

*Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi*  
Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen  
Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона  
The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



**WGIP meeting**

Tromsø, January 24, 2013

**Present:**

Lars-Anders Baer  
Bjarne Store-Jakobsen  
Valentina V. Sovkina  
Galina A. Arteeva

**Observers:**

Dmitry Berezhev (Raipon)  
Anna Afanasyeva (Adviser, International Barents Secretariat (IBS))  
Janne Hansen (Gáldu)  
Aili Kaskitalo (Barents Regional Council)  
Galina Platova (Yasavey)

**Secretariat:**

Anja Salo (Secretariat/Norwegian Barents Secretariat (NBS))  
Tatyana Egorova (Secretariat/Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO))

**Absent:**

Elizaveta Kharitonova  
Tiina Sanila-Aikio

Meeting started at: 09.10

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### **1/13 Approval of call-up**

Decision: The call-up was approved.

### **2/13 Approval of agenda**

Decision: The agenda was approved. Item 6/13 will be discussed after lunch when the representative from the Sami Parliament arrives.

### **3/13 Approval of protocol from the last meeting on Skype, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Decision: Protocol was approved.

### **4/13 Evaluation of WGIP's participation at Arctic Frontiers**

The speech of Galina Platova, on behalf of WGIP, at the policy section during the Arctic Frontiers Conference was a success. It is of vital importance that the indigenous peoples in the Arctic area are given the opportunity to speak in such forums also in the future.

The side event "Economic development in indigenous North" attracted a great deal of attention and was a good discussion platform on important issues of significant relevance to the indigenous peoples in the region. The cooperation with Centre for Sami studies at the University of Tromsø and Gáldu was essential for making the side-event a success.

It was suggested that more people would attend the side-event if it was free of charge. This time each participant had to pay a 500 NOK fee, which did not include lunch. One should perhaps try to negotiate a better deal with the conference in the future.

Decision: Publication of materials from the side-event will appear on our webpage and the webpage of the University of Tromsø as soon as possible. The secretariat will ask the Centre for Sámi Studies and Gáldu about their interest in organizing a similar side-event during next years` Arctic Frontiers conference.

### **5/13 Seminar in Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino March 2013**

The Secretariat informed about the program and the budget situation of the 20 years anniversary of the Barents indigenous cooperation that is planned to be arranged on March 21.

Decision: Secretariat takes care of planning the event together with the municipality of Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino. It will also inform the WGIP members on how and when to get there.<sup>i</sup>

### **6/13 The RAIPON situation**

This item was moved from 8/13. The representative from RAIPON told the working group about the current situation for the organization:

- At the moment the situation remain unchanged

- An extraordinary congress was arranged on January 24<sup>th</sup> to make the necessary changes proposed by the Ministry of Justice.
- The Ministry of Justice will within a month make a decision. If they don't accept the changes made by RAIPON, the Ministry have the right to close the organization in accordance with Russian legislation.
- RAIPON is planning the next Congress and has invited indigenous leaders from various countries to Salekhard on March 28-29. The chair of the WGIP is also invited to participate.

Decision: The Chair will prepare a statement on behalf of the WGIP in the beginning of February. The draft statement will circulate within the WGIP, and when agreed upon the statement will be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia immediately. This issue could also, if necessary, be addressed during the prime minister meeting in Kirkenes on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Galina Arteeva is appointed the WGIP representative at the Congress of RAIPON in Salekhard on March 28-29.

### **7/13 The Kirkenes 2 declaration**

The chair informed about the Kirkenes 2 declaration that the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs is working on at the moment. The declaration will be only three pages long, but will include a specific paragraph about the indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

On March 20-21 the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) will meet and discuss the draft declaration in Bodø. The chair will then make sure that the declaration is in accordance with international standards concerning the rights of indigenous peoples.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> the prime ministers of Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia will sign the declaration.

Decision: After the CSO meeting the chair will send the draft paragraph on indigenous peoples to all WGIP members before discussing it properly during an extraordinary meeting in Kautokeino in March<sup>ii</sup>.

### **8/13 Appointment of a new member to the Youth Working Group**

At the WGIP meeting in December it was decided that the new youth member should be elected from Nenets (decision 19/12).

Decision: Nadezda Laptander is the new member of the Youth Working Group

### **9/13 Nenets broadcasting project**

Bjarne Store-Jacobsen informed about the recent development concerning the joint project between Russia, Norway and Canada in Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO).

Background: The main aim of the project was to recruit students from the nenets villages to become professional journalists and make stories from the tundra in nenets language and from a nenets cultural perspective.

Current situation: By now 12 students from NAO are recruited. A journalist seminar was arranged in mid-December by a professional Sámi journalist, Mr. Harry Johansen and the project coordinator BSJ.

The project partner from Canada, Mr. Will Campbell will travel to Naryan-Mar on March 11-12. He will bring short documentary films for the students to translate into nenets language and dub (voice over) the films in nenets language. After the seminar Campbell and the students travel to Kárášjohka/Karasjok and Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino in Norway to have lectures at the Norwegian broadcasting company, NRK Sápmi and the Sámi University College.

The indigenous organization Yasavey expressed concern that the project is taking a wrong turn – that only two out of twelve students speak the nenets language fluently and that the main focus now is on journalism, not revitalization of the nenets language. Yasavey consider themselves excluded from the project and had nothing to say when the students were selected by the Nenets Broadcasting company.

Decision: Bjarne Store-Jakobsen will travel to Naryan-Mar in the beginning of February to meet with representatives from the association "Yasavey" and the TV company in Naryan-mar to discuss the difficulties and come up with a solution. It is important to the working group that the goals of the project are properly maintained, which also includes the use of Nenets language in television and radio broadcasting.

### **10/13 Information about the indigenous pre-session in Alta, June 9-12<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Jon Peter Gintal from the Norwegian Sámi Parliament informed about preparations for the pre-session:

400 official indigenous delegates will be present in Alta, 57 of them from Russia. 400 observers are also expected to attend the meeting, to prepare for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) that takes place on September 22-23, 2014, in New York. The aim of the UN conference is to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of indigenous peoples' rights, including pursuing the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 will be organized as a high-level plenary meeting of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly and supported by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The WGIP discussed ideas for a possible side event during the Alta conference and the following topics were proposed: «Health and extractive industries» with subtitle «the problem with tar sands».

Decision: Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is given the responsibility to explore the possibilities for such a side event, including potential partners and finances. The work will be done in cooperation with the WGIP secretariat.

### **11/13 Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples 2013-2016**

WGIP discussed the Action plan and agreed on the following five priorities in 2013:

Decision: 1) Natural resources, business and environment (Arctic Frontiers Conference etc). 2) International rights of indigenous peoples and the Pre-session in Alta. 3) International indigenous cooperation, especially with RAIPON. 4) Indigenous languages and media (Nenets broadcasting project). 5) Youth - involvement in international cooperation (Young indigenous entrepreneurs:

Indigee, Nenets media project and the exchange program between reindeer herders youth in Kautokeino and Nenets)

**12/13 Information about the new language law in Russia**

A new law on education, signed by President Vladimir Putin on New Year's Eve, states that classes in non-Russian languages cannot be conducted to the detriment teaching in Russian language. The focus in the new education law is on unified state examination, which takes place in Russian.

There is a great need of an educational program to protect indigenous languages, according to the Russian representatives, and the new legislation does not help the revitalization process.

According to the Sámi representatives from Russia the Minister of Education in Murmansk region has promised that teaching in Sámi language won't be prohibited. One is allowed to study in Sámi language, but the lack of teachers and teaching materials is of great concern. Moreover it is hard to recruit the Sámi youth in Murmansk because they don't believe that language skills will give them any benefits in the future.

Decision: Indigenous languages and media is one of the top 5 priorities og the WGIP this year (decision 7/13) WGIP will therefore continue to follow this issue closely.

**13/13 Other issues**

Decision: Nothing was addressed.

**14/13 Next meeting**

Decision: The next meeting could be arranged on June 3, the day before the prime minister meeting in Kirkenes. Secretariat will check accommodation facilities in Kirkenes on these dates and get back to the working group with more details.

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<sup>i</sup> The indigenous 20 years anniversary that was to be arranged in Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino on March 21 is cancelled due to practical reasons.

<sup>ii</sup> Since the indigenous celebration is cancelled, the location for this discussion will be announced shortly after the CSO-meeting.