

Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



WGIP MEETING,

June 6th, 2018

Brussels

Working group members present:

Lars-Anders Bær, Chair(Saami, Sweden)

Tuomas Aslak Juuso(Saami, Finland)

Galina Platova(Nenets, Russia)

Evgeniy Foteev(Veps, Russia)

Inger Eline Eriksen Fjellgren(Saami, Norway)

Secretariat:

Ida Holm Hansen, NBS

Tanja Egorova, BIPO

Invited guests:

Amalia Rodriguez(DOCCIP)

Mathias Wuidar(DOCCIP)

Tomas Hallberg(IBS)

Interpreter:

Natalia Clement

Julia Koreneva

9/18 Call-up approved

10/18 Agenda approved

11/18 Protocol approved

12/18 Short information from WGIP members about situation in regions

Saami, Norway:

1. The municipality of Røros has joined the administrative area for the Sami language in Norway from the 1st July.
2. The state has reduced the hunting rights of the Saami in the traditional duck hunting in Kautokeino.
3. The truth and reconciliation committee will be established in June, and the Saami parliament has given parliamentary resolution on the mandate just before this WGIP meeting.

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4. The supreme court has been looking at the reindeer herding act, the question is have there been a discrimination compared to other grazing animals? They requested a revision of the reindeer herding act as soon as possible.

Nenets, Russia:

1. 2018 was declared the Year of Reindeer Herding in the Nenets Autonomous Area. In the district, an organizing committee was created, which included representatives of the legislative and executive power of the region.
2. At the request of the reindeer herders themselves, the Council for the Development of Reindeer Husbandry was set up under the NAO Governor. The Council's task is to resolve the most acute problems requiring immediate resolution together with the representatives of the district's rural production cooperatives, family-clan communities and peasant farms. It is a permanent body, headed by the Governor.
3. The Congress of the Reindeer Herders of the NAO (March 2018) raised several problems such as: question of overgrazing of pastures, sales markets, difficulties with increasing the economic efficiency of reindeer husbandry, qualitative production of secondary raw materials, and other important issues.
4. Thanks to the joint work with the association "Yasavey", it was possible to create a department on the Nenets language at the Center for the Development of Education of the Nenets Autonomous District, and two more employees were added.
5. The administration of the NAO approved the procedure for granting subsidies to family (clan) communities of indigenous peoples of the North for increasing the number of reindeer.
6. There is a constant connection with the island of Kolguev. The KHKH "Herm" and the Saldi SROC need help with restoring the reindeer population. In March 2018, they recounted the reindeers here, 446 reindeers passed through the corral.

Veps, Russia

1. In January this year there was a re-registration of the regulations of the Society of Veps Culture, now the Society has become a socially oriented organization, and can participate more actively in obtaining government grants.
2. The new Minister on National and Regional Policy of the Republic of Karelia is Sergey Viktorovich Kiselev, and is already actively cooperating with the Society.

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3. A meeting was held in the Veps village of Rybreka, attended by representatives of the largest mining organization Karel Stone, the fishermen of the village, the Council of Deputies of the village and the Minister of National and Regional Policy Policies. The population did not allow any of the fishing sites to be withdrawn for the enterprise, although the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture had already been made, so after public pressure the decision was canceled.
To protect the rights to traditional fishing in Rybreka, a fishing community was established. Documents for registration have now been submitted.
4. A working meeting was held in the Vepsian village of the Leningrad Region of Vinnitsa on the 17th of April in the framework of an agreement on cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Karelia and the Government of the Leningrad Region. Representatives of the authorities of the two regions, scholars and public figures discussed the problems of preserving Veps culture, the complexity of legislation and joint projects.
5. On the 10th of February a meeting was held in Petrozavodsk with the national community of Karelia and Alexander Beglov, who acts with the full power of independent action on behalf of the President of the Russian Federation in the North-Western Federal District. Zinaida Strogalschikova, representative of the Veps in the Coordination Council of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia, noted that the active interaction between the public and the authorities of Karelia allowed resolving many issues related to the organization of the Karelian and Vepsian languages, training of personnel and textbooks, publishing activities in the Karelian and Vepsian languages. However, now we need to pay attention to other regions of Vepsians and Karelians, to spread the accumulated progress on to them.
6. The Ministry of National and Regional Policy of the Republic of Karelia and the Institute of Language, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences signed an Agreement on Cooperation and Joint Activity. The cooperation agreement covers such important areas as creating conditions for research, preservation and development of the language and traditional culture of indigenous peoples, holding research conferences, seminars, projects in the implementation of state national policy. In addition, the parties intend to continue implementing joint publishing projects.

Saami, Finland:

1. Major development this year in the Saami Parliament of Finland, for the first time now they have three politicians who receives a salary, which is the president, the vise president and the second vise president, which has strenghtened the work for the Sami Parliament and strengthen their capacity on political issues.

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2. The truth and reconciliation process has been put a bit on hold, because it's more or less tied closely to the Saami parliamentary act process, which is still ongoing. And if the Saami parliamentary act process goes down, the truth and reconciliation process wont be able to move forward.
3. Good news on educational issues, there is a new joint project with Ohcejohka municipality and the Saami Parliament about distance learning so that all Saami in Finland are able to get an education in Saami through internet.
4. The arctic railway is moving on, the route Rovaniemi-Kirkenes has been established, there has been established a working group to state the impact of the arctic railway, the Saami parliament has elected Heikki Paltto as their representative in this working group, with Tuomas Aslak Juuso as his deputy member, awaiting the election of the representative from the Norwegian Saami parliament, and if they will join the group. The Saami Parliament has stated in the permanent forum of the united nations that it does not support the arctic railway under any circumstances.
5. A pan Saami seminar in Inari was held on how to preserve the culture heritage and which joint actions should be made to do so, with representatives from all four countries, lasted almost a week, with different settings and programs. Key message from the seminar week is that the Saami jointly should build up a common ground or policy on how to maintain Saami cultural heritage and also included some aspects of tourism.
6. On the renewal process on social and health care that includes regional governance system amendment in the parliament of Finland; the current situation is frustrating for the Saami Parliament. The situation for the Saami is slowly deteriorating, especially when speaking about the language rights, it's taken a negative term, because of the current proposal in the parliament of Finland, it does not included earmarked funds for the services for the Saami language, which is a negative change for the current situation.
7. Recent development on Deanu river, received some improvements to the regulations of how the agreement is implemented, but mainly minor details that doesn't bring new aspects to the table. To be discussed further with the Norwegian Sami Parliament, as of now it feels like the efforts aren't getting any results.

Saami, Sweden:

1. There is a new government in Sweden now, and also a new Saami parliament, which is a coalition between 5 parties, which is lead by Per Olof Nutti.

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The main issue now in the dialouge with the government is to create some kind of consultation routine, and the Swedish government is working with a new legislation much like the one in Norway, in dialouge with the Saami Parliament of Sweden. It's not fully agreep upon yet, but the government will soon present a bill to the Saami Parliament, and then we will see if it gets accepted.

2. In a village in the county of Norbotten there is a court case about fishing rights going on, it will ascend to supreme court in two years. So far the courts have said that it is the inhabitants of the village that owns the hunting and fishing rights, which have led to a lot of discussions. The state has argued with a lot of oldfashioned colonial retoric, saying that the scientific community in Sweden is too Saami friendly, which has created alot of reactions from the scientific community.
3. There is still a debate on the reindeer herding convention between the Swedish and the Norwegian governments, and also between the Saami parliaments of Sweden and Norway. From the Swedish governments side they mean that the border treaty from 1752 is still in force, while they on the Norwegian governments side states that it's the internal legislation that is in force.
4. There is a problem with increasing amounts of seal in the fishing area.

IBS:

1. News from the last regional council meeting: BRYC is now formally a working group in the charter BEAC system, and it has been established that they will have a 3 year funding of 5000 euros from each region in Sweden, Finland and Norway per year, and the Russian regions will pay in kind if there are any activities. The IBS urge us to actively take part through BRYC to engage youth representation also here.
2. The secretaries have previously talked to IBS about the Indigee projects, and they suggests that the WGIP talk to the CSO and RC about getting the project back up and running as it was a good project. IBS would be happy to support WGIP if we wish to continiue the Indigee project.
3. Predators are an issue that is discussed on many levels, not only at the WGIP meetings but also at RC meetings. Magdalena Anderson from Sweden is the chair person of an investigation group on predators in Sweden, Tomas Norvoll has the same role in Nordland county. As we all know, the predators don't care about borders and roam wherever they want to, but we have different rules and legislation on how to control and regulate them. Perhaps a seminar or some kind of conference on the topic together with the regional council could be an option? The regional council decided at the meeting in Arkhangelsk in 2017 that such an event must take place. And while we are

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on the subject, perhaps also talk about hunting and fishing rights in the regions for the indigenous people and the rest of the people living there? Let's try to develop a program together.

4. On the practical level; we can support you with visas, or on bigger events such as with registrations on seminars and so on.

DOCIP:

Amalia Rodriguez and Mathias Wuidar visited our meeting and informed about the background for and about the work they are doing. DOCIP, or the Center for Documentation, Research and Information, is an NGO that was created in 1978 on the initiative of indigenous delegations attending the first International Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was held at the United Nations (Geneva, 1977). DOCIP is a Swiss not-for-profit foundation whose primary objective is to support Indigenous Peoples in defence of their rights, mainly within the framework of the UN and European institutions. DOCIP is governed by Article 80 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code and is headquartered in Geneva (Switzerland). It is subject to cantonal and federal bodies that are in charge of monitoring foundations. DOCIP is also a quadrilingual point of contact; its work is carried out in 4 languages: French, English, Spanish and Russian. DOCIP is funded by the European Union (through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights), the Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the Sámi Parliament of Norway (Sámediggi)

Resolution:

Information from regions and guests included in minutes

- The chair of WGIP will discuss with the Swedish chairmanship the possibility of a seminar together with the RG about predators, so that WGIP can try to effect the program of the RG seminar on predators so that the aspect of the traditional knowledge and interests would be involved. Also he will talk to the county of Vesterbotten and the Saami Parliament in Sweden about co-organizing such an event.
- Also there should be a separate seminar on indigenous fishing rights

13/18 Information about the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials in Skelefteå

Chair of WGIP, mr. Lars Anders Baer and secretary, mss. Tatiana Egorova took part at the meeting in Skellefteå. They discussed mainly priorities of indigenous peoples and upcoming BIPC 4

Resolution:

Information included in the minutes

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14/18 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress

The next BIPC will be in 2019, and the WGIP needs to start planning it, where should it be, what should be the topic etc.

Lars Anders Bær suggest to arrange a 3 days summit, conference and congress back to back, and suggests that it is to be on the Swedish side as it is the Swedish chairmanship now, in either Lyksele, Vesterbotten or Umeå.

Possible dates could be middle/ third week or end of May.

He also says that it will be a heavy burden on the WGIP and the secretariat if we were to organize both congress and summit, and that the Swedish chairmanship or the Saami parliament on the Swedish side, if they want the summit, should be in charge of organizing it, so that the WGIP can concentrate on the congress.

In regards of entertainment in the evenings during such an event, it might be an idea to engage the people in Lyksele/Umeå municipality (Sami association/Sami Parliament) to ask if they will do the cultural program.

Money wise the county of Vesterbotten is prepared to take their share as well.

We should also put pressure on the Saami Parliaments to engage money or staff in such a project.

Themes suggestions for congress:

Year of indigenous language.

Language as a theme?

Respect for the indigenous languages

Fishing/hunting rights

Summit suggestion topics:

The right to consult and the right to participate in decision making?

Legislation of indigenous rights?

Truth and reconciliation?

Lecture about this?

Focus on the system, or substantial rights?

Resolution:

Information included in minutes

- All members are to check the event calendar for their respective parliaments and/or organizations, and also possibilities for economical support for this event.

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- Chair to receive a preliminary budget for the previous summit and congress from the secretariat, and he will also check with the Saami Parliament of Sweden, the government and the county about locations for such an event and the economical picture.

15/18 Terms of references

Resolution:

Changes have been made and new draft has been sent out to the WGIP members for comments

16/18 Other issues

- Ida informs about the RG meeting in Rovaniemi

- Got a suggestion from the Veps about a new representative to the wg on ecology, will be distributed to all members as this was suggested when only three members are left and we'll decide on this on a skype meeting in the near future.

- Karelians to WGIP, still needs to be discussed.

Evgeniy Foteev believes that in time they will be acknowledged as an indigenous people in Russia.

Tuomas Aslak Juuso means that the Finnish side has to discuss it more, as they are not counted as an indigenous people in Finland, but Finnish people with a dialect. We have to check with CSO and perhaps on the ministerial level.

Also we have to look into the legalities, are we allowed to decide upon membership of the Karelians.

Resolution:

Information included in minutes

17/18 Next meeting

Kirkenes is suggested, secretaries will get back with exactly when and where in the beginning of July