

Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



PROTOCOL

WGIP meeting

Tromsø, February 22, 2011

Present:

Lars-Anders Baer

Valentina Sovkina

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

Maria Sofia Aikio

Observers:

Heidi Salmi, Gáldu

Olav Mathis Eira, Samerådet

Lars Miguel Utsi, International Barents Secretariat

Evgeny Yushkov

Christina Henriksen

AGENDA

- 01/11 Approval of call-up
- 02/11 Approval of agenda
- 03/11 Approval of protocol
- 04/11 Northern Dimension
- 05/11 WGIP representative to the WG on Economic Cooperation and WG on Communication
- 06/11 Economy and WGIP activities 2011
- 07/11 WGIP side event during UNPFII 2011 (May 16-27)
- 08/11 The Second Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012
- 09/11 WGIP representation at the Regional Council meeting in Syktyvkar (May 26-27)
- 10/11 Preparations for the Norwegian BEAC Chairmanship
- 11/11 WGIP Annual report 2010
- 12/11 BIPO Annual report 2010
- 13/11 Other issues
- 14/11 Next meeting

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01/11 Approval of call-up

The call-up was distributed to members, observers and other relevant bodies on January 17th.

Decision: The call-up was approved.

02/11 Approval of agenda

The secretariat has not received any suggestions to items for the agenda.

Decision: The agenda was approved.

03/11 Approval of protocol from last meeting

The protocol from the WGIP meeting in Helsinki is attached.

Decision: The protocol was approved.

04/11 Northern Dimension

The written statement from the WGIP to the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum is presented for the WGIP members.

Decision: A statement will be written after the meeting between the WGIP Chair and the MFA representative in Oslo on February 24.

05/11 WGIP representatives to the WG on Economic Cooperation and the WG on Communication

The WGIP has received an inquiry from the Regional Committee regarding indigenous peoples' representation in the WG on Economic Cooperation and the WG on Communications.

The WGIP will decide upon representatives to these WGs.

Information about the Working Groups can be found at www.beac.st

Decision: The WGIP will bring the issue to the Saami Parliaments of Norway and Sweden regarding suggestions for representation in the two working groups.

06/11 Economy and WGIP activities 2011

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Grant from Swedish MFA: NOK 100 000

Grant from Norwegian MFA: NOK 100 000

Grant from Norwegian Barents Secretariat: NOK 100 000

- The grant from the Swedish MFA is earmarked for WGIP representation in the formal Barents cooperation (Working Groups etc.).
- There is currently no response from the Norwegian MFA regarding funding of the side event at the UNPFII. However, if there is no funding, the WGIP should consider redistributing posts in the main budget, in order to secure representation of at least one (1) representative from the Russian side at the UNPFII. Valentina V. Sovkina might be an appropriate candidate, as she is the Chair of the Guelnegk Soamet Sobbar, and the theme for the seminar is democratization, based on the development among the Saami people in Murmansk Oblast.

Decision: The budget was adopted (see appendix).

07/11 WGIP side event during UNPFII 2011 (May 16-27)

Decision 39/10: The secretariat continues the preparation for the side event in cooperation with RAIPON, Gáldu, and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and the Saami Parliaments.

Themes: 1) Democratization processes in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (Russian side) with emphasis on the 2nd Saami Congress and the Report on the situation of indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation from the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and 2) extractive industries with the Shtokman project as an example.

Proposed time and program for the side event:

Thursday May 19th (2 hrs)

Speakers:

Valentina Sovkina – on Democratization processes in the Barents Euro-arctic Region (Russian side) with emphasis on the 2nd Congress of the Saami in Murmansk Oblast and the Report on the situation of indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation from the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

RAIPON representative – on a general perspective on democratization among indigenous peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and Far East

Practical issues: Christina Henriksen and Gáldu

Interpretation Russian/English: Evgeny Yushkov

RAIPON has initiated a separate side event on indigenous peoples and extractive industries, organized by the BATANI organization, and asked WGIP for assistance in the practical implementation. The current proposal is to arrange two days with focus on indigenous peoples in Russia and the Barents Euro-Arctic Region:

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Proposal:

Wednesday May 18th: Democratization processes in the BEAR
(Main organizer: WGIP/NBS/Gáldu)

Thursday May 19th: Indigenous peoples and industrial companies
(Main organizer: Batani/RAIPON)

Pavel Sulyandziga is currently in a dialogue with the Russian Mission to the United Nations regarding a reception during the same week.

The WGIP is still awaiting response from the Norwegian MFA regarding funding of the side event. An updated version of the application has been sent, as agreed with Monika Thowsen on February 10.

Decision: The secretariat will continue the preparations for the side event.

08/11 The Second Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012

First day: Congress

Proposal a): All delegations are invited to elaborate on one particular issue, considered to be a main challenge for the indigenous people of the region. (30 min.)

Proposal b): Discussion about the appointment of three (3) representatives (Nenets, Saami, Veps) to the meetings of the Barents Regional Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, including the Committee of Senior Officials.

Second day: Professional conference

Proposed theme: Environmental hot spots in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and cleansing of indigenous peoples' home areas. Clean water project.

Possible speakers:

- The Ministers of Environment of Norway and Russia
- NEFCO – on ongoing projects
- Tor Mikalsen (WGIP representative to the WG on environment)
- RAIPON
- Representative of industrial company (pollution)
- Winfried Dallmann – on MODIL-NAO (The monitoring project in Nenets AO)

Decision: The secretariat will start the preparations for the congress and conference. Environmental issues, including cleansing of militarized and industrialized areas and the clean water project, will be the main theme for the professional conference succeeding the 2nd Barents Indigenous Congress. The secretariat will present a draft for the event before the summer.

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09/11 WGIP representation at the Regional Council meeting in Syktyvkar (May 26-27)

Aili Keskitalo is appointed WGIP representative to the Barents Regional Council; coherent to the previous practice (the WGIP representative to the BRC should represent the same region/state as the BRC chair).

The WGIP should appoint a Nenets and a Veps representative for participation at the coming meeting of Barents Regional Council in Syktyvkar.

Decision: The secretariat will ask Yasavey and the Vepsian Culture Society to appoint representatives to the Barents Regional Council.

10/11 Preparations for the Norwegian BEAC Chairmanship

The WGIP Chair, the representative of the Norwegian side and the secretary will meet the Norwegian MFA for a discussion on the Norwegian priorities for the BEAC Chairmanship on February 24. The meeting will take place in Oslo.

Preliminary bullet points:

- Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012
- Indigenous peoples' representation in BEAC
- Cooperation on culture between indigenous peoples of the north (including Canada, Greenland, Alaska)
- Environmental issues (focus on hot spots; restoration of industrial/military areas and drinking water in NAO)
- Indigenous peoples' media (the Nenets radio project)
- A Saami competence centre in Murmansk

Decision: The Chair and the secretariat will meet the BEAC Chairmanship in Oslo on February 24. The bullet points will be presented.

11/11 WGIP Annual report 2010

The draft report is presented for the WGIP.

The financial report is also presented.

Decision: Adopted with a change: Maria Sofia Aikio is appointed the substitute member of the WGIP from the Finnish side.

12/11 BIPO Annual report 2010

The draft report is presented for the WGIP.

The financial report is also presented.

Decision: The BIPO report is adopted.

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13/11 Other issues

- Regarding a letter from Guelnegk Njoark Sam' Sobbar to the Shtokman Development AG, on environmental assessments made by Frecom.

Valentina Sovkina elaborated on the issue. The recently elected President of the Association of Kola Association, Elena Koroleva, has sent a request by e-mail to Saami people in Murmansk Oblast, asking for support to promote an end to the Shtokman project. The initiative is contradictory to the work of the SUPS MO and the current GNSS, who is in a dialogue with the Shtokman Development.

The inhabitants of Teriberka are positive to the Shtokman project, and GNSS has met Saami inhabitants of Teriberka.

The AKS President refers, in her letter, to an appendix to the agreement, which was declined during the recent hearings in Teriberka.

SUPS MO suggested for SDAG to appoint a joint working group, including indigenous peoples' representatives, in order to make an agreement between the Saami community and SDAG. SUPS MO submitted proposals at the former hearings, and was promised that the dialogue will continue.

- The current situation of the Kola Saami Radio.
Maria Sofia Aikio elaborated. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen followed up, on behalf of the new foundation.
- The Russian newspaper, Rossiskaya Gazeta, has offered to produce an appendix for distribution to all subscribers, with focus on Saami in Murmansk Oblast. However, they will need NOK 40 000.
- Olav Mathis Eira is the present President of the Saami Council, after Mattias Åhrén stepped down to focus on his legal position. The financial situation for the Saami Council is challenging, as the Nordic Council of Ministers will remove the financial support from 2012. Eira will send the meeting schedule to the WGIP secretariat.
- There will be an election in the Saami Parliament in Finland on October 2, and new representatives to the WGIP will be appointed.
- The secretariat will be in dialogue with SPR and Yasavey regarding representatives at the CSO meeting in May.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration.

14/11 Next meeting

Proposal: The next WGIP meeting will be held in Petrozavodsk in September 2011.

Decision: The WGIP will check the opportunities for having the next meeting in Petrozavodsk in September. Other possibilities, with regard to co-conferencing and budget management, will be considered.

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