



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

*Second Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development  
29-30 November 2010, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING

#### **Introduction**

1. The Second Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) (herein referred to as the Task Force) was held on 29-30 November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Task Force members from the participating countries of Malé Declaration (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), as well as resource persons from the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute, and Scand Environment. Representatives from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as Annex 1.

#### **Opening of the Session (Agenda item 1)**

3. Ms. Jacinta S. Tissera, Officiating Director General & Administrative Officer, SACEP delivered the Opening Address. She welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to UNEP for offering SACEP to host the Second Task Force Meeting. She mentioned about the history of Malé Declaration including its successful outcome. She pointed out that cooperation is necessary to tackle transboundary air pollution and that actions are important aspects for the network.
4. Mr. Malavakanam Iyngararasan, Project Coordinator, UNEP Headquarters gave the Opening Remarks. He highlighted the major achievements of the Malé Declaration in its four phases of implementation. He also pointed out other regional initiatives in Asia which include the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the Atmospheric Brown Cloud Project (ABC). He also outlined the objective of the meeting and mentioned that outcomes of this meeting are important for further development of Malé Declaration. In closing, he thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions to the implementation of the Malé Declaration.
5. Mr. R.M.R.D. Weerasooriya, Environment Management Officer, Ministry of Environment (MOE), Sri Lanka, welcomed the participants on behalf of the (MOE). He thanked the participants for coming to this meeting.
6. Mr. Asad Ullah Faiz, Pakistan acted as the Chairperson of the Second Task Force Meeting.

## **Progress on the Implementation of Malé Declaration and Objectives of the Meeting**

7. The Secretariat presented the Progress on the Implementation of the Malé Declaration and the Objectives of the Meeting. The presentation highlighted the objectives of the Phase IV of the Malé Declaration which include: 1) Strengthen Regional Cooperation and move towards developing a regional agreement; 2) Strengthen the air pollution monitoring network and conduct regular monitoring of high quality; 3) Enhance the capacity of NIAs (National Implementing Agencies) to undertake emission inventory and scenario development, atmospheric transfer of pollutants and Integrated Assessment Modeling; 4) Enhance the impact assessment capacity of the national institutions and assess the impacts of air pollution in the participating countries; 5) Assist the member countries of the Malé Declaration with the development of air pollution reduction policies and development of a regional framework; and 6) Raise awareness for action on air pollution issues through targeted dissemination.

## **Review of the document on Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Male Declaration (Agenda Item 2)**

8. Mr. Rajamani presented the Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration TTFD 2/2/1). The Meeting was requested to review and endorse the document on Sustainable Financial Mechanism for presentation to the IG12, for its adoption.
9. Major discussions are as follows:
  - There was a general consensus on the progress placed before the meeting which could be submitted to IG12  
It was suggested that a letter be sent to the participating countries from the Secretariat on financial contribution when the mechanism is adopted by the countries.
  - It was suggested to include the operational details of fund that will be contributed by the countries. Secretariat clarified that the IG meetings will review and approve the work plans, progress reports, budgets, and financial reports.
10. The Meeting agreed to submit the Report on the Sustainable Financial Mechanism (Malé Declaration TTFD 2/2/1) to the IG12 for its review and adoption.

## **Discussion on the Detailed Outline and Progress on the Feasibility Report on Strengthening the Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia (Agenda Item 3)**

11. Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja, SDPI presented the detailed outline and progress on the feasibility report for strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia. The Meeting was requested to discuss, make comments and adopt the detailed outline for the feasibility study on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia, for submission to IG12.
12. Major discussion on this topic include:

- The objectives of the study shall be included in the background.
- It was suggested to limit the scope of the feasibility study to the scope of the Malé Declaration.
- The Meeting agreed to develop the section 5 as a stand-alone document and developed the key recommendation as follows: “The analysis of gaps and weaknesses of the Malé Declaration will be annexed to the Report and should lead to the identification of possible policy action at the regional and national level in a continuous process. Current experience shows that there may be a need for policy instruments to complement ongoing national efforts. They may include for instance minimum standards for vehicles, fuels, brick kilns, etc., and target terrestrial as well as non-terrestrial environmental receptors. Such a process could be strengthened through technical assistance by experts on standards, thereby facilitating the drawing-up of possible protocols. Each country would be left to adopt or amend such protocols to make them more stringent in line with national priorities and requirements”. The feasibility report (detailed outline in Annex 2 of this meeting report), which will be an annex to this recommendation, will focus on justifying this recommendation.
- The meeting agreed that the feasibility study report will be not more than 20 pages in size.

13. The meeting agreed to finalise the report through e-mail communications and submit to the IG 12 for review and adoption. A schedule for the finalisation is provided in the Annex 3.

**Discussion on the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of Regional Centres (Agenda Item 4)**

14. Ms. Bidya Banmali Pradhan, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) made a presentation on the establishment of regional centres including the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the regional centres and the list of potential regional centres (Malé Declaration TTFD 2/4/1). The Meeting was requested to discuss, make comments and endorse the feasibility report on establishing regional centres, for consideration and adoption of the IG12.

15. Major discussions include:

- It was suggested to establish two separate regional centers for soil and vegetation: “Regional Centre of Soil” and “Regional Centre of Crops, Forests and Vegetation Impacts”. Similarly, Regional Centre for Emission Inventory and Air Pollution Modeling will be two different components and it was suggested to separate these two as well.
- The potential regional centres in each country were identified by National Focal Points (NFPs) and NIAs. These centres were discussed according to the existing expertise, facilities and experiences. It was agreed that one country could have a maximum of 2 regional centres only. Accordingly, the meeting agreed on taking forward the proposed location of regional centers as follows:
  1. Regional Centre for Monitoring Dry and Wet Deposition - India
  2. Regional Centre for Monitoring Emission Inventory – Sri Lanka
  3. Regional Centre for Monitoring on Soil Impact Assessment - Bhutan

4. Regional Centre for Crop Impact Assessment - Pakistan
5. Regional Centre for Corrosion Impact Assessment - India
6. Regional Centre for Health Impact Assessment - Bangladesh
7. Regional Centre for Modelling - Iran
8. Regional Centre for Pollution Reduction Policies/Strategies –Nepal/Maldives

- The Regional Centre will be established in phase-wise manner. If the current capacity needs to be enhanced, it will be coordinated with other institutions to upgrade the capacity.
- It was proposed to assess the existing capacity of the potential centers and the capacity building needs. Regional and international experts will be involved to complete this task. A panel of experts will develop a concept paper for each of the centers through reviewing these centres by teleconference, existing knowledge from prior visits, feedback forms and if necessary visit to the centres.
- It was suggested to include a section on collaboration between the NIAs, NFPs, and the regional centers in the feasibility study report.

16. The Meeting endorsed the ToR of the regional centers (Malé Declaration TFFD2/4/1: Annex 1) for adoption at IG12.

#### **Consultation for the Work Plan 2011 of Malé Declaration (Agenda Item 5)**

17. The Secretariat presented the Workplan of the Malé Declaration for 2011( Malé Declaration TFFD2/5).

18. Major discussions on the workplan include the following:

- It was suggested to start the basic work on analysis of data linking to transboundary effects and also consider steps at the national and regional level to improve awareness of Malé Declaration and delineating clearly the roles of the member states.
- It was also discussed that some option may be worked out to develop some working relationship with other Regional Cooperation like SAARC for financial support.

19. The work plan was endorsed by the Task Force to be submitted to the IG12 for its review and approval.

#### **Other Issues (Agenda Item 6)**

20. There are no any other issues raised by the participating countries, etc.

#### **Closing of the Session (Agenda Item 8)**

21. The Chairperson expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants for their contributions, active participation and great cooperation during the Meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of this important Meeting.

22. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.

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**Detailed Outline of the Feasibility Study on Strengthening Regional Framework  
for Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia**

**Section 1: Background**

**1.1: Male' Declaration**

1.1.1 Mandate

1.1.2 Major Activities

1.2 Objectives of the Study

**1.2: Implementation of Male' Declaration**

1.2.1 Phase I (Intergovernmental network, Baseline studies)

1.2.2 Phase II (Monitoring Stations, Regional and National trainings)

1.2.3 Phase III (Strengthened Regional and National Cooperation,  
Public awareness)

1.2.4 Phase IV (Towards Feasibility study)

1.2.4.1: Task force on future development of Malé Declaration

1.2.4.2: Feasibility Report

1.2.4.3: Terms of Reference (ToRs)

**Section 2: Existing socio-economic status of Male' Declaration member states**

**2.1: Introduction**

Brief paragraph on the current social and economic situation of Malé Declaration member states, South Asia region in global context, South Asian context, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its main objectives.

**2.2: Country Profile of Male Declaration member states**

The following socioeconomic parameters will be described for each of the Malé Declaration member states:

- 1) Geography (Land area, Coast line, Terrain)
- 2) Demographics (Population, Provinces, Religion, Urban & Rural areas)
- 3) Government & Politics (Structure of Government, Security, Environmental Governance)
- 4) Economic Situation (Gross Domestic Product, Investment, Industry, Agriculture, Migration, Economic structure, Taxation structure, Income distribution, Inflation)
- 5) Poverty (GINI coefficient, Human Development Index, Unemployment rate)
- 6) Transportation (Airports, Roads, Ports, Impact of transportation on trade)
- 7) Education (Literacy rate, Urban Vs Rural literacy)
- 8) Health (Health indicators)
- 9) Environmental degradation (Air Pollution, Precipitation, Wind speed & direction)
- 10) Energy

2.2.1: Bangladesh

2.2.2: Bhutan

2.2.3: India

2.2.4: Iran

2.2.5: Maldives

2.2.6: Nepal

2.2.7: Pakistan

2.2.8: Sri Lanka

**2.3: Review**

This section will give comparative analysis of the economic situation in South Asia with a focus on inter-country relationships and trans-boundary effects of air pollution on South Asia.

### **Section 3: Existing situation of Air Pollution in Malé Declaration Member States**

#### **3.1: Introduction**

Brief paragraph on the sources, state and impacts of Air Pollution in the Malé Declaration Member States, regional context, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its main objectives

**3.2:** The sources, state and impacts of air pollution in each Malé Declaration Member States The following would be described for each of the Malé Declaration Member States:

Sources, energy consumption in Transportation, Industrial processes, Waste burning/incineration, Emissions levels, status of each air pollutants/emission inventories and impacts (public health, agriculture productivity, local climate/weather, Biodiversity, Archeological sites and monuments etc.)

- 3.2.1: Bangladesh
- 3.2.2: Bhutan
- 3.2.3: India
- 3.2.4: Iran
- 3.2.5: Maldives
- 3.2.6: Nepal
- 3.2.7: Pakistan
- 3.2.8: Sri Lanka
- 3.2.8: Comparative analysis

### **Section 4: This section would mainly describe the current/past state of response/s of the national governments towards air pollution reduction in their respective countries.**

Review of existing national frameworks/policies on air pollution in the Malé Declaration Member states would be carried out. The following will be described for each Malé Declaration State:

Environmental Quality Standards, Environmental Act, Conservation Strategies, Environmental Action Plan, Environmental policy, Sustainable Development Strategy, implementation status/ support (technical and financial).

International Conventions and treaties signed by each Malé Declaration member countries and its implementation status.

- 4.1: Bangladesh
- 4.2: Bhutan
- 4.3: India
- 4.4: Iran
- 4.5: Maldives
- 4.6: Nepal
- 4.7: Pakistan
- 4.8: Sri Lanka
- 4.9: Comparative analysis (Discussion of the success stories)

### **Section 5: Recommendations to further develop the Malé Declaration towards strengthening the framework for air pollution reduction at national and regional levels**

The analysis of gaps and weaknesses of the Malé Declaration will be annexed to the Report and should lead to the identification of possible policy action at the regional and national level in a continuous process. Current experience shows that there may be a need for policy instruments to complement ongoing national efforts. They may include for instance minimum standards for vehicles, fuels, brick kilns, etc., and target terrestrial as well as

non-terrestrial environmental receptors. Such a process could be strengthened through technical assistance by experts on standards, thereby facilitating the drawing-up of possible protocols. Each country would be left to adopt or amend such protocols to make them more stringent in line with national priorities and requirements.

**Section 6: Other issues/concerns**

To be proposed by Malé Declaration Member States and Malé Declaration Task Force

**Section 7: Bibliography**

**Section 8: Annexes**

### Timetable of Activities for the Feasibility Studies

No.	Activities	Date
1	<b>Draft reports</b> on feasibility on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia and on the establishment of regional centres	30 December 2010
2	<b>Comments on the draft reports</b> by TFFD Member	30 January 2011
3	<b>Second draft reports</b> on feasibility on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia and on the establishment of regional centres	15 February 2011
4	<b>Comments on the second draft report</b> by TFFD members, NFPs and NIAs	15 March 2011
5	<b>Final reports</b> on feasibility on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia and on the establishment of regional centres for submission to IG12	31 March 2011
6	<b>Revised reports</b> with comments from IG12 members	15 April 2011
7	Circulate <b>final reports</b> to TFFD members, NFPs and NIAs before submission to Ministerial meeting.	Proposed date by SACEP