

## ***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 27, 2017**

**Stockholm**

Meeting starts at 12.00

#### **14/17 Call-up approved**

#### **15/17 Agenda approved**

A proposal was made to supplement item 22/17 with information on the meeting with Elinor Bloomberg, a member of the CSO from Sweden.

#### **16/17 Protocol from the last meeting in Murmansk in March approved**

#### **17/17 Evaluation of 1st Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit**

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, conducted the first in the history the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation Summit of the Indigenous Peoples of the Barents Region.

Over one hundred participants of the summit: indigenous leaders, regional and state politicians, representatives of science and business, the media and other important stakeholders, gathered together to discuss the possibilities of creating and developing business on the basis of traditional knowledge that will provide both economic and social stability in the region.

The final stage of the Summit was a concert of indigenous peoples, organized by the WGIP, in cooperation with the Riddu-Riddu Festival.

The WGIP members agreed that the event was successful and well organized, but there are some points that need to be taken into account when preparing the next summit.

**Decision:** The Secretariat will prepare a written assessment of the summit, which will be sent to the members of the WGIP and the CSO.

#### **18/17 WGIP Action Plan 2017-2019**

Today, the version of the Action Plan for the WGIP looks more like a draft version. It is necessary to correct it.

**Decision:** The Secretariat will prepare a document for the next meeting and send it to the members of the WGIP.

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### **19/17 Activity of other WG withing BEAC and work of indigenous representatives in them.**

The Chair of the WGIP visited the meeting of the leaders of other Working Groups of the Barents Region, initiated by the Russian Presidency of the CSO in Moscow and informed about the activities of the WGIP.

Our working group is one of the most active groups of the Barents cooperation, but of course we can improve our work and establish closer cooperation with other working groups.

Members of the WGIP need to think about the following:

- Do we need to share our Action Plan with other working groups in order to make it easier to see common points of contact?
- Do we need to invite representatives of other WGs to our meetings?
- Do we need to require reports from indigenous representatives in other WGs?
- Do we need to invite representatives of other WGs to the WGIP meeting to discuss the above and listen to their suggestions?
- Do we need to ask the other WG for proposals on the nomination of a representative from indigenous peoples?

**Decision:** The Secretariat will prepare a review the working groups of the Barents Region to the next meeting, the WGIP members should be prepared to discuss the relevance of the participation of indigenous representatives in other working groups.

### **20/17 Participation in other WG**

Members of WGIP need to decide which WGs should be prioritised to take part in. A full list of BEAC WGs can be find at: <http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Working-Groups>

**Decision:** It is necessary to send letters to our partner organizations so that they send us proposals on candidatures for working groups before the next meeting of the WGIP.

### **21/17 Short information from WGIP members about situation in regions**

#### **Saami, Sweden:**

- Work is being done to ensure that the Sami are placed in a separate group, as indigenous peoples. Right now the Sami in Sweden are one of several in the group of minorities, but the Sami does not want to be treated as a minority but as an indigenous people of Sweden
- Continuation of the work on the health of indigenous peoples.
- Focus on the Sami language. There is a problem with education on the Sami language, there is no education for teachers. A large seminar was held in Riksdagen, where the problems of education were discussed.
- The issue of approving the Northern Saami Convention is postponed, because it received great criticism.

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- Work is conducted on establishment of the Commission of Truth.
- 

### **Sami, Norway:**

- The Saami from the Norwegian side support the establishment of the Commission of Truth. The purpose of such a commission will be to review what has been done with the Saami in Norway over the past 100 years and prevent a repeat of events.
- Debates continue on the issue of consultations with the Saami Parliament. At the moment, there is an agreement between the Saami Parliament and the Norwegian government, but it works very badly, so there is a debate about the law. The proposal for the law came from the Norwegian government, but for some reason the Saami Parliament rejected it.
- Soon elections will be held in the Saami Parliament and many issues will be reviewed. A new representative in the WGIP will also be selected.

### **Sami, Russia:**

- Decisions were made on the development of tourism on the sacred lake "Seid". It was decided not to build buildings near the lake, only small bridges for tourists. Cafes, latrines will be located at some distance from the lake.
- On the issue of shooting wild reindeer, the regional authorities passed a resolution banning hunting in places of reindeer grazing. It was also decided to allow the Sami fishing by nets.
- The issue of allocation of forest areas for indigenous peoples is being discussed. At the moment, the areas can be allocated, but only with the condition of signing a lease agreement, which is quite expensive.
- In May, the government of Murmansk region approved a new composition of the Council of Representatives of the indigenous peoples of the Murmansk region.

### **Nenets, Russia:**

- The question on the herd of reindeer on the island of Kalguev, which was mentioned at the last meeting, was resolved and the herd will remain on the island.
- A nomadic primary school was opened for the children of reindeer herders living in the tundra.
- A new public organization was registered in Naryan-Mar. Nenets Regional Public Organization "Center of Nenets Culture and Life". According to the protocol of 06.11.2016 Maxim Vygotsky was elected as a chairman.

### **Decision: the information is included in protocol**

22/17 Other issues

- Galdu as an WGIP observer

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Galdu is now a state institution and therefore can not be independent observer of the WGIP.

- Karelians to WGIP

The Karelians applied to join the WGIP. The working group invited their representative to this meeting in Stockholm so that they could explain their desire, but they did not have the opportunity to come. However, the invitation from the WGIP is still relevant and we hope that they will be able to join us at the next meeting.

- Meeting with CSO memeber from Sweden, Elinor Blomberg

The WGIP chairman and the secretariat held a meeting with Elinor Blomberg of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed plans for the upcoming Swedish chaimanship in the BEAC. Elinor expressed her desire to receive information from the WGIP about possible events, meetings, conferences on indigenous peoples that they can initiate. For the moment they are considering by the work with sustainable communities.

**Decision:** Galdu is no longer an observer of the WGIP.

An invitation to the next meeting of the WGIP will be sent to Karelians.

Members of the WGIP need to discuss possible activities during the Swedish chairmanship in the BEAC.

### **23/17 Next meeting**

Skolte Sami museum in Neiden, 9th of august

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