

**WGIP**

**Protocol No. 2**

**Stockholm, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Present members: Galina A. Arteeva, Valentina V. Sovkina, Bjarne Store-Jakobsen, Stefan Mikaelsson, Tuomas Aslat Juuso

Evgeny Yushkov, Christina Henriksen (secretariat)

Lars Miguel Utsi (IBS)

19/09 Approval of the call-up

Decision: Call-up approved

20/09 Agenda

To be included in 35/09:

- The National Culture Centre in Lovozero
- Indigenous peoples' representation in the Barents Regional Council

Decision: The agenda is approved with the changes.

21/09 Approval of the protocol from the meeting in Tromsø

Decision: The protocol is approved.

22/09 Update from the members and observers

Lars Miguel is the indigenous peoples' adviser at the International Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. WGIP welcomes him and wishes him luck with the work.

**Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina:**

- Indigenous Entrepreneurship will be an important tool for obshinas
- SUPS MO is to work on registration of Saami inhabitants in Murmansk Oblast
- The new governor, Dmitry Dmitryenko, in Murmansk Oblast has received 3 addresses from SUPS MO regarding 1) register of Saami in MO, 2) status of the entire oblast as traditional living area of indigenous peoples and 3) proposal for meeting between SUPS MO and the governor.

- The Saami in Murmansk Oblast face severe challenges attached to the development of the Shtokman project, and the lack of dialogue between the regional authorities, Shtokman Development AG and the indigenous peoples of the region.

**Lars Miguel Utsi:**

In the Indigenous Entrepreneurship project, the plan is to employ one national coordinator in each of the four states, and to possibly list BIPO as a project partner on the Russian side.

**Galina Anatolyevna Arteeva:**

- Updates from the activities of Yasavey
- Information regarding the ongoing discussion about returning (the earlier moved) authorities from Arkhangelsk Oblast to Nenets Autonomous Okrug, as Arkhangelsk Oblast does not seem able to fulfill their obligations for NAO through their current budget. The issue is now being considered at the federal level, at the North-West federal district, and the authorities and mandates will be returned to NAO in January 2010.
- Information about the regional elections and Yasavey representatives in the various political bodies: Vladislav Peskov in Arkhangelsk Oblast, Aleksandr Belugin in Nenets AO, and Nikolay Latyshev in Zapolyarnaya Rayon.
- Taking into account the economic crisis, there was a discussion about the indigenous media network project, and the board of Yasavey agreed that we will not proceed with it at the moment, and that is also taking the Kola Saami Radio experience into account.

**Stefan Mikaelsson:**

- Sweden will hold the European Union chairmanship for the second half of this year. The European Union and its agreements with states have impact on indigenous peoples in other parts of the world. There is an ongoing discussion about arranging a round table conference with the European Commission and indigenous peoples. We do not know yet whether this is possible, but we want to put a larger pressure on Sweden, and that is a way of doing it, as well as to cooperate with indigenous peoples in other states.

**Tuomas Aslat Juuso:**

- Finland's MFA has stated that the Finnish government will not ratify ILO Convention No. 169 during this period. It seems that the Central Party is against the ratification, and an official at the Ministry of Agriculture (Anttila) has stated that the Saami is not

an indigenous people. The Saami of Finland seeks support from other indigenous peoples' bodies, such as the WGIP, to put some pressure on the Finnish government.

- The Reindeer Herding Investment Act is being revised, as well as the Saami Educational Centre Act; they are both out on hearing.
- The Saami Parliament's Youth Council is starting up from 2010, and there has been given positive feedback to the working group.
- The Saami Parliamentary Council will make a strategy on the work in the Barents Cooperation, and I hope it will be of extra help for us regarding the issues on the Russian side.

**Christina Henriksen:**

There will be a meeting between the WGIP, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the Saami Parliamentary Council (through the Saami Parliament of Norway) regarding a coordination of tasks in connection with the WGIP and its representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation.

**Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:**

- The election for the Saami Parliament of Norway is in September.
- The Mineral Act is still an important issue, and the Saami Parliament has demanded to include a special indigenous peoples' tax when it comes to industrial activities in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples (Saami), based on the UN Covenant and other international legislative tools. The government has partly given in to this demand, but they will only allow it in Finnmark County, referring to the Finnmark Act. The UN Special Rapporteur on Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. James Anaya, is engaged in this matter, and he has written a letter in December last year, and it is now an international issue.
- The other hot spot is the rights of indigenous peoples' fishery on the coast of Finnmark. There has been a commission giving a recommendation last year, concluding that Saami have special rights for coastal fishery. These rights are based on international law, and the Saami Parliaments agrees that these rights should include the entire population of these particular areas, as it is also in the Finnmark Act. The matter will not be decided on during the current government period.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration.

23/09 Approval of Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples as observer to the WGIP

Decision: Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples is accepted as observer to the WGIP and this is to be included in the Terms of References.

24/09 WGIP Terms of References – revision

Decision: The WGIP secretariat is to look through the existing Terms of References for the WGIP and present proposals for changes before the next meeting of the WGIP.

25/09 Reports from the Barents Regional Committee and the Committee of Senior Officials

Christina Henriksen reported from the Regional Committee's meeting in Joensuu in February. The multilateral project Barents 2010+ was initiated by Västerbotten Län, but the project will not be fully implemented since the Russian Federation has not signed the necessary Interreg agreement.

Bjarne Store-Jakobsen reported from the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials in Petrozavodsk in February. The issue of Kola Saami Radio was brought up by the Norwegian Senior Official, Mr. Thue, and the Head of the WGIP reported on the indigenous peoples' issues.

Decision: The information is taken into consideration. This item will be included in the future agenda for the WGIP meetings.

26/09 Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress – Co-existence in the Arctic 2010

Self-determination must be an issue during this conference.

UN Special Rapporteur on Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples should be invited as soon as possible.

The Code of Conduct is a natural item for discussion in the conference.

Decision: The secretariat prepares program for the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010 and the Co-existence in the Arctic conference together with Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Self-determination and international legislation will be among the prioritized issues for discussion.

27/09 Kola Saami Radio

Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina presented the view of SUPS MO.

**Stefan Mikaelsson:**

The project period has expired and there is no longer a project. The steering committee has no intention of continuing. In order to ensure the broadcasting, a stock company was established, but it is not sure if the requirements by Russian legislation were met. A protocol with signatures and stamps from the owners' meeting is needed in order to appoint a director. The Saami Council focused on funding for the Saami conference in Rovaniemi when the project period was over, and there was no capacity to take responsibility for the appointment of a new director.

**Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina:**

We would like to participate in the capacity of the Council of Authorized Representatives of Saami in Murmansk Oblast (SUPS).

**Stefan Mikaelsson:**

Nina Afanasyeva from KSA, Aleksandr Kobelev from OOSMO and Stefan Mikaelsson from the Saami Council were present at the last owners' meeting.

Decision: The WGIP secretariat (represented by BIPO) contacts Márijá Sofe Aikio immediately in order to organize an owners' meeting within ten days. The broadcasting must start immediately and a proper organization of the radio station must come into place.

28/09 Expansion of the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office (BIPO)

The Norwegian Barents secretariat has granted NOK 45 000 and the Saami Parliament of Norway has granted NOK 100 000 for a new position at the BIPO. This will provide equipment and salary for one person throughout 2009. The President of the Saami Parliament of Finland, Klemetti Näkkäljärvi, and the representative for the Saami Parliament of Sweden, Stefan Mikaelsson, promised to support the work on establishment of a Saami Parliament in the Russian side.

**Tuomas Aslat Juuso:**

It is a challenge to find funding for this in the Saami Parliament of Finland. There should be put larger efforts into lobbying towards the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the BEAC member states, for finding funding for the WGIP activities and the representation in the BEAR structures.

**Stefan Mikaelsson** mentioned an address sent to the Board of the Saami Parliament in Sweden and launched the idea of holding a meeting of the Saami Parliamentary Council in Murmansk.

Decision: The Head of the WGIP and the secretariat (represented by Christina Henriksen) are given the authority to employ a person for the additional position.

29/09 Code of Conduct

The Norwegian government mentioned this work in the second step of its Strategy on the High North (Nye byggesteiner I nord 2009), and Árran – Lule Saami Centre in Tysfjord is to carry out a project resulting in a Code of Conduct for industrial activities.

Decision: A letter will be sent to Árran, stating that the WGIP have worked on this issue for some time and that WGIP welcomes the efforts of Árran. The WGIP expects to be given the opportunity to appoint a member of the working group on this issues.

30/09 WGIP and the Arctic Council

Decision: The WGIP applies for status as permanent observer to the Arctic Council. The application is prepared by the secretariat and an informational letter is sent to the indigenous peoples' organizations with the status of permanent participants to the Arctic Council.

31/09 Annual report of BIPO 2008

Decision: The annual report of BIPO 2008 is approved.

32/09 Annual report of WGIP 2008

Decision: The annual report of WGIP 2008 is approved.

33/09 Revised budget WGIP 2009

Decision: The revised budget is taken into consideration.

34/09 Activity plan WGIP 2009

Decision: The activity plan for the WGIP 2009 is taken into consideration.

35/09 Other issues

CHUM – National Culture Centre in Lovozero

There is an urgent situation at the National Culture Centre (CHUM) in Lovozero, as the new Head of Municipality has proposed to use the building for other activities and change the status of the centre. The cultural centre should be under the local government and not the district authorities, as it is today. The Ministry of Justice has pointed out the mistake. The municipality has suggested for its board to change the name to Tourist Information Centre, which is a subject of the municipality level. If the National Cultural Centre disagrees to the change of status, it would mean that the status of the centre would decrease and have a smaller budget. The board meeting suggested changing the director of the centre as well, and the Saami population is against this, as they fear that the new person will not be Saami. They say they want to change the director because the current director is not totally competent for the position, but they do not have any further answer to this. The Council of Authorized Representatives of Saami in Murmansk Oblast sent a letter to the Saami Council, who, among others, has funded the restoration of the building. The deputies of Lovozero Rayon have not accepted the proposal yet. The authorities of Murmansk Oblast are also addressed, and we proposed that the cultural centre should get a higher status, also in order to secure funding. If the Saami Council and the WGIP agree to higher the status of the centre, a letter could be written on our behalf.

Indigenous peoples' representation in the Barents Regional Council will be discussed at the next meeting.

Decision: The WGIP is concerned about this matter, but WGIP will consider an approach in this matter through other channels.

36/09 Next meeting

Decision: The secretariat investigates the possibility of having the next meeting of the WGIP in Murmansk, in connection to the BEAC Ministerial session on October 15 2009.