

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group (GCG), New York 6 – 7 May 2012

Present: Joseph Ole Simel (African member), Saoudata Aboubacrine (African member), Hjalmar Dahl (Arctic member), Joan Carling (Asian member and member of the drafting group), Miguel Palacin (Latin American alternate), Kenneth Deer (North American member), Jessica Danforth (North American alternate), Alyssa Macy (North American member), David Lee (Pacific member), Ghazali Ohorella (Pacific member), Rodion Sulyandziga (Russian member), Tarcila Rivera (Women's caucus member), Jocelyn Hung Chien (Youth caucus member), John Henriksen (Sami Parliament of Norway representative and Indigenous facilitator), Tracey Castro Whare (Secretariat of the GCG), Kent Lebsack (on behalf of Owe Aku International Justice Project and member of the drafting group), Inger Johanne Mudenia (Sami Parliament of Norway representative and member of the drafting group), Estebancio Castro (observer), Nancy Iza (observer), Florina Lopez (observer), Leon Siu (observer).

Chairs: Kenneth and Hjalmar

Rapporteur: Tracey with support of the drafting team being Kent, Inger and Joan

Apologies: Gilberto Solano (Latin American member)

Meeting opened with a remembrance of Chief Randy Kapeshesit, the North American member of the GCG who passed away suddenly in April. His input and energy will be missed.

Tracey thanked Sarah Smith (a Maori woman living in New York) for liaising with the American Indian Community House (AICH) on behalf of the GCG to secure the meeting room for 6 May.

Summary of decisions taken by the GCG

1. Terms of Reference for GCG adopted.
2. Terms of Reference of Indigenous co-facilitator adopted.
3. Budget for all regional prep-coms to be drafted by John, this budget to be used by the fundraising committee to fundraise for Indigenous preparatory processes.
4. That a communications committee be established, its members being Kenneth, Alyssa, Jocelyn and Ghazali.
5. That Tracey prepares an intervention on behalf of the GCG for the PFII agenda item on the WCIP 2014. The GCG to meet on Friday at 1300 in the Vienna Café, 2nd floor, NLB to discuss the draft intervention.

Agenda

Agenda item 1 Previous minutes

Adopted with minor amendments.

Agenda item 2

Developments since the last meeting in relation to the resolution adopted by the Open-ended Indigenous Peoples Brainstorming meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014, held in Denmark, 13 – 14 January 2012.

John reported on 4 different meetings that had taken place in NY.

On 4 April the President of the GA supported the proposal of Ambassador de Alba of Mexico to appoint an Indigenous co-facilitator to conduct consultations on the modalities of the WCIP 2014. That decision has been communicated to all States.

On 23 April there was a meeting of the co-sponsors of the GA resolution establishing the WCIP 2014. At that meeting there was support for the principle of full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the preparatory processes of the WCIP 2014 and the WCIP 2014 itself.

On 4 May there was a further meeting of all States. Mexico circulated a paper with questions about the modalities of the WCIP 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge views on possible dates for the WCIP 2014, the number of speakers, the number and types of meetings and themes.

John had a further meeting with the government of Denmark to discuss the idea of a week of intensive negotiations between States and the members of the GCG in order to negotiate the text of the GA resolution on the modalities of the WCIP 2014. Denmark thought this was a good idea and would be prepared to support the GCG to travel to NY for a week of negotiations.

There was general discussion about the progress that had been made in particular the appointment of John as the Indigenous co-facilitator. The UN has set a new precedent by appointing a non-State representative to carry out consultations. The GCG congratulated John and saw this development as a positive outcome of the work undertaken so far.

Agenda item 3

Updates from the regions and women and youth caucuses.

Africa

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Arctic

In Spring the Arctic Council will hold a meeting. On their agenda is the WCIP 2014. The Arctic Council consists of eight States: Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. Six international organizations representing Arctic Indigenous peoples have permanent participant status.

Asia

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Latin America

A decision was made earlier this year as to who the representatives for the GCG would be. Those representatives are different from the people that have so far been coming to the GCG. Latin America will meet during the PFII and inform the GCG in writing of those representatives.

North America

The North American caucus met last night. They are deciding whether or not to replace the North American representative with either Debra Harry or Art Manuel.

Pacific

Two interim representatives have been appointed by the Pacific caucus attending the PFII. They are David Lee and Ghazali Ohorella.

Russia

RAIPON continues to engage with the Russian government regarding their support of the WCIP 2014.

Rodion noted that the model of the Arctic Council could be a good practice example to apply to the WCIP 2014 because the level of participation between States and Indigenous peoples is equal. John noted that Indigenous peoples have the same rights as States in the Arctic Council with the exception that Indigenous peoples do not vote.

Women

Tarcila commented on the Arctic Council example as a good best practice for the outcome document of the WCIP 2014. She suggested that good examples from other regions between Indigenous peoples and States should be showcased.

Youth

The youth caucus is still deciding who their representatives will be. Hopefully a decision will be reached by the caucus during the PFII.

Agenda item 4

GCG – Terms of Reference with further amendments by John.

At the last meeting of the GCG, the Terms of Reference were adopted. Shortly after their adoption, John who had been absent when they were adopted emailed his suggestions for further changes. Those changes were tabled at the meeting. After some discussion, they were adopted.

Agenda item 5 a)

Key strategies: Co-facilitator – Terms of Reference

At the last meeting the late Chief Randy Kapeshesit has suggested that there should be Terms of Reference for the role of co-facilitator to which John agreed. Kenneth agreed to draft the Terms and present them to the GCG on 7 May. The draft Terms of Reference were tabled, discussion was held and they were adopted.

Agenda item 5 b)

Key strategies: Modalities resolution

At the last meeting John had volunteered to draft a modalities resolution for States to consider. Kent, Tracey and Kenneth also agreed to assist. The draft was circulated to the members of the GCG. Once finalized it was sent to Mexico and Bolivia, the idea being that the GCG pre-empt governments drafting of a resolution by drafting its own, incorporating modalities that implement the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the WCIP 2014 preparatory processes and the WCIP 2014 itself. The response from Mexico and Bolivia has been positive; they viewed it as a good starting point.

There was discussion as to whether the GCG had a preference for the month in which the WCIP 2014 would be held, the two options currently under discussion being May or September. There was agreement that September was the preferred option in order to prepare after the PFII. It was also noted that one of the GRULAC States will be President of the GA until September 15th. After their term, the Presidency will pass to the region of Western Europe and others. GRUCLAC was seen as a much better alliance than WEOC. However John advised that the GRULAC President would be from one of the Caribbean states and may not have much knowledge and/or support for Indigenous peoples rights.

In terms of the existing Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, its mandate could be increased to cover travel to the WCIP 2014. However the UN may also choose to establish a Voluntary Fund for the WCIP 2014 itself given that it will not come out of the regular budget of the UN.

Agenda item 5 c)

Key strategies: Government lobbying

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Agenda item 5 d)

Key strategies: Funding – update from the committee and discussion of regional budgets

At the last meeting each region had agreed to prepare a budget for their prep-com and to table such budget at the next meeting.

Africa

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Arctic

Nine people to Nuuk, Greenland will cost \$51,073 USD.

Asia

For 50 participants the cost is \$150,000.

Latin America

Gilberto sent a written budget that was tabled. For a 5 day conference for 30 people in Panama, the cost would be \$60,000. Tarcila strongly disagreed with this budget. She calculated that there would need to be 5 delegates from each country including Mexico, Central and South America. This would involve 140 participants at a cost of \$200,000.

North America

The North American caucus meeting held in March cost \$42,000.

Pacific

Still working on the budget, will make available to the fundraising committee in the next few days.

Russia

Two day working meeting in Moscow for 50 people will cost \$55,000.

Women

There must be a special budget within the regional prep-coms to give greater participation to youth and women in order to build a global view in Alta.

Youth

The youth plan to participate at the regional prep-coms, the youth focal points will address that. However in Spring 2013, youth would also like to have a global prep com being a 5 day meeting in NY for 20 youth, at a cost of \$67,000.

Joan suggested that women and youth participate in regional prep-coms and that they not have separate global prep-coms. John suggested that we may be able to facilitate the specific needs of youth by addressing training, if there was a budget for a youth training session at the global level, that time could also be used for youth preparations for the WCIP 2014.

John agreed to draft up a budget based on the data that had been provided by the regions and caucuses. So far the budget is \$1,000,000.

In relation to funders, John advised the GCG that the UN University (UNU) had some money to support Indigenous preparatory processes. It was agreed that any funds they had be directed towards a website and general communications.

There will also be meetings with funders over the next couple of during the PFII which the fundraising committee will attend, the committee being: Joan, John, Jocelyn, David, Kenneth and Saoudata.

Agenda item 6

Side event at the PFII

Since the last meeting, there had been email discussions about the Side Event of the WCIP 2014 to be held during the PFII. Tracey had drafted an agenda which everyone had received previously by email. That draft was read out and discussed. There was agreement that it would form the basis of the Side Event with some changes given the short amount of time available for the event. The meeting would be chaired by the co Chairs of the GCG, Kenneth would make a PPT presentation on the WCIP 2014 and the work of the GCG. It was agreed that a good portion of time be set aside for questions and dialogue from the floor as the two main reasons for the Side Event were to disseminate information and hear the views of participants.

Side passes are required to enter the Side Event. Tracey will collect them from the UN, each region is responsible for meeting Tracey at the UN desk and taking a number of passes for their region.

Agenda item 7

Communications

Tracey noted the need for a website in order to disseminate information to Indigenous peoples about the WCIP 2014 and the work of the GCG. Other forms of communication were also discussed including the Indigenous Portal, a letterhead, and a media strategy. In terms of costs a website with different languages would cost about \$10,000. Alyssa suggested that the GCG hold a contest for logo and artwork.

It was agreed that a communications committee be formed consisting of Kenneth, Alyssa, Jocelyn and Ghazali. The communications committee will come up with suggestions for example, a model and budget for a possible website. The group will meet Tuesday 7 May at 1500.

Agenda item 8

Other matters – alternative World Conference, next meeting.

Alternative World Conference

Some Indigenous peoples are already discussing the need for an alternative World Conference. Whilst this may occur, the focus of the GCG is to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the WCIP 2014. If the process fails, the GCG will evaluate and may choose to work on the alternative World Conference. However, given that the GCG is in the initial stages of its work, it will not preempt the outcome of the modalities negotiations and will instead focus on the WCIP 2014.

Other meetings

There is a lunch gathering next week between the GCG and States, it will be hosted by the Sami parliament, invitations will be forthcoming.

Agenda item of the PFII on the WCIP 2014

Tracey noted that the Permanent Forum will hold a half day discussion on the WCIP 2014 on Monday 14 May. She suggested that the GCG consider putting forward recommendations to ensure that other UN bodies and specialized agencies start working on the WCIP 2014. There was discussion about including other

recommendations based on the draft GA resolution. Tracey agreed to draft an intervention on behalf of the GCG, a meeting of the GCG to discuss that draft will be held on Friday 11 May in the Vienna café, 2nd floor of the NLB.

Next meetings

1. Friday 11 May, Vienna Café, 2nd floor of the NLB.
2. Wednesday 16 May, Baha'i Center, 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120