



Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution
and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

TASK FORCE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MALÉ DECLARATION

2-3 August 2010

Report of the Meeting

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. The First Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration (herein referred to as the Task Force) was held on 2-3 August, 2010 in Pathumthani, Thailand.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Task Force members from the participating countries of Malé Declaration (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), as well as resource persons from the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Ceraba Foundation, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), and Scand Environment Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and AIT-UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (AIT-UNEP RRC.AP) also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as Annex 1.

Opening of the Session (Agenda item 1)

3. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director, Strategic Resource Mobilisation/Special Initiatives, UNEP delivered the opening address. He presented the history of the Malé Declaration and its progress in the last 12 years. He mentioned the status of Asia and the Pacific in terms of addressing the air pollution and other atmospheric issues. Based on the experiences of other networks, he flagged three issues for discussions in the meeting. First, a stepwise approach to the sustainable financing mechanism. Second, to build on existing institutional base for the network to establish the technical centers. Third, to work out one page summarised discussions that the ministers could look back and adopt. On behalf of the organizers, he thanked all the representatives from the participating countries of Malé Declaration, the resource persons, and all representatives from the participating organisations.
4. Dr. Young-Woo Park, Director, UNEP ROAP, in his opening remarks gave an overview and status of the Asia Pacific on atmospheric issues. He mentioned the existing air pollution networks in Asia and the Pacific and the networks housed in AIT/UNEP RRC.AP including the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Project Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC), Malé Declaration, Regional Forum on Environment and Health, and adaptation platform. He urged the participants to take note of the following issues during the discussions: a) Sustainability of the Malé Declaration in terms of financing; b), Utilize the existing networks in the region to build on the regional centers for the Male Declaration instead of creating new institutions ; and c) way forward to seek the support of high level policy makers. In closing, he thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution to the implementation of the Malé

Declaration.

5. Ms. Chamina Alexander, SACEP, also delivered an opening remarks. She mentioned the progress of the implementation in terms of addressing air pollution. She reminded that the SACEP has been involved in the implementation of the Male Declaration since its inception eleven years ago. She confirmed that SACEP will continue to support the implementation of the Male Declaration to address the environmental issues of transboundary air pollution. She proposed to hold the Second Meeting of the Task Force of the Male Declaration during the Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP in Colombo, Sri Lanka in November 2010.
6. The Meeting elected Mr. J.S. Kamyotra, India, as the Chairperson and Ms. Shushma Upadhyay, Nepal and Mr. Asad Ullah Faiz, Pakistan as the Vice Chairpersons of the Task Force. The chairperson and two vice chairpersons were elected to serve for the period of 3 years.

Review of the Second Draft Document on Sustainable Financing Mechanism (Agenda item 2)

7. The Chairperson thanked the participants for selecting the bureau members and requested the participants for their cooperation in completing the tasks as assigned by the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG).
8. Ms. Adelaida Roman presented the financial arrangement for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET). She informed that funds for EANET are voluntarily contributed by the participating countries since its preparatory-phase until the regular phase. She mentioned that based on the IG decision in 2001, it was agreed to establish a Working Group (WG) to discuss long-term financial issues and that countries would make all efforts to reach consensus on the financial arrangements at IG in 2003. She presented the 6 options considered by EANET is in the process until it reach in to the decision. She emphasised that the IG in 2003 adopted the decision on financial arrangement using the UN scale assessment based-burden sharing. In 2008 and 2009, the IG decided to have a flat- rate amount of voluntary contribution for a period of three years to the Secretariat and the Network Center budget, respectively. Currently, out of the thirteen participating countries, ten countries are already contributing to the budget of EANET.
9. Mr. Lars Nordberg presented the financial and institutional arrangements under the Convention on Long- Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). Mr. Lars informed that mandatory contributions were made by the 42 parties to CLRTAP 1984

Protocol on the Long-term Financing of Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol) based on UN assessment scale. He also mentioned that for core activities, funds are provided by the parties through their contribution while funds for non-earmarked activities are contributed on a voluntary basis. Besides, a trust fund has been established to support the member countries with economies in transition and to support the Secretariat travel.

10. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP presented the second draft document on Sustainable Financing Mechanism of Malé Declaration. He presented the overview of Male Declaration and the progress of its implementation. The presentation envisaged: background and objectives of the financial mechanism; principles of sustainable financing mechanism; defined activities; annual budget; and proposed burden sharing options. The presentation categorized the activities under three heads: regional, national and additional activities. The estimated annual budget for the regional and national level activities were mentioned. The estimated annual contribution of each country based on the UN assessment scale burden sharing was presented. He mentioned that the Task Force will propose a resolution for consideration of the IG.

11. After the presentations, the Meeting was opened for the discussions. The following are the major discussions made:

a. UN Assessment scale

- The UN assessment scale was clarified as having been developed taking into account various elements and criteria, e.g. Gross National Product (GNP), conversion rates based on market exchange rates, etc., and was agreed by the members states.
- There was a suggestion to develop an assessment scale for countries of the sub-region for determining their contributions instead of using the UN assessment scale. However, it was mentioned that though an assessment scale could possibly be developed, it has to be dynamic and regularly updated which may not be easy to come up with and agreed upon considering various indicators. It was then suggested that the UN assessment scale agreed by all countries be used at present.

b. Socio-economic impact

- It was suggested that socio-economic impact assessment can be made so that stakeholders and governments can be convinced to make contributions to the

implementation of Malé Declaration.

- It was suggested that assessment of impacts of policy interventions for abatement and control of air pollution be done to identify the gaps for bridging and actions prioritised.
- It was proposed to look at the link of the focus of Malé Declaration which is air pollution, co-benefits approach, poverty alleviation, conflict resolutions, improvement of livelihood and such, as these are the areas prioritized for funding by a number of donor agencies.

c. Capacity building and meetings

- It was suggested that national level capacity building should be given priority over the regional level trainings.
- Teleconference for the meetings to cut down the costs was suggested. It was mentioned, however, that it may not be possible to hold all meetings through teleconference but some face to face meetings are required for regional cooperation, team spirit and confidence building.

d. Financial mechanism

- The issue of curtailing financial assistance by external donors for the next phases of the Malé Declaration was raised. It was suggested that report on phase wise activities and achievements be prepared to appraise/convince the donors and funding agencies for continued support the Malè Declaration activities.
- It was suggested that stepwise approach for sustainable financing mechanism be considered till such terms on full share contribution is implemented.
- A step-wise approach of contribution and voluntary in nature was suggested for the sustainability of the financial mechanism. The issues of sustainable financing, including the funding mechanism, the stepwise approach for contributing in full, how and when to start contributing were also raised.
- It was also suggested to include in-kind contributions to the budget part.
- It was mentioned that the financial mechanism should be discussed with the IG Meeting and be presented to the Ministers for consideration and guidance.

12. The participants acknowledge that financial sustainability of the Malé Declaration was important, once the donor institutes withdraw the support. It was also agreed that a sustainable financing mechanism be developed.

13. There was a need to study the financial mechanism proposed in the draft document in light of the experience of EANET.

14. All member countries will document the initiatives taken by them for emission reductions outside the Malé Declaration indicating their concern for the changing environment.
15. All member countries would list the environmental issues of concern and prioritise them for action. Success stories will be documented for replication in member countries.
16. The meeting agreed that the draft report of the task force on the establishment of sustainable financing mechanism (Malé Declaration/TFFD1/2) will provide basis for establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for the Malé Declaration. The document will be revised based on the discussions in this meeting for consideration in the next meeting of the Task Force.

Discussion on the Feasibility Report on the Establishment of Regional Technical Centres (Agenda Item 3)

17. Mr. Jiro Sato presented the ACAP experiences as the Network Center for EANET. He presented the Institutional Framework for EANET, the strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010), the tasks of the Network Center for EANET, and the achievements of EANET. He concluded by mentioning the following: a)Activities should be implemented in a transparent and efficient manner (Report, dissemination of information, etc.), and importance of stepwise approach; b) Importance of frequent interaction organisations c)Requirement of adequate financial and human resources ;d) Importance of participating countries is important for developing the activities; e)Scientific studies should be promoted including emission inventory and modeling (Fellowship research, dispatch of researcher, etc.) and f)Enhancement of the scope should be considered to prevent regional air pollution.
18. Mr. Lars Nordberg presented the regional centres supporting work under the CLRTAP not funded through the EMEP protocol. He discussed the following centres: a)Forests: International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests, where the lead country is Germany; b)rivers and lakes: ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Rivers and Lakes where Norway is the lead country; c)materials: ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments where Sweden and Italy are the lead countries; d)vegetation and crops: ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops where the United Kingdom is the lead country; e)mapping critical loads: ICP on Mapping Critical Levels and Loads where France is the lead country; f)health: Task

Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution led by the World Health Organization (WHO) European Centre for Environment and Health, Germany; g)integrated monitoring: ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems where Sweden is the lead country; and h)integrated assessment modeling (IAM): Centre for IAM International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) where Austria is the lead country.

19. Dr. Kim, AIT made a presentation on the capacity of AIT Environmental Engineering (EE) laboratory to be a technical centre. She highlighted the strength of the laboratory covering the areas of research in AIT EE including the main laboratory, ambient laboratory and research laboratory. She also presented the existing ongoing major research projects at AIT.
20. Mr. Sagar Dhara made a presentation on the technical centres in South Asian region. He highlighted the 8 technical centers for the Malé Declaration which was decided during the Eighth IG meeting.
21. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP presented the draft outline on the feasibility study for the establishment of regional technical centres. He discussed the background for the proposed regional technical centres. He discussed the ToR for each of the six proposed regional technical centres including the regional technical centre for a)dry and wet deposition monitoring; b)soil and vegetation monitoring; c)corrosion impact assessment; d)health impact assessment; e)emission inventory and modeling; and f)technical centre on pollution control and prevention.
22. The members were invited to discuss the draft feasibility outline. The following were the major discussions made:
 - It was informed that national technical centres have already been established under the Malé Declaration but there was a need for better coordination and harmonization among the national centres. The details on the establishment of National Centres will be given in the background of the feasibility report.
 - It was suggested that the word “technical” should be removed from the name of the centres as the centres could also conduct non technical tasks such as coordination etc.
 - It was mentioned that the heading for the ToR for each centre should be “ToR for National and Regional Network Centre on ...”
 - There was a suggestion to regroup the technical centres into three categories only, e.g. merging pollution control and prevention with dry and wet deposition monitoring, impact assessments on health and corrosion should be one centre

and the air pollution reduction as the third.

- Other suggestions were to separate soil and vegetation into two centres. As all, technical centres can't be clubbed together for all the activities may not be available with the expertise from a single centre.
- It was also suggested that to begin with one or two centres where adequate capacity is available be taken up.
- It was mentioned that academic institutions and NGOs could also be looked at as the regional centres.
- It was mentioned that the mandate of the technical centres proposed to be established in each country and at regional level should be clearly specified so that duplication if any, with other existing institutes can be avoided.
- It was informed that the Secretariat does not have the capacity to cover all thematic areas, so, these regional centres will work with the national centres, collect, collate, validate and publish the data and even help in framing action plan for intervention.
- Uniformity in collection of data should be ensured while subjectivity, objectivity are different issues.

23. The regional centres will be retained as proposed but developed in phased manner. The reorientation of the grouping will be considered.

24. It was agreed to rename the National Technical Centres and Regional Technical Centres as National Centres and Regional Centers, respectively.

25. The meeting agreed on the draft ToR for the establishment of Regional Centers under the Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration/TFFD1/3), with modifications. The feasibility study will be conducted based on the discussions of the meeting.

Discussion on the Outline of the Feasibility Study of Developing a Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia (Agenda Item 4)

26. Ms. Roman presented the Instrument for providing the Sound Financial Contribution to EANET highlighting the recognition of EANET participating countries on the importance of appropriate financial arrangement for the sound operation of the EANET, with a view to sustainable development of the activities. She mentioned that the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) in 2005 adopted the Decision 1/IG7 (Niigata Decision) which implied that the participating countries of EANET should begin a process to discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET and report the results of the

discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) in 2008 for its consideration. She also mentioned that after several years (2006-2010) of deliberations, the finalized Instrument titled “Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)”, a non-legally binding resolution with signature will be finally adopted by the IG in 2010 and to be signed by countries during the High Level Segment during IG12.

27. Mr. Lars Nordberg presented the “General Framework of the CLRTAP”. He emphasised the decisive considerations for a successful agreement which include: scientific basis; national interest of emission control; conviction of common and collective improvements worldwide, willingness to implement and comply shared responsibility; justice, fairness, long-term commitment as pre-requisite for progress. He highlighted the experiences and progress of the different instruments such as: Convention on CLRTAP, EMEP Protocol, Sulphur Protocol, NOx Protocol, Volatile Organic Compound Protocol, Heavy Metal Protocol, POPs Protocol and Multi-Pollutant Protocol.
28. Mr. Iyngararasan, UNEP presented the outline of the feasibility study of developing a regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia. He mentioned the background and discussed the achievements of the Malé Declaration. He also highlighted the aim of the framework which is for better cooperation, and better understanding among the countries on issues related to air pollution in order to successfully implement air pollution reduction measures across the participating countries. Outline of the feasibility report was presented including the a)Review of the socio-economic situation of South Asia; b)Review of the existing framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia and the existing national level policies will be conducted; and c)Possible options for consideration of the government.
29. The Meeting was invited to discuss the outline of the feasibility study on developing a regional framework on air pollution in South Asia. The following were the major discussions made:
 - The meeting agreed that a framework for addressing air pollution in South Asia already exists in the form of Malé Declaration. It was clarified that the regional framework on air pollution in South Asia shall consider strengthening the framework of the Male Declaration.
 - It was mentioned that emissions such as shipping emissions are beyond the control of regional networks such as Malé Declaration. Therefore the framework should be developed in the context of exiting global, regional, and national policies.
 - It was suggested to review the availability of emission reduction measures and

their cost effectiveness in strengthening the regional framework.

- It was suggested to include multiple benefits of the framework and use it as basis to encourage stakeholders and donors to support the framework implementation.
- It was mentioned to include another section “4. Other concerns/Other Issues” in the feasibility report to accommodate the additional details.

30. The meeting agreed on the development of a feasibility report to strengthen the Malé Declaration framework based on the document Malé Declaration/TFFD1/4 and the deliberations from this meeting for the consideration of the second meeting of the Task Force.

Discussion on the Draft Resolution (Agenda Item 5)

31. The draft resolution for consideration of the ministerial meeting was presented and discussed. The meeting was informed on the process of deliberation until its adoption by the Ministers. The meeting agreed on the draft Resolution with modifications. The revised draft Resolution is attached as Annex 2.

Other Issues (Agenda Item 6)

32. Some presentations were made by its participants on this topic as follows:

- Mr. R. N. Jindal, MoEF, India made an informative presentation titled “*Burning of agriculture residue & crop remnants*”
- Mr. Sagar Dhara, Cerena Foundation, made an informative presentation titled “*Carbon emission computations for travel*”
- Mr. J. S. Kamyotra, CPCB, India made an informative presentation titled “*In-situ sewage treatment*” and on the Lyophilisation Technology developed for salt free preservation of hides in the tannery sector.
- Malé Declaration Secretariat informed the meeting about the upcoming training programme in November. The Secretariat will communicate the details to the National Implementing Agencies. Secretariat also requested the Task Force members to communicate their offers to host the regional centres within one month time. It will facilitate the secretariat to complete the feasibility report in time for the second meeting.

Closing of the Meeting

33. Mr. Surendra Shrestha in his remarks expressed the satisfaction that the foundation for strengthening the Malé Declaration has been laid through agreement on the draft resolution and basis for developing the key documents such as the financial mechanism.

He suggested to consider the experiences in Europe, EANET, Montreal Protocol and other networks while developing the feasibility study on strengthening a regional framework. He mentioned to include inventory of policies and cost of technologies, which will help in the implementation of the framework. In closing he congratulated and thanked the members of the task force, resource persons, EANET, SIDA, and the staff of UNEP RRCAP.

34. The chairman closed the Meeting thanking the participants for their active participation and contributions during the meeting, as well as the resource speakers and the Secretariat of the Meeting.

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Draft Resolutions for the Consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting

1. In recognition to the increasing risks of problems on air pollution and its likely transboundary effects in South Asian countries, the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was adopted by the Environment Ministers of the region in Maldives in 1998 during the meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). The Malé Declaration's objective is to aid the process of providing a clean environment through clean air. The Declaration calls for regional cooperation to address the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution and its possible impacts.
2. After 11 years of implementation, the Malé Declaration has achieved significant progress in the area of air pollution issues in South Asia. Capacity of member countries to address the atmospheric issues had been enhanced in terms of skilled manpower, infrastructure, and institutional setup. More importantly, the Malé Declaration has been providing the framework for the governments and stakeholders for cooperation at the regional as well as national level. The need for the Malé Declaration has been proven and agreed by all the stakeholders in South Asia.
3. There is a need to establish a sustainable financing mechanism to continue this process with the ownership of the member countries. There is also a need to establish centers at regional and national levels to sustain the capability building in the region and national level. The time is ripe to consider enhancing the regional cooperation under the Malé Declaration.
4. Recognizing the need to further implement the Malé Declaration, member countries will provide voluntary financial support for the Malé Declaration as decided by the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Malé Declaration. They will support the national and regional centers as proposed by the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Malé Declaration. The member countries also agreed on strengthening the regional policy framework to carry forward the Malé Declaration.