



**WILPF REPORT ON UPR:  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
(11<sup>th</sup> HRC Session - 10 June 2009)

**OVERVIEW:**

1. Russian Federation
2. Country responses
3. NGO Input
4. Response Russian Federation

**1. RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
(Deputy Minister of Justice)

*[This part is purely an account of what was said during the session and does not represent the actual situation in the Russian Federation.]*

Russia accepted over 70% of the recommendations made during the UPR review. The other recommendations will not be accepted, but this is for clear reasons. Russia will work to protect the dignity of human beings, freedom of thought, expression and religion, economic and social rights and development of international cooperation.

Russia intends to take into account recommendations made in relation to Russia's Treaty obligations. Russia is planning to ratify the Convention on Disabled persons and is planning to modernize education for disabled children, and also plans to implement an awareness raising programme to ensure that disabled children are accepted in the Russian society.

Russia is focusing on combating racial discrimination, especially towards several ethnic groups. There is no need to establish a new organizational structure. The Representative expressed to be convinced that it is a better approach to make usage of existing bodies: Internal Affairs and the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Russia is strengthening the quality and effectiveness of the Russian judiciary and ensures the independence of judges. Pre-judicial consideration of disputes is being developed.

Further steps are planned in the area of improving the quality of living for people who are kept in custody. Work needs to be done to ensure that alternative measures can be taken, except for prison sentences. This will work towards reaching international standards on medical and sanitation services for inmates.

Russia will continue its protection of human rights defenders and support the development of civil society organisations. This will ensure a gradual development into an open and consultative society. A full expert report will be presented by civil society organisations to follow-up on the implementation of UPR recommendations.

In the Doema Russia will continue to consider a draft federal law – on guarantee of equality of parliamentary parties – when they're activities will be covered by the State media channels. The Representative expressed the willingness to continue to monitor the implementation of the education of several mother tongues in the Russian education system.

In conclusion, the Russian delegation said to be prepared to respond to any request or clarification.

**2. COUNTRY RESPONSES**

*[All States only had 2 minutes to speak and not all could speak, only 10 were allowed to ensure better time keeping.]*

**Pakistan, Qatar and Uzbekistan** only made positive remarks.

**Venezuela**

Noted positively the acceptance of Venezuela's recommendations on the National Priority Plan for Health.

**Algeria**

Made positive statements towards the acceptance of over 70% of the recommendations provided to Russia during their UPR review.

**Cuba**

Focused on the positive developments in the implementation of the Right to Health. Free of charge pre-school teaching was additionally noted.

**Sri Lanka**

Commended on Russia's history and their positive impact on the world's development.

**China**

Overall positive. Spoke about an open and frank attitude in which Russia participated in its UPR review. Said to have every reason to belief that the Russian Federation will present an even more impressive report in four years time.

**Egypt**

Commended Russia for the way Russia is further realizing human rights in the current economic crisis.

**Saudi Arabia**

Said that Russia should continue to strengthen its counter-terrorism measures.

**United Arab Emirates**

Commended Russia on its responsible approach during the UPR. Advices HRC to adopt the report.

**3. NGO INPUT**

**Indian Council of South America**

Welcomed the change of totalitarian regime into a democratic regime. Congratulated the Russian Federation for chairing the Durban Review Conference. Expressed hope that Russia will continue to combat racism, address the phenomenon of xenophobia and address indigenous peoples rights. Called upon Russia to work towards signing the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Populations.

**Recontre Africaine Pour La Defense Des Droits De L'homme (RADDHO)**

Racial hatred and violence continues to be an important problem. RADDHO emphasised the recent increase in violence, proliferation of young nazi groups and revisionist statements by political parties which are targeted at Jews, Roma, Africans, Muslims and persons from Central Asia. Requested Russia to implement recommendations made by CERD. Pushes Russia to find a long lasting and peaceful solution to the conflicts in Chechnya and South Ossetia. Commended Russia for its contribution to the HRC and the Durban Review Conference.

*[President: requested that NGOs would not make statements on internal armed conflicts.]*

### **Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

Focused on recommendations 28 and 31. Recommendation 28 has been adopted by Russia, which was welcomed. It is consistent with a statement made by Russia in the General Assembly. However, there have been restrictions put on Russians due to their sexual orientation (Lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual). The Representative urged the government to stop denying democratic assemblies. Concerning recommendation 31: Russia responded that training of prison guards were already in place. The NGO requested information on this.

### **Human Rights Watch**

HRW expressed as a key concern during the UPR: the hostile and deteriorating environment for civil society organisations. NGOs are burdened with too many governmental interferences. Ongoing abuses in Chechnya is another core concern. Meaningful accountability mechanisms should be found for abuses noted by the European Court in Chechnya. Particularly, in this regard it was disappointing that the SR on Torture had no access for a country visit. Ten Special Procedures have pending visits to Russia and HRW requested Russia to react to these and accommodate the Special Rapporteurs.

### **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs**

Requested attention on the Russian population of the North and Siberian lands. Recommended that recommendation 56 should be linked to the CERD recommendations. CERD published a report which expressed concern about the situation of Indigenous Populations. Russia has said to have adopted a National Action Plan on the basis of CERD recommendations. GEAR requests a better insight in the status of this document and requested a timeline for its implementation.

### **International Commission for Jurists**

Called for a prompt and transparent implementation of recommendations. Especially for torture and forced disappearances in the North Caucasus. Harassment of human rights defenders is another issue. Cases of killings of human rights defenders should be promptly and diligently investigated. Recalled that the 2002 law on legal practice lead to the removal of a lawyer. In conclusion, the NGO called on Russia to invite special procedures on torture and enforced disappearances.

### **Indian movement Tupaj Amaru (MITA)**

*[President ruled this statement out of order.]*

Expressed concern over violations of the freedom of expression for indigenous populations in Russia. The association of Indigenous peoples of Northern Russia signed a protocol of intentions to strengthen the partnership between the organisations. A book have been published in the Russian language on the self determination of Indigenous peoples. The Russian government officials broke into a Indigenous peoples Insistute in Jakoetjisk subsequently.

## **4. RESPONSE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Thanked Delegations for their interest in the Russian UPR. Agreed with Delegations that Russia's approach met with all of its obligations. Thanked the participation by Russia's civil society organisations in preparing and following up.

The Russian Representative addressed a part of his statement towards those NGOs that spoke during the HRC meeting. He emphasized that Russia is a signatory of the Convention on Economic, Social and Civil rights. The abolishment of the death penalty will not be done de jure, when de facto it has not been executed anymore. In 1999, all persons who have been earlier convicted to the death penalty had been changed to life long prison sentences. Russia will ratify ILO Convention 169 in the near future.