



WGIP meeting

Tromsø, september 9, 2012

Present:

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

Janne Hansen (Gáldu)
Mare Kemi (Gáldu)

Dmitry Berezkhov (Raipon)
Pavel Sulyandziga (Raipon)

Anna Afanasyeva (Adviser, International Barents Secretariat (IBS))

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

Absent:

Elizaveta Kharitonova

Meeting started at: 13.29

12/12 Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up was approved

13/12 Approval of agenda

Decision: The new observer from the International Barents Secretariat is the new item number 14/12. Reports from the different regions will be presented under item 25/12: Other issues. The topic Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change will also be presented here. The agenda is approved with the changes.

14/12 New observer

Anna Afanasyeva presented herself. She is the new Indigenous adviser at the International Barents Secretariat. 20 percent of her tasks will include indigenous peoples.

Decision: The new observer is welcomed to the WGIP

15/12 Approval of protocol from the Oslo meeting

Decision: The protocol is approved.

16/12 Seminar in Kautokeino in March 2013

WGIP, together with Kautokeino municipality and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat (BS) will host a seminar on indigenous peoples, business and human rights in the week preceding Norwegian Easter in 2013, as a part of the 20th anniversary for the Barents Cooperation. The seminar is planned as a follow-up on the Conference in Kirkenes (February 2012) and the Seminar in Tromsø (September 2012). The history of the indigenous cooperation within the Barents Region is to be highlighted and views on the future cooperation must be addressed.

Decision: WGIP members will send in relevant suggestions to the Secretariat to ensure the political approach and that important people from the early years of the indigenous cooperation are invited to the seminar. The Secretariat will represent WGIP in the working group preparing for the event. Gáldu will participate as a content partner to ensure the Human rights aspect. The Secretariat will make a draft program after the first meeting in the working group and distribute the information to WGIP members. The members should then comment on the program and add relevant information. WGIP stress that the future cooperation should be the main topic on the agenda.

17/12: Information about the pre-session in Alta 2013. Preparation for the UN World Conference in 2014.

Bjarne Store-Jacobsen informed the group that the pre-session will take place from June 8 to June 13, 2013. The goal is to consolidate indigenous peoples' strategies and priorities for the World Conference in 2014.

John Bernard Henriksen is the International Representative of the Sami Parliamentary Council. He is in close contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Norway, and by now some 5 million Norwegian Kroners has been granted. Hege Fjellheim is working with the pre-session on behalf of the Norwegian Sami Parliament as she is the Departmental Director for Rights and International issues at the Norwegian Sami Parliament.

It is estimated that approximately 700-800 delegates and observers will attend the Global Preparatory Indigenous Peoples' Conference in Alta 2013.

Decision: The WGIP will be present at the pre-session and if possible arrange a side event about the indigenous cooperation within the Barents region. The WGIP believes that it is important for the international community to get more information about regional cooperation like ours. The Secretariat will contact the Sami Parliament for more information on the possibilities for such side events. We will also try to secure our presence at the World Conference in 2014. During our next meeting the WGIP should discuss more details concerning our focus areas in Alta. In the extension of the pre-session we'll arrange our own WGIP meeting.

18/12. The new legislation concerning NGOs in Russia

Decision: We move this item under 21/12 because the RAIPON participants are absent, but will join us after the Coffee break.

19/12. Appoint a new member to the Youth Working Group

Lars Anders Baer informed the group that Lars Miguel Utsi, who is the current indigenous member in the Youth Working Group, has to step out due to other commitments. According to Utsi the next indigenous youth representative should come from Nenets, Russia.

Decision: The Nenets are responsible for appointing a new member to the Youth Working Group. Galina Arteeva will send the name to the Secretariat, who will then add this name to the protocol.

20/12. The EU commission and its Artic Policy

Lars Anders Baer informed about the joint communication on developing a European Union Policy towards the Arctic. On the next CSO meeting a new observer from the European Union will be present. This person will inform about EU's draft Arctic Strategy and about the

seminar *Arctic dialogue* planned in Brussels on December 3. Baer is invited to make a speech at the seminar and inform the participants about indigenous peoples in the Arctic Region.

WGIP believes that it is of crucial importance to influence on EU's Arctic Policy and provide them with as much inputs as possible about the indigenous situation in the Arctic. This is a good opportunity for the WGIP to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are included and that important topics concerning the rights and living of Indigenous Peoples are mentioned in the European Union's Arctic Policy

Decision: Galina Arteeva and Lars Anders Baer will talk to the EU representative at the CSO meeting and inform about the challenges for Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Region. Lars Anders Baer will also in his speech in Brussels include the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Cooperation. The Secretariat will distribute the draft version of EU's Arctic Policy to the members of the working group. After reading the paper the members should come up with suggestions on which topics they think should be included in EU's Arctic Policy. The Secretariat will make a list of suggestions and send it to the Chair and the rest of the working group.

Coffee break

Meeting proceeded at 14:42

21/12. The new legislation concerning NGO`s in Russia.

Pavel Sulyandziga informed the group of the current situation in Russia after the new law on "foreign agents" was adapted, and about the possible implications for the Barents Cooperation.

Decision: The Working Group is concerned about the situation for Indigenous Peoples in Russia after the new law on foreign agents was adapted. However there are no implications for the indigenous cooperation within the Barents Region at the time being. WGIP will therefore continue the work as usual.

22/12. Nenets broadcasting project

Bjarne Store-Jacobsen informed about the recent development concerning the joint project between Russia, Norway and Canada in Nenets. The recruitment is going well in Naryan-Mar. 12 people will participate in the broadcasting project. Jacobsen met with Canadian partners. They cooperate with Northern Inuit Affairs and the project funding is secured. Jacobsen also met with Raymond Yakeley from Earth Magic Media. He has produced some 40 TV programs broadcasted online. The editors in Nenets can get cheap access to the material if they want.

Decision: Bjarne Store-Jacobsen and the Secretariat should go to Naryan-Mar as soon as possible to meet the partners. Bjarne will contact to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure the Norwegian funding. Rune Rafaelsen at the Barents Secretariat should sign the agreement.

23/12. Indigenous languages

Decision: Since Svetlana Pasikova, who was going to inform the group on this issue, is missing, we leave this question to be debated at our next WGIP meeting.

24/12. Action plan

Lars Anders Baer went through the topics briefly.

Decision:

- We need to update our webpage and fill in all the significant activities in the calendar to get the important overview.
- Next time we ask the governments for money, we should remind them that the CSO decided that WGIP should be present both at the BEAR and BEAC. To be able to do that, we need the tools to participate (money).
- Since Sweden has not yet given the annual amount of money to the working group, the Secretariat will kindly ask them to transfer the money as soon as possible.
- The Action Plan is too broad. During the next meeting we must choose some focus areas that we find most important. A more concrete Action Plan will make it easier to secure funding.

24/12 Greenpeace Conference: «Arctic oil impacts on indigenous peoples», Komi

Tatiana Egorova informed the group about the Conference that gathered indigenous peoples from all over Russia. They discussed problems they face when oil companies establish platforms near them. In Russia there are neither regulations nor people who are responsible for cleaning up the oil spill. As the companies grow and establish new platforms in the North, it has serious impacts on the reindeer herding and the arctic nature. The oil companies are not interested in any dialogue with the reindeer herders even though it takes place in their traditional areas.

Decision: Tatiana Egorova will forward the document from the Conference to the rest of the working group.

25/12 Other issues

The seminar in Kautokeino in March.

RAIPON joined the group after lunch and contributed with some suggestions to the agenda for the Kautokeino seminar in March.

Decision: All suggestions should be sent to the Secretariat before September 21.

Arctic Frontiers

The Conference Arctic Frontiers will be held at the University of Tromsø from Sunday 20 to Friday 25 of January. The theme of the conference is “Geopolitics and Marine Production in a Changing Arctic”. The Conference staff contacted the Secretariat and asked if the WGIP

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could suggest a good indigenous candidate for next year's conference. They also suggested that the WGIP arranged a side event during the conference.

Decision: WGIP find that Arctic Frontiers is a good platform for the Working Group to highlight the importance of the Barents Cooperation. The WGIP agreed that the best solution would be to find a candidate from the Russian side, preferable a woman from Nenets, who could talk about a hot spot topic in the region. The Secretariat will help the Nenets participant preparing the speech. The secretariat will check if we have the capacity to arrange a side event during the conference.

Climate change document

Lars Anders Baer informed about the draft Action Plan that is about to be established. The Ministry of Environment in Norway asked for measures from all working groups within the Barents Cooperation. WGIP has suggested a project connected to the Reindeer Husbandry where The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry will be a significant partner. The project is to be financed by the Norwegian Government.

Decision: Lars Anders Baer will send the draft suggestion to the Ministry on September 12. If necessary we will redraft it later. Baer will forward the document to the Secretariat and the Secretariat will send it out to the rest of the working group.

Saami Council Conference in Murmansk in October

Decision: The Saami Council moved the date to March next year.

26/12. Next meeting

Decision: The next WGIP meeting will take place during the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø, January 20.- 25 2013. The Secretariat will decide on the exact date.

The meeting ended at 18:08