

- **Draft guidelines for the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia**

The Secretariat

1

Introduction

- The objective the Malé Declaration is to aid the process of providing a clean environment through clean air.
- The Declaration calls for the regional cooperation to address shared local air quality problems and the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution and its possible impacts.
- Through a process of mutual consultation, the Declaration also calls for the continuation of this process in phases, to formulate and implement national and regional action plans and protocols based on a fuller understanding of transboundary air pollution issues.

2

IG12 held in June 2011

- Adopted, with modifications the “Report of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration (TFFD)”, and its Annexes which include: the Feasibility Report on Strengthening the Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia.

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During the IG12

- It was stressed that the regional guidelines/standards be developed on air pollution prevention and control in South Asia. It was pointed out that a legally binding instrument will not be applicable at this point in time.
- It was mentioned that some agreements/frameworks agree on minimum standards on air pollution.

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Previous Discussions

- On Feasibility Study Report on Strengthening the Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia”, the air quality standards exist for all the member states except for the Maldives.
- Generally, the Ambient Air Quality Standards are defined in all the member states for sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, black smoke, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, suspended particulate matter, lead and ammonia.

5

- The criteria for categorization of the pollutants are also more or less the same for all the member states industrial, commercial, residential and sensitive areas.
- Bhutan, Iran, Maldives and Sri Lanka have established specific emission standards for vehicular emissions.
- Nepal and Pakistan have defined specific standards for extreme winter seasons, atmospheric washout, natural cleansing, poverty level, and institutional capacities.
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3rd Task Force on Future Development Meeting in 2012

- It was stressed that each country has its own air quality standards and developed based on weather conditions and other consideration for setting the standards in a particular country in the region. Standards implementation has a legal backing and it is important to the countries.
- It was mentioned that countries could have common guidelines but not common standards.

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Next steps of activities

Based on the IG12 decision, the TFFD shall do the next steps of implementation on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia.

The following are proposed for the activities on this topic:

- 1. Identify the key sectors
- 2. Establish expert group for each sector
- 3. Review existing standards, guidelines and methodologies for emission control
- 4. Develop common standards/protocols/guidelines for emission reduction
- 5. Consultation with the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD)
- 6. Consultation with the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG)

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Identify the key sectors

- On developing guidelines/standards and protocols, there were suggestions to prioritize by sectors, eg. motor vehicles, industrial sector, and dominant industrial pollutants in the South Asian region. The participating countries shall discuss this matter as a first step.

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Establish expert group for each sector

Expert group for each sector (e.g. motor vehicle, fuel and industries, etc.) would be established to work on air quality standards and protocols.

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Review existing standards, guidelines and methodologies for emission control

- In order to understand the importance of Malé Declaration for reducing air pollution and its likely trans-boundary effects, it is important to review to review existing standards, guidelines and methodologies for emission control.
- Some reviews were done on “Environment Degradation and Air Pollution in Malé Declaration Member States” in the Feasibility Study on Strengthening the Framework, presented in Annex 1. This could be further consulted.

11

Develop common standards/protocols/guidelines for emission reduction

- MD could have minimum air quality standards, e.g. automobile, brick kiln, fuels, etc. This would be strengthened by technical assistance of experts on standards and thus enable protocols to be drawn up.
- This will be left to each country to adopt or amend the protocol to make it more stringent based on national requirements.

12

Consultation with the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD)

Task Force for Future Development (TFFD) which was established to consider the expansion of the Malé Declaration could do recommendations for the study and submit it to the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG).

13

Consultation with the IG

- The IG will review the report/result of the study on Malé Declaration submitted by the TFFD. It will discuss, review and make decision on the guidelines for implementation on strengthening framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia.

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*Thank you for
your attention !!!*

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