

The association's charter extends membership not only to representatives of northern minorities, but also to those of any nationality who share the vital interests of ethnic minorities of the Far North, Siberia and the Far East.

The congress delegates adopted a declaration. In particular, the document points out that only seven of the twenty-six ethnic nationalities of the region have national autonomy. The absence of State, economic and legal structures among the Evens, Nanais, Saami, Selkups and other peoples of the Soviet North complicates the processes of consolidation and renewal of national consciousness. For this reason, the congress feels that the reconstitution of national regions and rural soviets must be accompanied by a return to such forms of self-government as kinship and tribal councils and councils of elders.

In calling for a review of the principles of regional industrial development, the congress participants demanded the declaration that any large-scale project connected with the use of natural resources be subject to review by regional associations of minority peoples.

The delegates called on their fellow native inhabitants to take heart and become actively involved in the re-structuring of their lives. As stated in the declaration, ensuring our future is only possible through our own efforts and intelligence, anchored in faithfulness to national traditions and socialist ideas.

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Page 1 (full text)