

Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR

Protocol No 2

Roavvenjárgga, October 30th 2008

Present:

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen

Ms Elizaveta Kharitonova

Ms Valentina Sovkina

Mr Per Labba (until 11.45)

Mr Tuomas Aslat Juuso (from 11.30)

Observers:

RAIPON (Ms Larisa Abryutina)

Gáldu (Ms Janne Hansen)

Secretariat/interpretation:

Mr Evgeny Yushkov

Ms Christina Henriksen

The meeting started at 09.15 in Lapin Liitto, Rovaniemi, Finland.

Ms Elizaveta Kharitonova is the new appointed member from the Vepsian Cultural Society.

Ms Zinaida Strogalschikova is the substitute member to the WGIP.

Presentation of observers

RAIPON would like to coordinate the work within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council, as well as strengthening the cooperation between indigenous peoples within the BEAR. This implies also a stronger cooperation with the Saami organisation on the Russian side; OOSMO and KSA

Gáldu is interested in a closer collaboration with the WGIP and the indigenous peoples on the Russian side, in particular within the field of indigenous peoples' rights. Gáldu has met with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and different measures were discussed.

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The Head of the WGIP informed the participants about the formal structure of the Barents Cooperation, as well as the further work on indigenous peoples' representation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

15/2008 Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples of the BEAR 2009-2012

Ms Christina Henriksen presented the current draft.

Questions and comments to the draft:

Business fund/program for indigenous peoples in the BEAR:

Ms Elizaveta Kharitonova (EK): Will the action plan be financed by the regional or the federal level?

Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen (BSJ): The aim is to have the measures financed by the federal level.

EK: There is a program for social business development for indigenous peoples within the Russian Federation, and there is a discussion about a new program for 2009-2015. The federal level might point to the existing program when presented for this Action Plan. Russian authorities are discussing a new concept for the upcoming period, as the authorities are seeking new ways of supporting indigenous peoples.

Ms Christina Henriksen (CH): This Plan aims at cooperation between indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, which means that it has another dimension than the federal program for indigenous peoples within the Russian Federation.

Ms Larissa Abryutina (LA): The funding for indigenous peoples within the Russian Federation will be canalized through the regional level if the federal program for indigenous peoples is not established for the upcoming period.

Language and media:

EK: "language showers" are wanted by young people, having the experiment in Inari as a model

Health

LA: proposes to arrange a seminar for health workers in the field of indigenous peoples in BEAR, aiming for a discussion on existing challenges and for health care workers to develop a new way of encountering indigenous peoples.

Regarding the Red Choom project, LA says that belt wagons were used in similar projects in Chukotka, and mobile policlinics were established in the tundra.

Ms Valentina Sovkina (VS): mental health must be included in the Action Plan, as well as alcohol abuse

EK: a joint method to keep indigenous peoples of our region away from the alcohol

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LA: It is known within the Russian Federation that patients prefer to speak Russian in encounters with the health care system, as indigenous languages are used less and less

Ms Janne Hansen (JH): Regarding mental health; the Youth Conference, arranged by the Saami Parliamentary Council (Lycksele, Sweden October 3rd-5th 2008), made a document/report with interesting points that can be transferred to this Action Plan

Environment:

Mr Per Labba (PL): Should the last bullet point, (cleansing and restoration of abandoned industrial and military areas) be included at all?

LA: ACAP (through Arctic Council) has projects, i.e. removal of drums/barrels in Chukotka. The Russian government has promised to spend 2 millions on this annually.

BSJ: this bullet point must be included, as the army is established in the core indigenous areas

Further work:

The secretariat informed the member that this draft is to be worked on, and the WGIP must address the formal structure of the Barents Cooperation. The document will not be decided on at this meeting.

The Action Plan will be decided on at a meeting in early January 2009 and it will be ready for distribution before the CSO meeting in Petrozavodsk in late February 2009.

Suggestions and proposed changes to the draft must be sent in written form to the secretariat.

Other remarks to the draft Action Plan:

EK: Regarding technological assessment and the impact of industrial development in the indigenous peoples' areas. The challenge for the Vepsians is mining. Impact assessment will include indigenous peoples, and be coordinated as well as lead to concrete measures. This must also include possible compensation for loss of area/use of area. It must be taken into consideration that regional authorities might be sceptical to indigenous peoples' interference in such matters, as industrial development is closely attached to regional economic development. Perhaps the WGIP could find a joint measure in this connection, to make regional authorities see and understand the challenges of indigenous peoples?

BSJ: The WGIP and RAIPON has discussed an establishment of a Code of Conduct for industrial companies operating in indigenous peoples' areas. This Code of Conduct will set concrete guidelines for the behaviour of industrial companies in these areas. The WGIP will probably ask assistance from Gáldu regarding development of a strategy and rules. The director of Gáldu has expressed that there are funding to be found for such a project.

VS: Comments to the different bullet points:

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1.1.2

The Saami Coordinative Council is dissolved and the issue of a Saami political organ in the Russian side is to be discussed in the Saami Congress in Murmansk on December 14th 2008. Andrey Ageev will send out the formal invitations.

3.2

The authorities should make a report on the situation for indigenous peoples in the BEAR. The WGIP needs information and statistics from the authorities as background.

3.3

Projects aimed at indigenous women and families must be included in the Action Plan.

4.1

It is important to emphasize that the Action Plan does not have the nature of missionary work or humanitarian aid. Indigenous peoples must take active part in the planning and implementation of projects. Projects must be transparent and available for the population.

4.2

The WGIP must consider measures aiming at informing the Saami population in the Russian side about the Nordic Saami Convention through a seminar or something similar to that.

4.4

Serious planning of the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress must start.

5.3

A particular item must be added: Political cooperation (ethnic politics and legislation) must be made an independent bullet point in the Action Plan.

JH: Gáldu has produced material on these issues throughout the years and is planning further production on printed materials on the ILO, the UN Declaration and other conventions etc. This material must be translated into Russian, and Gáldu might cooperate with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in the work on finding funding for translation of these documents.

Decision: all new comments and proposals must be sent to Ms Christina Henriksen before December 1st 2008.

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