

## ***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**

Petrozavodsk, 27.september 2011

Present:

Galina Arteeva	(Nenets, RF)
Valentina Sovkina	(Saami, RF)
Lars-Anders Baer	(Saami, Sweden)
Bjarne Store-Jakobsen	(Saami, Norway)
Elizaveta Kharitonova	(Veps, RF)
Galina Baburova	(Vepsisk representant til BEAC 2011)
Svetlana Pasyukova	(Nestleder Vepsän kultursebr)
Heidi Salmi	(Gáldu)
Irina Kurilova	(RAIPON)
Evgeny Yushkov	(BIPO)
Christina Henriksen	(NBS)
Irina Nazarova	(IBS)
Alexey Tzvetkov	(Republic of Karelia)
Pavel Petrov	Nordic Council of Ministers)

- 15/11 Approval of call-up
- 16/11 Approval of agenda
- 17/11 Approval of protocol from last meeting
- 18/11 Report from WGIP side event UNPFII 2011 (May 16-27)
- 19/11 Brief report from the Regional Council meeting in Syktyvkar (May 26-27)
- 20/11 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2012
- 21/11 Action Plan 2013-2016 (input)
- 22/11 Sámi Parliamentarians' Conference 2011
- 23/11 Nenets radio broadcasting project
- 24/11 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office (BIPO)
- 25/11 Guelnegk
- 26/11 WGIP representative to the WGE
- 27/11 BEAC
- 28/11 WGIP economy and 2011 activities
- 29/11 Other issues
- 30/11 Next meeting

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Welcoming addresses

Mr Alexey Tzvetkov, Representative of the Administration of the Republic of Karelia

Mrs Irina Kurilova, RAIPON

Mrs Heidi Salmi, Gáldu

Mrs Irina Nazarova, IBS

15/11

Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up was approved.

16/11 Approval of agenda

Decision: The agenda was approved.

17/11 Approval of protocol from last meeting

Decision: The protocol was approved.

18/11 Report from WGIP side event UNPFII 2011 (May 16-27)

Lars-Anders Baer: The WGIP side event was held on Friday 19 May, during the first week of the plenary session. The invited speakers presented recent development regarding indigenous peoples' organization and representation in the Russian Federation. Mrs Valentina Sovkina spoke on the behalf of the established Guelnegk Neark Sami Sobbar and Mrs Anna Naykanchina spoke on behalf of RAIPON. The event is considered successful, and the conference room was full of participants. Also, the discussion was constructive, and representatives of the Russian Mission to the UN took part.

Irina Kurilova: RAIPON maintains focus on indigenous peoples' right and Russian legislation, in particular with regard to traditional trades, such as reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting. The conclusion, from the UN Global Compact conference in Moscow on 12 September, is that the Russian Federation is not following up their legislation on indigenous peoples' rights.

Decision: The information was taken into consideration.

19/11 Brief report from the Regional Council meeting in Syktyvkar (May 26-27)

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A report, written by Galina Arteeva, has been distributed to the WGIP members prior to the meeting.

Decision: The information was taken into consideration.

20/11 BIPC 2012

The WGIP secretariat suggests switching dates for the congress and the conference, due to practical reasons (space in conference hall and possibility of recruiting participants from the Kirkenes conference). The largest room is available on Thursday 9 February.

Delegations to the congress:

Yasavey	16
Vepsän kultursebr	16
–	12 (2 from the Russian side)
GNSS	2
RAIPON	2
Altogether:	50

Draft program for the conference:

- Opening (WGIP Chair and invited guest)
- Environmental hot spots in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (RAIPON)
- Indigenous peoples involved in industrial projects; case study from the MacKenzie pipeline/mineral extraction in reservation in Canada/Alaska (Canadian/Alaskan representative)
- Environmental issues and follow-up – Case study from Russia or Norway/Nenets AO – IPY NENETS follow-up in other regions (RAIPON/Winfried Dallmann)
- UN report: “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework” (John Ruggie)
- OECD guidelines for European companies operating abroad (Norwegian Focal point)

Decision:

- 1) The Conference “Environment and Business 2012” will be held in Thon Hotel Kirkenes on February 9, 2012, between 1 PM and 6 PM.
- 2) The Barents Indigenous Peoples’ Congress will be held in Thon Hotel Kirkenes on February 10, 2012, between 9 AM and 4 PM.
- 3) The delegations spread is adopted with one (1) change: GNSS delegation will consist of 4 delegates.
- 4) The final program for the congress and the conference will be adopted at the WGIP meeting in Kirkenes on 8 November 2011.
- 5) A draft resolution will be prepared and distributed to the delegations before 1 December 2011.

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21/11 Action Plan 2013-2016

Decision: Proposals from the organizations will be sent to the secretariat before October 20 2011. The secretariat prepares a draft document for the next meeting.

22/11 Sámi Parliamentarians' Conference 2011

The WGIP invites the Sámi Parliamentary Council and relevant partners in the Russian side to a roundtable seminar on 8 November 2011.

The Sámi Parliaments from Norway, Sweden and Finland will present their experiences and current relations to state and regional authorities.

Representatives from GNSS, AKS, OOSMO, GOU Council and Murmansk Oblast will be invited to attend.

The WGIP will cover most expenses and a mini bus from Murmansk to Kirkenes.

The ambition is also to increase the focus on the Russian side among the Nordic Sámi parliamentarians.

Valentina Sovkina: I agree that it is necessary to discuss this issue with Sámi parliamentarians from the Nordic countries, and also with the Sámi NGOs in Russia. I would wish that the Sámi representatives in the Russian side would agree before the meeting, and GNSS will attend the meeting of the government-appointed council on 30 September, together with other organizations.

GNSS experiences a change in attitude from the regional authorities' and other organizations, and will proceed on this issue during item 25/11.

Decision: The roundtable seminar will be held on 8 November from 1 PM in the premises of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. The secretariat is responsible for the practicalities and will cooperate with the Sámi Parliamentary Council.

23/11 Nenets broadcasting project

Liv Inger Somby has been asked to take the position as project manager and will be responsible for implementation of the main project, if she is able to take the position. The WGIP awaits the final reply from Somby, and hopes that the main project can start in 2012.

Christina Henriksen will discuss the project with the proposed partners in Naryan-Mar the upcoming week.

Irina Kurilova: I have been working as an indigenous journalist in Yakutia for 13 years, and this is also the way we did it in Yakutia.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration and the WGIP will continue the work on the project.

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24/11 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office

- Co-localization with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the Barents Youth Cooperation Office in Murmansk

Annually, the Sámi Parliament in Norway grants an amount for the project "Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office", aiming at strengthening the cooperation between indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region; the Nenets, the Veps and the Sámi. The purpose of the office is to provide information about indigenous peoples to partners in all four countries, through reports and through [www.barentsindigenous.org](http://www.barentsindigenous.org)

The BIPO was relocated from Murmansk to Lovozero in 2007, mainly with the intention of strengthening the cooperation with main project partners in Lovozero (involved in the Obshina Kildin project, Kola Saami Radio project etc.).

The WGIP seeks to increase the level of cooperation with the Nenets, the Veps and other indigenous peoples in the Russian North, as well as to improve the stream of information on matters related to indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

Office location is a challenge in Lovozero, and the BIPO is depending on having enough space and proper work conditions for the employee(s). Currently, there are no satisfying alternatives for office location in Lovozero. Also, the WGIP believes that a co-localization with other offices/employees working with relevant/similar issues will have positive consequences for both the information stream and the conditions of work. In addition, the WGIP believes the BIPO will be more available for a larger part of the target group in Russia.

The WGIP proposes to relocate the BIPO from Lovozero to Murmansk, and to co-locate the office with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) and possibly the Nordic Council of Ministers' office in Murmansk city.

This move could create a challenge with regard to employment and two options are possible:

- a) The current Head of the BIPO proceeds and is relocated to Murmansk
- b) A call for a new Head of BIPO will be announced during the autumn 2011 (the current contract expires on 31 December 2011)

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen elaborates on the issue.

Valentina Sovkina refers to the written information about BIPO at [www.barentsindigenous.org](http://www.barentsindigenous.org) and is of the opinion that the office fulfills its tasks.

Galina Arteeva underlines the fact that a large part of the Sámi population in Russia live in Lovozero, and that is the main argument for maintaining BIPO in Lovozero. She also points to potential practical challenges for the current Head of BIPO.

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Elizaveta Kharitonova agrees that a co-localization in Murmansk could be convenient for the Barents cooperation, and might also lead to improvement of the work conditions for the employee(s) of BIPO.

Irina Nazarova mentioned that the question of co-localization has been discussed through the years, as the aim has been to improve the communication between the different organizations/institutions.

Svetlana Pasyukova said that the localization is not important for distribution of information.

Evgeny Yushkov presented his view, stating that he has no objections to a relocation of the office to Murmansk, although he himself will not move. Yushkov also presented the challenges with finding a proper office premise for BIPO in Lovozero.

Decision: The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples will make a decision on this at the next meeting in Kirkenes on 8 November.

25/11 Guelnegk Neark Sam' Sobbar – update on the progression

Decision: The information is taken into consideration.

26/11 WGIP representative to the WGE

Decision: Mrs Anna Danilovna Prakhova is appointed WGIP representative to the BEAC WG on Environment. A substitute representative will be appointed at the next WGIP meeting.

27/11 BEAC Ministerial Session in Kiruna

Decision: Lars-Anders Baer, Galina Baburova and Galina Arteeva will represent the WGIP at the BEAC meeting, together with secretary Christina Henriksen.

28/11 WGIP economy and activities

Decision: Information taken into consideration.

46/10 Other issues

Decision: The information was taken into consideration.

47/10 Next meeting

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Proposal: Kirkenes, 8-9 November 2011

Decision: The next meeting is held in Kirkenes on 8-9 November 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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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