions are being re-equipped with modern equipment, vehicles are being purchased to transport students, and school libraries are being replenished.

Twenty-two indigenous languages are taught as separate subjects in Russian schools. Textbooks are published on languages and literature, history and culture, national traditions and the decorative and applied arts of indigenous peoples.

General education in the regions of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East includes general education establishments with an ethnocultural component and nomadic educational institutions. Nomadic schools are currently operating in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area and are being established in the Taimyr Dolgano-Nenets and Evenk districts in Krasnoyarsk Territory and Amur province. Different models are used, taking into account the specifics of the region. For instance, the semi-permanent school model involves children living with their parents in the tundra. Education takes place in specially built chums (or huts, modules). The teacher is either a resident of the nomad campsite or comes to teach children on a rotational basis for 1-2 months. Nomadic school implies that the teacher comes to the place where children live. The model is used when nomadic families live far away from settlements.

Since 2017, as part of the project "Children of the Arctic. Pre-school education" implemented under the auspices of FADN of Russia and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation in five regions of the Arctic zone (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District (Yugra), Sakha (Yakutia), Komi Republic, Arkhangelsk Region) a campaign "Getting Ready for School" is held. Its aim is to

In order to create conditions for the preservation and study of native languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation, which are a national treasure and the historical and cultural heritage of the Russian Federation, the Foundation for the Preservation and Study of Native Languages of the Peoples of the Russian Federation was established in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 611 of 26 October 2018. The main purpose of the fund is to create conditions for the preservation and comprehensive development of native languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation; to expand the opportunities for educational institutions to ensure the rights of students and their parents to freely choose a language of education, study and learning from among the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation; to develop, examine and publish teaching, methodological and other literature in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation; to update dictionaries of native languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation; to prepare special literature in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation. One of the Foundation's priorities is to produce textbooks and teaching and methodological literature in the languages of small peoples. Thus, for example, in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area, textbooks and teaching kits have been produced for classes 1-9 in the native (Nenets, Khanty and Selkup) languages, study guides for classes 1-5 in the Komi language (Izhemsk dialect) and study guides for classes 2-4 in the native (Nenets and Khanty) literature. Nenets and Khanty language textbooks for grades 1-4 were included in the federal list of textbooks in 2018.

Positive experience in ensuring the rights of indigenous children to study their native language has been accumulated in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug. In the Okrug, the Law "On the Languages of Indigenous Minorities of the North living in Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Yugra" was adopted in 2001. Studying of native language ("Native language", "Literary reading in native language") in general educational organizations is conducted from the 1st to the 11th grades in the form of facultative classes. There are 54 small-sized general education institutions located in places of traditional residence and traditional economic activities where 4,115 children from small indigenous peoples of the North study.

In the Okrug, the study of native languages of the indigenous small peoples of the North is carried out in 14 kindergartens (321 indigenous children) and in 26 general education organisations (1,606 indigenous children).

As of September 2020, pre-school preparation groups have been opened at several secondary schools as part of the Stoybishchino School-Garden educational project. "The Stoybishchino School-Garden is an educational project for pre-school education of children from the indigenous minorities of the North living in the territories of traditional nature management. The educational process is organized by distance learning for 18 children from 13 families of indigenous peoples of the North in Beloyarsk and Surgut Districts. Children are provided with access to the Internet and are provided with digital devices for education (laptops, tablets, stationary computers).

The linguistic situation of the native languages of small indigenous minorities of the North is monitored on a regular basis. Studies are carried out by the Ob-Ugric Institute of Applied Research and Development. The monitoring is conducted in places of traditional residence and traditional economic activities of small indigenous minorities.

The Russian Federation ensures the right and creates the necessary conditions for indigenous peoples to transmit all cultural heritage, including intangible heritage, spiritual values and benefits to future generations. Such activities are based on a multi-layered system, including legislation at the federal, regional and local levels to preserve and develop indigenous peoples' distinctive cultures. Law enforcement practice to ensure the protection of the cultural rights of indigenous peoples in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation includes the adoption of targeted programmes and funding for measures to preserve the cultural heritage, support cultural and recreational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in the preservation of cultural heritage, ensure measures to preserve indigenous languages, introduce new technologies in school education, promote the intangible cultural heritage of peoples through the media and create information

The peoples, and the collections of museums and folk art centres are enriched.

All regions hold annual Olympiads, competitions on the history of indigenous peoples and their native languages, and folklore events. For example, since 2018 the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District has been running a cultural and educational programme for schoolchildren entitled 'The Culture of the Peoples of Yamal', which involves learning about the culture, traditions and everyday life of Yamal peoples, creating and running quest games, creative classes and master classes. The projects aimed at popularising the folklore of the peoples of the North among children and teenagers, such as "Folklore Lessons: Living Motives of the Northern Land", "Dialogue of Cultures" and the Istomin festival, are being implemented.

Great interest of young residents of the autonomous district is aroused by museum expositions and interactive exhibition projects devoted to traditional holidays: "Spirit of ancestors or Bear Feast", "Live silver", mobile museum projects "Museum to every home". As part of the regional "Digital Culture" project, museum exhibits are being created using augmented reality technology.

Particular attention has been paid to preserving the traditional crafts and trades of northern peoples, ensuring continuity and passing on the secrets of skills to the younger generation. To this end, exhibitions and competitions are held of decorative and applied arts in various kinds of crafts - bone carving, woodworking and traditional embroidery. An important role in the preservation and development of traditional folk culture in the Autonomous Okrug is played by cultural and leisure centres and centres of national cultures. Annually, around 26 thousand cultural events are held at clubhouses of the Autonomous Okrug, 1069 clubs operate (with a total of 22,032 participants) of which 498 are for children (9,828 children under 14 years old), 57 folk ensembles.

Libraries are being actively upgraded in order to establish modern information centres to provide children and young people with a useful pastime and additional information. The premises are accessible to small groups of the population. Libraries are being fitted out with modern units of library furniture and equipment, play modules, construction kits for babies and young readers, computer equipment and equipment for creating reading seats.