

Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on  
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and  
Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration)  
20 May 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## **Draft Guidelines for Implementation of the Sustainable Financial Mechanism of the Malé Declaration**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In 1998, UNEP together with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) drew attention to the possibility of the impacts of transboundary air pollution in South Asia. This initiative led to the adoption of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration). The initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) Programme. The validity period for the implementation of Phase IV of the Malé Declaration was extended to 30 September 2013 as per “Amendment to the Agreement between Sweden and UNEP RRC.AP on support to Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries, Phase IV”.

2. As the implementation of the Malé Declaration has progressed a lot, greater involvement of the participating countries is required. A regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia could be a logical step towards this end. There is also a need to establish a sustainable financing mechanism to continue the implementation process with the ownership of the member countries.

3. The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) was held in Delhi, India on 30 June 2011. The Session adopted, with modifications the Report of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD), and its Annexes which include the Draft Resolutions for Consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting, the Report on the Sustainable Financial Mechanism, the Feasibility Report on the Establishment of Regional Centres, and the Feasibility Report on Strengthening the Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia. It was suggested that in the budget under regional level activities, the budget for the operation and activities of the regional centres be included.

4. In accordance with the decision by the IG12 on the Report of the Task force, the draft guidelines for implementation of the financial mechanism was prepared by the Secretariat. The Third Session of the TFFD held in Thailand in August 2012 discussed and made comments on the draft guidelines on financial mechanism. This draft will be submitted to the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) for its review and guidance.

## II. Previous Discussions

5. Major discussions during TFFD3 were as follows:

- The meeting appreciated the financial contributions from India and Maldives.
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial and helpful in the national process if the financial contribution will be on an annual basis.
- Some countries expressed that if the word “voluntary” in the financial contribution was mentioned, their government would find it difficult to make contribution to the Malé Declaration. It was clarified, however, that the voluntary financial contribution mechanism is one of the principles adopted by the IG12 in the Task Force Report on Future Development.
- It was agreed that the cover letter on financial contribution will be sent to the participating countries considering their needs at the national level.

## III. Next steps of Implementation

6. For the next steps of implementation, the following are proposed to be undertaken:

- All the countries are encouraged to make voluntary contributions for the regional core budget for the success of the network and continue the national activities at the countries' expenses. Countries are encouraged to support the operation of the regional centers that they are hosting.

7. Before the transfer of the money by a participating country, a letter requesting for voluntary contribution will be prepared by the Secretariat and send to the participating countries.

8. The participating countries may transfer the money to the Secretariat via electronic transfer to the following bank account:

### **Bank Details**

Account Name:	<b>Asian Institute of Technology</b>
Account No :	10492918
Account Type :	Checking Account
Bank Name :	Citibank, NA
Bank Address :	Citicorp Center, 16th floor 153 East 53rd Street, New York, USA10043
Swift Code :	CITIUS33
ABA :	021000089
Detail of payment:	For UNEP RRC.AP / Malé Declaration

9. The Secretariat will inform the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the Malé Declaration as soon as the transfer to the bank account above has been confirmed.

10. The Secretariat calculated the amount of voluntary contribution of the participating countries on an annual basis as agreed by IG12, in accordance with the latest UN assessment scale burden sharing as presented in Table 1. It is proposed that the contribution will continue in the next 3 years.

11. The possibility of introducing minimum contribution amount from the participating countries should also be explored in the future.

#### IV. Status of Contribution

12. By the step-wise approach, the countries could start the voluntary contribution to the Malé Declaration.

13. Currently, the 2 countries that already contributed to the Malé Declaration include: India which contributed an amount of US \$ 19,439.00 on 19 April 2012, and Maldives which contributed an amount of US \$ 251.00 on 16 May 2012.

14. In February 2013, the Secretariat requested the voluntary financial contribution to the budget of the Malé Declaration in 2013 to the participating countries. Bangladesh and Nepal informed that their respective government approved the contribution to the programme.

**Table 1. Approximate Country Contributions for Regional Level Activities in the year 2014-2016 (Annual Basis)-for Phase V implementation**

No.	Country	% in UN Assessment Scale	% in Malé Declaration (approximate)	Approximate Contribution (USD)
1	Bangladesh	0.01	1.13	2,506
2	Bhutan	0.001	0.11	251
3	India	0.534	60.27	133,782
4	Iran	0.233	26.30	58,373
5	Maldives	0.001	0.11	251
6	Nepal	0.006	0.68	1,503
7	Pakistan	0.082	9.26	20,543
8	Sri Lanka	0.019	2.14	4,759
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>221,968</b>