

Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The **W**orking **G**roup of **I**ndigenous **P**eoples in BEAR



WGIP

Protocol No. 1

Tromsø, January 21st-22nd 2009

The Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Postboks 276, 9915 KIRKENES, Norway.

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Agenda

01/09 Approving the call-up

02/09 Approving the agenda

03/09 Approving the protocol from the last meeting

04/09 Update from the WGIP members and observers

05/09 The Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples of the BEAR 2009-2012

06/09 Project: Kola Saami Radio and a circumpolar network of indigenous media

07/09 WGIP representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation

08/09 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010

09/09 Code of Conduct

10/09 WGIP and the Arctic Council

11/09 Annual report BIPO 2008

12/09 Budget BIPO 2009

13/09 Annual report WGIP 2008

14/09 Budget WGIP 2009

15/09 Indigenous peoples' adviser at the International Barents Secretariat

16/09 The Barents Program 2009-2013

17/09 Other Issues

18/09 Next meeting

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Present:

Saami (Norway): Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

Saami (Russian Federation): Valentina V. Sovkina

Nenets: Galina A. Arteeva

Saami (Sweden): Per Labba

Observers (January 21st):

Janne Hansen, Gáldu – Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Tor Mikalsen, the Saami Parliament in Norway

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01/09 Approving the call-up

Decision: Call-up approved

02/09 Approving the agenda

Decision: Agenda approved. Item 17/09 Other Issues will include discussion and decision regarding the WGIP representation in the Working Group on Environment (WGE).

03/09 Approving the protocol from the last meeting

Decision: Protocol from the WGIP meeting in Rovaniemi (October 30th 2008) approved.

04/09 Update

Janne Hansen presented Gáldu – Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Gáldu is working, in consultations with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, to publish materials in Russian.

Valentina Sovkina suggested, on behalf of the newly appointed Representative Council of Saami in Murmansk Oblast, to arrange a seminar to inform the regional administration and officials about indigenous peoples' rights and international law. Such a seminar could take place prior to the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010. The Head of the WGIP finds it natural that the WGIP participates in this.

Tor Mikalsen presents himself.

Tor Mikalsen has been asked by the WGIP to represent it in the Joint Working Group on Environment (WGE).

Galina A. Arteeva (Yasavey):

- Yasavey is working on several projects, to maintain activity in the organization in 2009, and this includes cooperation projects with Nenets AO regional administration
- Yasavey has cooperated with reindeer herders' organizations and industrial companies, on both national and international level

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- The cooperation project on ethno-tourism between Yasavey and SOGSACK (school in Inari, Finland) has included several activities in 2008, and among the result is a multilingual dictionary (Nenets, North Saami, Finnish, Russian)
- April 3rd-7th: WGIP meeting and visit from Guovdageaidnu
- Galina V. Platova has established contacts in Moscow for the tourism project, as well as promoted the project "Tourism as trade"
- Kanin Red Chum – the project secured health service to the reindeer herding brigades in the Kanin tundra in Nenets Autonomous Okrug, as well as a cultural program, for five months through the NAO regional administration. The project is included in the program for development of development conditions in NAI on an annual basis. Surveys among the reindeer herding brigades show that it a long-term project is wanted. Yasavey would like the regional administration to finance the project as a whole. During the Soviet time, this project was implemented throughout the year.
- June 28th-30th: Yasavey participated in a Finno-Ugric conference in Khanty-Mansisk about identity
- January 2008: a lawyer is working for organizations an obshinas to map questions regarding rights and other relevant issues. Yasavey organizes seminars for indigenous peoples regarding taxation and other juridical issues
- Nikolay Latyshev represents Yasavey in a committee consisting of representatives from industrial companies, and land rights have been discussed in meetings
- Yasavey has met with Lukoil Komi and another company regarding potential financial support for Yasavey (office expenses)
- Galina A. Arteeva represented Yasavey at Riddu Riddu in Gáivuotna, Norway
- Local health authorities in Nenets AO signed a cooperation agreement with Médecins sans Frontières in July 2008. Representatives will visit Nes in March.
- All activities in Yasavey have been financed through projects since 2005. Yasavey Manzara was established in 2005, and it is the most important informational and executive organ of Yasavey.
- 2009: Yasavey will participate in the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Discussion in WGIP regarding Kanin Red Chum: Yasavey wishes to include Bolshemelskaya Tundra into the project. The Norwegian company StatoilHydro participates in oil/gas extraction in the Kharyaga field. The Code of Conduct will contain minimum standards for industrial activities in indigenous peoples' areas.

Valentina V. Sovkina (Saami, Russian Federation):

- The Saami Congress in Olenegorsk is among the most important events for the Saami people in the Russian Federation. A council has been appointed, to represent the Saami of Murmansk Oblast, and the council has already met three times. Valentina V.

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Sovkina has been elected Head of the Council. Vasily Kramarov from Gremikha (Iokanga) is the substitute member and Anna D. Prakhova is the secretary. Guidelines have been adopted, and tasks have been divided

February 4th 2009: The Council meets officials from both the regional дума and administration. Items for discussion will be development of a program aimed at social development of indigenous peoples' communities in Murmansk Oblast, as well as financing issues. The Council will function for two (2) years, and its main task is to obtain necessary documents and information in order to establish a parliamentary body representing Saami of Murmansk Oblast. Budget proposals for this work are sent to the governor of Murmansk Oblast.

- BIPO (Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office) has a lot of contact with the local community in Lovozero. Valentina V. Sovkina suggests that a branch is established in Murmansk city, as it seems that another person might be needed in the office. This person could function as a political adviser, in addition to the administrative tasks which are currently executed
- Valentina V. Sovkina is considering her participation in the WGIP, due to an increasing amount of political obligations

Head of the WGIP, Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

- There is currently only funding for one (1) position at the BIPO, but the Saami Parliamentary Council, together with the WGIP and the Association of Saami Artists will consider establishing a new position at the office.

Ms Janne Hansen, Gáldu:

The following things should be in order before a political elected organ can be established:

- juridical and political documents
- seminars for both the Saami population and authorities regarding these matters

Per Labba (Saami, Sweden):

- underlines the importance of Nordic assistance in this work, in order for Saami in the Russian side to achieve the same status as Saami in the Nordic states
- discussion in Sweden regarding self-determination

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

- the Swedish authorities try to define the Saami people as a national minority instead of as indigenous people, and this is contradictive to the work being executed within Norwegian legislation, as well as to the work on a joint Nordic Saami convention
- in the Norwegian side: preparations for the elections to the Saami Parliament and the Norwegian Parliament (September 2009)

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- two main issues in the Saami Parliament in Norway: the Mineral Act and oil extraction at the Goliat field in the Barents Sea

Decision: The information is taken into consideration.

06/09 Project: Circumpolar media network and Kola Saami Radio

Yasavey proposed establishment of a Nenets radio station in Naryan-Mar during the WGIP meeting in Naryan-Mar (April 2008). The idea includes cooperation with Kola Saami Radio and Yasavey suggested reproduction of the news from Kildin Saami to Russian, for broadcasting in Nenets AO.

The WGIP has a current focus on stabilization of Kola Saami Radio, and the primary task is to secure future funding for the radio station.

The economic situation for Kola Saami Radio is urgent and the station will be closed if the depth (salaries for the employees) is not paid immediately. A FM transmitter is necessary for further broadcasting of Saami news in the region.

Ms Valentina V. Sovkina stressed the importance of the maintenance of the radio station, and pointed out that the news should be of relevance to the remaining population in the area as well, in order to achieve funding from Russian authorities/institutions.

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen proposed the following steps for the further work:

- 1) find solution for immediate financial challenges in KSR (keep NRK Sámi Radio and maintain the existing radio mast)
- 2) investigate opportunities for establishment of a Nenets radio station
- 3) include the indigenous media stations in the circumpolar media network

Information from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat:

- There is an urgent need for RR 300 000 (NOK 70 000), to maintenance of the existing mast and salaries. The NBS has financed the project earlier (total amount NOK 465 000)

Decision: The secretariat is given the authority to proceed with the issue. The NBS, BIPO and Eeva-Maarit Aikio (KSR project manager) constitute the core in this work. Ms Christina Henriksen contacts the adviser on Barents issues in the Norwegian MFA about setting a meeting with KSR in Lovozero in week 6. The Head of the WGIP is given the authority to work on a long-term solution for the financial situation of KSR.

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08/09 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010

The BIPC is proposed to be held in Kirkenes, Norway during Barents Spektakel 2010.

Decision: Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010 is held in Kirkenes during Barents Spektakel 2010. Proposal for the program is presented on the next WGIP meeting. The secretariat is given the authority to work on this matter.

09/09 Code of Conduct

WGIP has made a decision stating that WGIP will initiate the development for a Code of Conduct aiming at industrial companies working in indigenous peoples' areas. This was discussed during the meeting with RAIPON, the Saami Parliament in Norway, the Saami Council and the Saami Women's Forum in Kirkenes on June 9th 2008. The issue was also presented for the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jonas Gahr Støre. Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples is asked to execute this task on behalf of the WGIP.

Decision: WGIP asks Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples to develop a brief description of this project. WGIP and Gáldu will sign a letter of intent previous to the application process. The request from WGIP to Gáldu will specify that WGIP wishes that their special adviser, Mr John Bernhard Henriksen, executes this task.

05/09 Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR 2009-2012

Decision: The Action Plan is adopted with changes. The secretariat includes the changes into the document.

January 22nd

07/09 Representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation

- a) Yasavey has suggested appointing 1 representative from each indigenous people (3 representatives) to Barents Regional Council (BRC).

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Galina A. Arteeva suggests that two (2) substitute representatives are appointed, to secure participation of the WGIP in the BRC. The Chair region of the BRC should be the region of origin for the WGIP representative to BRC. The two (2) substitute members should represent the remaining two (2) indigenous peoples of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

- b) It is proposed that the WGIP secretariat shall represent the WGIP at the meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), and that the Head of the WGIP represents WGIP at the meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC).

The Saami Parliamentary council (the Saami Parliament in Norway) is financially responsible for the part that includes the state level.

Suggested solutions:

- 1) The adviser on indigenous peoples at the International Barents Secretariat represents the WGIP at the CSO meetings
- 2) Saami Parliamentary Council (in consultancy with the Saami representative of the Russian side, the Nenets and the Vepsian representative) appoints the WGIP representative to the CSO meetings

The fact that the Norwegian Barents Secretariat is a state institution complicates the possibilities for representation on behalf of the WGIP in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation. However, the Head of the WGIP states that the future indigenous peoples' adviser at the International Barents Secretariat will represent the indigenous peoples of the BEAR, although the position is seconded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Saami Parliament of Norway.

The Saami Parliamentary Council has made their decision regarding representation in the Barents Regional Council and the Barents Regional Committee. Mr Leif Arnold Dunfjeld and Mr Bent-Martin Eliassen are appointed as formal WGIP representatives to the Regional Committee. Mr Tuomas Aslat Juuso is the WGIP representative to the Barents Regional Council.

The Head of the WGIP states that the (two) secretaries of the WGIP represents WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee. It is considered natural that the secretary situated on the Russian side represents WGIP when the Chairmanship of the Barents Regional Council is held by a Russian region. However, the Head of the WGIP has contacted the former secretariat of the Saami Parliamentary Council, and they have confirmed that a mistake has been made considering the decision. WGIP has wanted increased participation from the Saami Parliaments, and welcomes this attitude from the Saami Parliamentary Council.

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Decision:

- a) WGIP appoints the WGIP representative to the Barents Regional Council. The representative shall be a native in the region which holds the chairmanship of the Barents Regional Council. Two representatives representing the two remaining indigenous peoples are to appointed as substitute representatives to the BRC. A request will be sent to Yasavey, Vepsian Cultural Society and the Saami Parliamentary Council regarding this matter. The issue is followed up by BIPO in the Russian side and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in the Norwegian side.
- b) WGIP maintains the decision from 2005. The WGIP secretaries represent the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee. The secretariat informs the Saami Parliamentary Council about the WGIP decision.

10/09 Arctic Council

18/09 Next meeting

WGIP has sent a letter to the Norwegian chairmanship of the Arctic Council, requesting for observer status at the Arctic Council's meetings.

Decision: The next meeting is held in Tromsø in the end of April, connected to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting.

11/09 BIPO Annual report 2008

Decision: The item is postponed to the next meeting.

12/09 BIPO budget 2009

The BIPO is currently financed only by the Saami Parliament of Norway. Funding from the Saami Parliaments in Sweden and Finland is wanted for 2010. The Head of the WGIP promotes the issue regarding expanded staff at BIPO at the Saami Parliamentary Council meeting.

Decision: The budget is adopted.

13/09 WGIP Annual Report 2008

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Decision: The item is postponed to the next meeting.

14/09 WGIP budget 2009

Applications for funding for activity are sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the four BEAC member states.

Decision: The budget is adopted and taken into consideration.

15/09 Adviser on indigenous peoples at the International Barents Secretariat

Decision: The WGIP welcomes the adviser on indigenous peoples at the IBS.

16/09 The Barents Program 2009-2013

Decision: The Barents Program 2009-2013 is taken into consideration.

17/09 Other issues

A decision shall be made regarding the WGIP representation in the Working Group on Environment (WGE). Mr Tor Mikalsen (Saami Parliament of Norway) is proposed.

Decision: Mr Tor Mikalsen is appointed WGIP representative to the WGE.

Secretary: Ms Christina Henriksen

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