

## **Draft Report from the Sustainable Development Working Group to the Senior Arctic Officials on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2001 in Espoo, Finland**

The meeting adopted the amended Operating Guidelines (annex 1, Meeting document 6.5.1) and asks the SAOs for approval of these amended Operating Guidelines.

The meeting selected Sheila Watt-Cloutier, president of ICC Canada, for the second vice chair to represent the Permanent Participants. The SAOs are asked to approve of this selection.

The Capacity Building Workshop arranged by Canada on 1-2 November 2001 in Helsinki, Finland attracted participation from most member countries as well as Permanent Participant organisations. The SDWG is pleased to forward the executive summary and recommendations from the Capacity Building Workshop (Annex 2, Meeting document 6.5.2.2.) and wants to draw the SAOs' attention to the "Next steps" of the report.

The SDWG meeting discussed the paper prepared by the chair regarding the preparations for the Johannesburg Summit and concluded that the themes identified by the chair are relevant. At later points when the agenda for the Johannesburg Summit is defined new themes might arise that need to be addressed as well. The SDWG is willing to take the co-ordinating role in preparing the envisioned fact sheets, if so agreed by the SAOs.

The SDWG discussed the role envisioned for the SDWG in the non-paper on the Review of the Arctic Council structures prepared by the chair of the Arctic Council. It was pointed out that the SDWG is a working group on the human perspective in the Arctic. On the question of the work related to natural resources (either living or "dead") it was seen as important that these issues remain on the SDWG agenda. It was stressed that even though there might be an overlap between the work of CAFF and the work of the SDWG the perspective is somewhat different as CAFF has the "nature perspective" whereas SDWG has the "human perspective". Both is needed and cooperation should occur, as it does already today. The SDWG agreed to propose that the following text be added to chapter 4.8. of the non-paper: "Encourage SDWG in cooperation with the other working groups of the AC to develop an action plan for further implementation of the Framework Document on Sustainable Development which could take into account the results of the Johannesburg Summit."

Progress reports on the ongoing projects were given at the meeting, here are just some highlights :

- Canada reported progress on all three aspects of the Children and Youth project, but still stressed that the success of the project can only be achieved if all member countries take part and more funding is found.
- The Saami Council reported that the funding for the project Co-management of Marine resources in the Arctic Areas is in place, and the Saami college is currently looking for a person to do the work.

- The US based and the Finland based projects on Eco-tourism are evolving and the cooperation is being more intense. The projects are slowly becoming truly circumpolar as other partners are found. There are plans for a joint funding package.
- The reindeer project is proceeding very well, according to plans.
- Also the timberline project is proceeding according to the plans. CAFF offered to give an input on the Timberline workshop with regards to biodiversity in the timberline forests.
- The SLICA reported that the phase 1, that is the theoretical development and questionnaire design has been completed and the project is stepping on to phase 2, the actual data collecting.
- Because of the terrorist actions that took place on September 11<sup>th</sup> the planned steering committee working session for the Telemedicine project was cancelled. The steering committee will now meet on January 14-17, 2002.
- The ICS project reported good progress.

The SDWG meeting discussed what to present to the Ministers in October 2002. Some common format for the different project reports, or maybe a common edition was mentioned. Also the need to arrange some kind of brainstorming meeting to discuss the future directions of the SDWG was mentioned.

Three project proposals were put on the table at the SDWG meeting.

- The ICC informed of the status of the project on Environment and Health among Inuit. The project will not evolve into a circumpolar project, and as such will not apply to be an AC project.
- Sweden informed of the project Post-Soviet Political and Socio-economic Transformation among the Indigenous Peoples of Northern Russia. The project was found interesting by many but reluctance was shown on whether it is a true AC project. The need to develop criteria that a true SDWG project should fulfill was raised. It was decided to come back to this at the next SDWG meeting.
- The Arctic Human Development Report put forward by the Standing committee of the Arctic parliamentarians was discussed at length. It was decided that Iceland will take on the responsibility to lead a task force on developing the project proposal further. All countries and PPs interested are welcome to participate in the task force. A more elaborated proposal will be put forward at the next SDWG meeting.

At the SDWG meeting the Saami Council raised the question of the need for developing guidelines or criteria for how the involvement of the permanent participants can be assured in the SDWG projects from the very beginning. The Saami council asked the chair together with the vice-chairs to prepare these guidelines in time for approval at the next SDWG meeting.