

WGIP meeting
Svanhovd, june 4-5

Lars-Anders Baer
Tiina Snila Aikio
Bjarne Store Jakobsen
Galina Arteeva
Valentina Sovkina
Larisa Chirkova

Tatiana Egorova(secretary)
Anja Kristin Salo(secretary)
Jevgenij Jushkov (interpreting)

Pavel Suliandziga (observer/Raipon)
Galina Platova(observer/ Yasavey)

Protocol

- 24/13 Approval of call-up**
- 25/13 Approval of agenda**
- 26/13 Approval of protocol from the Skype meeting /14.03.13**
- 27/13 The new Barents Declaration**
- 28/13 Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress**
- 29/13 Information from RAIPON**
- 30/13 Pre-session in Alta**
- 31/13 Barentsindigenous.org and Facebook activity**
- 32/13 Nenets Broadcasting project**
- 33/13 Election for WGIP**
- 34/13 The economic situation**
- 35/13 Other issues**
- 36/13 Next meeting**

24/13 Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up was approved

25/13 Approval of agenda

Decision: The agenda was approved. Item 29/13 will be discussed first.

26/13 Approval of protocol from the last skype meeting/14.03.13

Decision: The protocol was approved. Jenny Laiti is now the indigenous candidate in the Steering Committee of Woman and Youth at risk.

27/13 The new Barents Declaration

The Declaration was found much better than the first one by all WGIPs members.

It doesn't speak of indigenous populations anymore, it's about indigenous peoples, distinct people. It refers to the UN declaration and ILO 169, which is very important on the international level. The Declaration says that the governments must acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples. It is in the beginning of the declaration, which makes it a quite strong document. But the declaration is approved, not signed. The question is whether WGIP should interpret this as a consensus document, or merely a document of good intentions?

According to Russian members of WGIP the members on the Russian side should arrange for regular meetings with the governor to inform about WGIP's work and listen to the regional governments suggestions about indigenous peoples based on the new declaration.

Chair of WGIP suggested that the dialogue between the indigenous peoples and the governors should be channelized through the Barents Regional Council where all the Russian governors are present. All information and questions should be sent to the indigenous representative, Aili Keskitalo on beforehand.

He suggested that Aili Keskitalo informs the governors about who is the member from their region in the working group. The respective member should then make the formal contact with the governor. In this context Mr. Baer thought it would be vice to analyze the new Barents program 2013-2018. Aili Keskitalo should be invited to the next WGIP meeting to analyze the program and decide how to act.

Decision: The first reading was done. The working group members will analyze the declaration and the Barents program and discuss it more in detail during the next meeting. The secretariat will send the Barents Program and the Declaration to the working group members.

28/13 Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress

The chair underlined that the Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress in the new Barents Declaration is recognized as a cooperative body in the Barents cooperation.

The Barents countries have presented the Barents Indigenous Congress as a key actor of implementing the new declaration. So far this is just empty word without any substance. They have given WGIP some responsibility, but no means to act on this responsibility, course there is none economic support. In the new Barents Declaration all of member states says they will support indigenous peoples, but Russia has never financed the Indigenous Peoples Congress. Finland paid for own delegates, Sweden supported in some extant, but mainly the congress has been financed by Norwegian Sami money. WGIP should have enough money to organize this happening in a professional way.

Decision: The Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress is postponed until WGIP financing is secured.

29/13 Information from RAIPON

Pavel Suliandzuga informed about present situation and future perspectives. The forming of a new political leadership under president Ledkov has taken a long time. It has been a collapse in the functioning of RAIPON. The former staff members are fired, the new staff is not yet elected and RAIPON`s webpage is not up and running yet. Sulyandziga is the first vice president and is responsible for the international cooperation. He ensured that the international strategy will not be altered and continue as usually.

There have been several meetings with the federal ministries such as the President`s administration, State Duma and the Ministry of Regional Development to find ways to solve important issues for the indigenous

peoples in Russia. As a result President Putin will meet with the indigenous leaders in August/September. A public hearing will also be conducted to rise the issue of The Russian Federation's approval of the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples Rights. According to Sulyandziga their main lobby task is to get Medvedev and Putin to approve the declaration. It would be a tremendous step for Russia before the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples next year.

RAIPON is preparing an initiative to the President's administration. They want the year of 2014 to be announced as indigenous peoples' year in Russia.

WGIP have a formal agreement with RAIPON. They are observers and permanent participants at the same level as the Sami Council.

Sulyandziga suggested continuing and intensifying the cooperation between WGIP and RAIPON, because the international support is of ultimately importance to RAIPON at this stage.

Decision: WGIP should sign a new agreement with RAIPON and point at specific issues such as cultural exchange, language programs etc. Such an agreement will be in accordance with the new Kirkenes Declaration signed by the prime ministers. The ministerial meeting inspired the indigenous peoples to sign such an agreement.

30/13 Pre-session in Alta

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen informed about WGIP's side-event in Alta.

The theme of the side-event is extractive industries, health, environment and pollution – Impact on indigenous peoples. Three co-partners: WGIP, Sami Church Council, Galdu. Galdu has given NOK 20.000, Church Council NOK 10.000 and Barents Secretariat NOK 40.000.

The Canadian documentary film "The end of dirty oil" will be showed. Tar sand problems in Northern-Alberta will be discussed. First nations representative from River Creek in Alberta will talk about the health impact. ICR will talk about the mining in Sami areas vs. reindeer husbandry.

Decision: Bjarne informed about the pre-session and the financing of the pre-session. Sovkina, Platova and Chirkova informed about the Russian delegation to Alta.

31/13 Barentsindigenous.org and Facebook activity

The secretariat informed about the current situation and suggested to use channels such as Barents Observer, Facebook, twitter and vkontakte to share and spread information.

The Chair suggested to form a Barents Indigenous Peoples information strategy. Galdu and the Sami Parliaments should be involved to spread Barents indigenous information through their channels as well. He also suggested to connect the Nenets Radio project in the new media strategy.

The secretariat suggested inviting the indigenous peoples representatives in the other working groups to inform WGIP about what they do.

Decision: Barentsindigenous.org should mainly be informational. Barents Observer should be used more actively to spread information about indigenous peoples in the Barents Region. The secretariat will create a new Facebook and Twitter account . The chair will meet Galdu and discuss possibilities for a joint project concerning information about the indigenous peoples in the Barents Region.

32/13 Nenets Broadcasting project

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen informed about the latest developments in the project.

3 students left the projects, 9 people are still there. This is a huge success, according to Store-Jakobsen.

The argue between Yasavey and the broadcasting company TRK concerning language, culture and knowledge was solved after Store-Jakobsen visited Naryan-Mar. They all met and resolved the problem.

From May the students were supposed to start an intensive language-training course. To secure Yasavey some kind of saying in the project Store-Jakobsen suggested that Yasavey are given 10-15 documentaries from Canada as their property. The documentaries are produced by Earth Magic Media. Everything will be dubbed into Nenets by the students. The subtitles will be in Russian. Yasavey then has a good standing in this project and we secure indigenous content.

An application will be sent to the Barents Secretariat: NOK 50.000

The project is finished by the end of this year.

Galina Platova added that TRK committed itself in two important issues:

1. They must arrange an intensive course in Nenets language and find funding for that themselves
2. The Russian news will have Nenets subtitles.

Unfortunately the language training is postponed to the fall.

Decision: WGIP will follow the development of the project.

33/13 Election for WGIP

The WGIP members informed:

Finland: Tiina Sanila-Aikio will stay as a member of the working group another three years (2015).

Norway: Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is asked by the Sami Parliament to stay in the working group for another four years. He will think about it. The election is this year.

Sweden: The appointment of Lars Anders Baer ends this year (October). The Swedish Sami Parliament has not decided on the new WGIP member.

Russia:

Sami – The election will be held on December 2014 at the Kola Saami Congress.

Nenets – During the Congress in March this year it was decided that Galina Arteeva will continue representing the Nenets peoples in WGIP (March2016)

Veps – The board of Vepsän Kultur Sebr decided that Elizavata Kharitonova will continue.

Decision: The secretariat is informed and can follow the elections.

34/13 The economic situation

The Chair informed about the current situation:

- A letter to CSO and BEAC must be drafted to explain the situation.
- WGIP should apply money from Sweden to participate at the foreign ministry meeting in October. The Russian and Finnish side must also be pushed to secure financing.

- WGIP must send in a more concrete application to the Finns and specify what activities they could cover.
- Sweden should cover the rest of the year: CSO meeting on December 5, all working group meetings + Foreign minister meeting in Tromsø (ca. NOK 70.000)
- The chair should inform CSO that the Congress is decided to be held in Finland next year and that we will apply for funding for this happening as soon as possible.

Decision: WGIP will write a formal letter to the CSO and inform them about the present situation. At the same time WGIP will apply money from Sweden for operational activities as agreed.

35/13 Other issues

Press release

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen drafted a press release and presented it to the working group members.

Baer informed that CSO in September would invite representatives from all working groups to participate and elaborate about the new declaration. The Veps and the Nenets representative should then participate too, if WGIP has the financial possibilities.

Decision: WGIP decided to publish a press release commenting the ministerial meeting and the economical situation of the WGIP. If WGIP economical situation is solved nenets and veps representatives will participate in CSO meeting in September.

36/13 Next meeting

Decision: Ministerial meeting in Tromsø, October 28-29