

Barents Eamialbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR

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 Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and one representative of Gáldu – Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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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.

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).

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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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