

Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The **W**orking **G**roup of **I**ndigenous **P**eoples in BEAR



WGIP meeting

Helsinki, 15.12.10

Present:

Galina Arteeva	(Nenets, RF)
Valentina Sovkina	(Saami, RF)
Lars-Anders Baer	(Saami, Sweden)
Bjarne Store-Jakobsen	(Saami, Norway)
Nina Zaitseva	(Veps, RF)
Kerstin Rosén	(BEAC-CSO)
Heidi Salmi	(Gáldu)
Anders Oskal	(WRH)
Dmitry Berezhkov	(RAIPON)
Evgeny Yushkov	(BIPO)
Christina Henriksen	(NBS)
Lars Miguel Utsi	(IBS)

- 32/10 Approval of call-up
- 33/10 Approval of agenda
- 34/10 Approval of protocol from last meeting
- 35/10 Election of WGIP Chair
- 36/10 WGIP representatives to the WG on Economic Cooperation and the WG on Communications
- 37/10 Substitute member for WG on Environment
- 38/10 WGIP Terms of Reference
- 39/10 UNPFII 2011
- 40/10 The 2nd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012
- 41/10 Obshina Kildin
- 42/10 Update from the Barents Regional Council
- 43/10 Update from the 2nd Saami Congress in Murmansk
- 44/10 Economy
- 45/10 Activity plan
- 46/10 Other issues
- 47/10 Next meeting

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32/10

Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up was approved.

33/10 Approval of agenda

Decision: The agenda was approved.

34/10 Approval of protocol from last meeting

Decision: The protocol was approved.

35/10 Election of WGIP Chair

Proposals:

Lars-Anders Baer

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen withdrew the candidacy.

Decision: Lars-Anders Baer was elected Chair of WGIP for the coming two years.

36/10 WGIP representatives to the WG on Economic Cooperation and the WG on Communications

Proposals: No proposals received.

Decision: The decision was postponed until the next meeting.

37/10 Substitute member for WG on Environment

Proposal: Anna Danilovna Prakhova

Decision: Anna Prakhova was elected substitute member to the BEAC Working Group on Environment.

38/10 WGIP Terms of Reference

Proposals: The secretariat has distributed a proposal to the WGIP members.

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Decision: The Terms of Reference are adopted with the proposed changes. The Terms of Reference are attached.

39/10 UNPFII 2011

An application has been sent from the WGIP to the Norwegian MFA (December 2010) regarding a side event at the 10th session of the UNPFII.

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen suggested to focus on 1-2 concrete themes within the context of Co-existence of the Arctic:

- The Shtokman project in Murmansk Oblast and possible consequences for the indigenous peoples
- Democracy in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region; seen in the context of the 2nd Saami Congress of the Saami people of Murmansk Oblast

Proposals:

- 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.
- Theme: Democracy processes in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (Russian side) with emphasis on the 2nd Saami Congress 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.
- The secretariat will contact the UNPFII secretariat, DoCip and IWGIA for assistance regarding practicalities and interpretation to other languages than English and Russian.
- For the implementation of the two hour side event, it is important for provide snacks/food, participant(s) from the UNPFII, as well as to attract audience and to invite the chairmanship of BEAC and other relevant guests.

Decision: 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.

40/10 The 2nd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012

The secretariat will consider all proposals from the WGIP members and observers regarding the planning and implementation of the 2nd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress, which is to be held in Kirkenes in February 2012.

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Proposal (RAIPON): Environmental effects for indigenous peoples is suggested as a theme for the next congress/conference, and a project is established under ACAP (in the Arctic Council context) regarding cleansing of living areas of indigenous peoples (after military and industrial use). The issue is of high importance, and visible results are important for the local indigenous peoples.

Proposal (Nina Zaitseva): Teaching of indigenous languages is important, as we see that the Vepsian schools are being closed. A letter has been sent to the President of the Russian Federation regarding preservation of one Vepsian school, apparently resulting in the preservation of this particular school.

WGIP secretariat: The item suggested by the RAIPON representative is one of the prioritized areas in the WGIP Action Plan 209-2012. Regarding the time set for the conference in 2012, the secretariat will discuss the schedule for Barents Spektakel with Pikene på Broen, to prevent a clash with other relevant events in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, such as the Winter Market in Jokkmokk and the Saami festival in Tromsø.

International Barents Secretariat: It is possible to cooperate with other relevant WGs in the Barents cooperation (WG on Environment) and another possible theme might be youth issues.

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen: The Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress is the only joint forum for indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, where the Nenets, the Saami and the Veps have the opportunity to discuss common challenges. Coordination of events, seen in the light of the parallel conference on oil and gas during the Barents Spektakel (Kirkeneskonferansen), must be provided during the planning of BIPC 2012.

Lars-Anders Baer: A possibility is to organize back-to-back meetings with the Saami Parliamentary Council or the Saami Council, and to include the perspective of EMRIP (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), UNPFII (United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), democratically elected bodies, and indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making processes, self-determination and FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent). Invitations must be sent early to Ministers of Environment in the Barents states regarding their participation.

WRH: Climate changes and impact on indigenous peoples is another relevant issue for indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. The Ealát project has had 7 workshops in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. WRH currently considers the follow-up and continuation of the project, and an event is planned for the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2011. The results from the Ealát project might be beneficial for other traditional trades. Environmental challenges and language challenges are of high relevance to climate and society changes.

RAIPON: The experiences from the Ealát and MODIL-NAO project (executed by Yasavey in NAO) are relevant for the mentioned ACAP project, and an application is sent to the Canadian Embassy regarding further work on this issue.

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Decision: The secretariat will prepare a draft program for the next BIPC and for a following professional conference on a relevant theme. Cooperation with other relevant WGs must be considered, as well as coordination with other ongoing events, such as the Kirkenes conference and a possible Saami Parliamentary Council or a Saami Council meeting. The item will be further discussed at the next WGIP meeting, but the work and principles of EMRIP and UNPFII will be the foundation. The WGIP will seek cooperation with relevant partners, such as Gáldu, RAIPON and the Saami Parliaments.

41/10 Obshina Kildin

The project was stopped two years ago, and the project leaders, the project owner and the financing institutions will have a meeting in early January regarding the formalities for the closing of the project.

WGIP, in cooperation with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the International Barents Secretariat, has discussed the possibilities for a continuation of the project with other persons involved. The conclusion of that discussion is that it will be a too high risk connected to it.

Decision: The WGIP takes the information into consideration.

42/10 Update from the Barents Regional Council

The WGIP secretariat reported from the Regional Council meeting.

Decision: The Barents Regional Council decided in Kajaani, on October 14, that representatives for the three indigenous peoples of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (Nenets, Saami, Veps) will be invited to the coming meetings of the Barents Regional Council. The WGIP takes the information into consideration.

43/10 Update from the 2nd Saami Congress in Murmansk

Valentina V. Sovkina reported from the 2nd Congress of the Saami people in Murmansk Oblast.

73 delegates gathered, and a preliminary Saami Assembly (Guelnegk Soamet Sobbar) was elected. Ms Sovkina was elected Chair of the Assembly at the following meeting. Altogether nine (9) representatives constitute the elected assembly, whose mandate is to work on a draft law proposal regarding establishment of a democratically elected Assembly of Saami people in Murmansk Oblast. The draft law proposal will be discussed and adopted by regional authorities.

RAIPON: RAIPON will encourage the WGIP to promote the issue in the Barents Regional Council, as well as to invite representatives from Statoil, Gazprom, Sakhalinskaya Energi ,

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and other relevant companies to forums such as the side event at the UNPFII and the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress.

Decision: The WGIP welcomes the recent development and the establishment of an interim Assembly of the Saami People of Murmansk Oblast, and takes the information into consideration. The WGIP will send a copy of the resolution from the 2nd Congress of the Saami people in Murmansk Oblast to the chairmanships of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council. The WGIP will follow up on the issue and report to the BEAC and the BRC on the development.

44/10 Economy

45/10 Activity plan

Currently, the WGIP has received NOK 100 000 from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and NOK 100 000 from the Swedish Chairmanship of BEAC (MFA) for the WGIP activities in 2011.

Representation in the Regional Council was earlier covered by the respective Saami Parliament (when the representative has represented the Nordic countries).

Decision: The WGIP will seek to maintain the level of representation, and participation in the formal Barents cooperation, as in 2010, within the budget framework. The WGIP will send a request to the Saami Parliaments regarding funding of the Regional Council. The activity plan and the budget for 2011 are adopted.

46/10 Other issues

Decision: No other issues was promoted.

47/10 Next meeting

Proposal: Tromsø, February 21-22 2011

The first part of the meeting will start at 15.00 on February 21 and the meeting will continue on February 22. The meeting is coordinated with the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, which is held in Tromsø on February 22-23.

Decision: The next WGIP meeting is held in Tromsø on February 21-22 2011.

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Attachment 1

Terms of Reference for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

The Terms of Reference were revised at the WGIP meeting in Helsinki, December 15th 2010.

1. The purpose of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (WGIP) is to serve as a forum for indigenous co-operation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and to ensure the involvement of the indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the decision-making processes and their participation in the co-operation.

2. The WGIP has a permanent status with an advisory role for the central level and the regional level. The decisions of the WGIP are of recommendation character for the central and regional levels.

3. The WGIP determines the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region for four years, giving yearly priorities, proposing practical solutions, and recommending the decisions to be made, and submitting it both to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council. The WGIP follows the implementation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and reports on it both to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council. The implementation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region is the responsibility of both central and regional levels. Other relevant bodies (Saami Parliamentary Council, Saami Council, Saami Parliaments in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, Association of the World Reindeer Herders, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), central and regional WGs), operating in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, are also responsible for its promotion and implementation within their own administrative frameworks.

4a. The WGIP consists in total of 6 members (permanent participants) and includes one Saami representative from Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden respectively, one representative of the Nenets, one representative of the Vepsians.

4b. The WGIP is served by two secretaries.

4c. The adviser on indigenous peoples at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes, Norway, serves as secretariat for the WGIP, together with the Head of the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office (BIPO). The tasks are divided between the two secretaries.

4d. The WGIP has in total 4 observers and includes one representative of the Saami Council, one representative of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, one representative of
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Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and one representative of Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5a. The members of the WGIP, representing the Saami in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, are appointed by the Saami Parliamentary Council for four years, if not the Saami Parliamentary Council wishes to change the member during the period.

5b: The members of the WGIP, representing the Nenets, Saami and Veps in Russia, are nominated by the regional public indigenous organizations, by the board or at the general meeting of the regional public indigenous organizations. The mandate period for the elected member is four (4) years, with the possibility to be re-elected. The Saami member is appointed by the Guolnegk Soamet Sobbar, the Nenets member is appointed by Yasavey, and the Veps member is appointed by the Veps Culture Society.

5c: It is a compulsory requirement for the candidates appointed from the Russian side, to be of Barents indigenous origin and live in the subject of the Russian federation, which is a constituent of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

6. The WGIP hosts the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress (BIPC) every second year, referring to WGIP Item 07/10. The WGIP secretariat is responsible for the practical implementation of the congress in cooperation with the WGIP members and other relevant cooperation partners. Delegations from the Saami Parliamentary Council, Guolnegk Soamet Sobbar, Yasavey and the Veps Culture Society will take part in the BIPC.

7. The Chairperson of the WGIP is elected among the members of the WGIP by the members of the WGIP for two years with a possibility to be re-elected unanimously.

8. The WGIP meets at least twice a year rotating the venue of the meeting between Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

9. Each meeting sets the date and venue of the next meeting. The call-up and agenda should be distributed three weeks beforehand but approved at the meeting. The chairperson of the WGIP determines the agenda of the meeting. The members and observers of the WGIP may propose a certain issue to be considered at the meeting of the WGIP having submitted it in a written form to the BIPO no later than a month prior to the meeting.

10. The meetings of the WGIP are conducted either in Russian or Saami with interpretation being provided. English, Norwegian, and Swedish are also the working languages.

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11. Decisions of the WGIP are taken unanimously by its members. Decision-making is possible only when there is a quorum at the meeting of the WGIP (four members of the WGIP are present).

12. The Chair of the WGIP represents the WGIP in the meetings of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). To ensure participation of all three indigenous peoples, the respective organisations must appoint representatives to the CSO meetings, coherent to the decision made in the CSO meeting on October 13th 2010. This is the arrangement until otherwise agreed upon.

13. The appointment of the WGIP representative to the Barents Regional Council (BRC) follows the rotation of the BRC chairmanship, which rotates between the 13 member regions of the BRC. To ensure participation of all three indigenous peoples, the respective organisations must appoint representatives to the BRC meetings, coherent to the decision made in the BRC meeting on November 11th 2010. This is the arrangement until otherwise agreed upon.

14. The WGIP may invite special participants and guests to contribute to its work.

15. The costs related to the activities of the WGIP are covered by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden, the Saami Parliamentary Council, and other sources via the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

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