

Malé Declaration

on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution
and its Likely Transboundary Effect for South Asia



Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting
30 June 2011, Delhi, India

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. 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.
2. Representatives of the participating countries, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in the Session. Experts from the following organizations: South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Headquarters and Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP), and an independent facilitator also attended the Session. The list of the participants is enclosed as Attachment.

Opening of the Session

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Deputy Director, UNEP RRC.AP, delivered the Opening Remarks. He warmly welcomed all the participants of the Session. He expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the government of India, particularly to the Central Pollution Control Board for hosting the IG12 and the Sixth Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination Meeting (RSC6). He stressed that the Malé Declaration has made substantial progress and its achievements are remarkable and promising. He emphasized that for the successful implementation of the Malé Declaration, greater involvement of the participating countries is required and a regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia could be a logical step towards this end. He mentioned on the need to establish a sustainable financing mechanism to continue the implementation process with the ownership of the member countries and that establishing centers at regional and national levels is necessary to sustain the capability building in the region and at the national level.
4. Mr. R. Rajamani, former Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, chaired the Session as the Regional Facilitator. At the start, he acknowledged the efforts of the Malé Declaration in the past several years, and he looked forward to new achievements in the Session and the network as a whole.

II. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS (Agenda item 1)

5. Ms. Ma. Bernadeth Lim, UNEP RRC.AP presented the key progress under the first year of the Phase 4 implementation of the Malé Declaration. Summary of the progress under the objectives are as follows:
 - *Strengthening regional cooperation:* The Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG11) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh where the establishment of sustainable financing mechanism was discussed and the implementation of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration (TFFD) was considered. The Malé Declaration countries also expanded cooperation with other networks through participation in meetings/seminars including the Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment Issues in Asia and the Pacific; Seminar on Co-Benefits Approach: Emerging Trends and Needs; Regional Workshop on Cleaning Up Transport; and Special Session on Corrosion Exposure
 - *Strengthen monitoring capacity:* The National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) continues operation in monitoring sites and submits data for database at the Malé Declaration Secretariat. After data quality check by the monitoring committee, the data are included in the database. The 8th Regional Refresher Training Programme was conducted; hands-on training for technicians of Bhutan and Maldives was conducted; and a short training on setting up and using the High volume sampler (HVS) was done in Maldives.
 - *Enhance capacity on emission inventory:* The 4th Training Workshop on Emission Inventory and preparation was conducted in Delhi in November 2010
 - *Enhance capacity on air pollution impact assessments:* A Regional Training on Health Impact Assessment was conducted in March 2011 in Nepal. A Training Workshop on Crop impact Assessment was conducted in November 2011 in Delhi India.
 - *Provide decision support:* Feasibility study on strengthening the regional framework for air pollution reduction in South Asia was prepared. National level implementation of policies is being studied specifically in Bangladesh.
 - *Awareness raising:* Two issues of newsletters were published in 2010.

6. The Session acknowledged the Progress Report as presented (Malé Declaration/IG 12/1/1). It was concluded that the capacity of member countries to address the atmospheric issues had been enhanced in terms of skilled manpower, infrastructure, and institutional setup.

III. REVIEW OF THE DATA REPORTING (Agenda item 2)

7. Ms. Naw Wahwah Htoo, UNEP RRC.AP, presented the “Review of the Data Reporting”. It focused on data reporting and submission of the monitoring activities of the participating countries for the year 2010-2011. The presentation contained the topics: monitoring capacity, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and training.

It also highlighted suggestions and recommendations for enhancing the monitoring activities and data reporting.

8. Major discussions included:

- Some countries expressed that frequent electricity brown-out caused problem on the monitoring activities and had resulted in the insufficiency of data.
- It was suggested that the gap on the reporting shall be looked into and good data system and management shall be considered and started.
- The Secretariat and other involved international organizations/institutions, e.g. SEI, IVL, etc. were requested to assist the participating counties in some monitoring problems, e.g. equipment problem, data collection, supplies, etc.
- It was stressed that that the Technical Monitoring Committee shall be strengthened.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (TFFD) OF MALÉ DECLARATION (Agenda Item 3)

9. Mr. J.S. Kamyotra, Chairman, TFFD presented the Report of the Task Force on Future Development (TFFD) of Malé Declaration. Details of the report are in the document Malé Declaration IG12/3. The presentation included the Draft Resolutions for the consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting (Malé Declaration IG12/3/2); the Report on the Sustainable Financial Mechanism (Malé Declaration IG12/3/3), the Feasibility Report on the Establishment of Regional Centres (Malé Declaration IG12/3/4), the Feasibility Report on Strengthening the Regional Framework on Air Pollution Reduction in South Asia (Malé Declaration IG12/3/5). The participants were invited to discuss, make comments and provide guidance on the document for submission to the Ministerial Meeting.

Major discussions on the following topics included:

Financial Mechanism

- The Indian government confirmed to contribute 1 million Indian rupees to Malé Declaration this year and the process of transfer of voluntary contribution is on-going. A step-wise approach will be observed and contribution might increase from next year.
- It was suggested that in the budget under regional level activities, the budget for the operation and activities of the regional centres be included. It was stressed that to cover important activities such as research and training, they could be put under the additional activities where funding assistance will be sought from potential donors.
- The budget for the operation of the regional centres should be estimated and be included in the financial mechanism.
- It was mentioned that Bangladesh contribution is subject to the approval of the country's Finance Ministry.

- Iran contribution is on discussion with different agencies concerned.
- For Nepal, it was mentioned that the budget is fine but the negotiations on the country's contribution will start by next fiscal year.
- Sri Lanka mentioned that their contribution is in the process of approval in the ministry level.
- It was mentioned that Maldives needs significant amount of time of convincing on the part of technical team to the policy level. The issue on financial mechanism needs level of endorsement to the ministerial level meeting.
- For Pakistan, it was mentioned that the financial contribution was taken up in the government which agreed to contribute the estimated amount of US\$ 20,000 but will be finalised in a month or two.

Regional Centres

- It was suggested that the basic function of the regional centre be put as “to enhance and exchange knowledge and to support the research and development of air pollution issues in the region on the proposed theme”
- It was suggested that support from outside donors be sought for the initial establishment and/or operation of the regional centres.
- It was suggested that the Secretariat should send a formal letter to all NIAs regarding step-wise establishment/operation of the regional centres.
- It was clarified that the regional centres are institutions in the countries and have their own operational set-ups. Each centre should develop a proposal in order to mobilise resources. In the next Task Force meeting, the operation of the regional centres will be elaborated.
- Clarification was raised on the annual budget indicated in the information sheet for Bhutan. It was suggested that the details should be re-checked by Bhutan.

Regional Framework

- 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.
- It was stressed that the regional guideline/standard be developed on air pollution prevention and control in South Asia.
- It was also mentioned that there are a lot of information to be corrected in the gap analysis part of the report. It was suggested that respective countries should be given a month to review the information regarding the country that are in the report. Inputs/corrections will be given to the Task Force for further revision.
- It was mentioned that there will be no TFFD meeting before the ministerial level meeting where this report will be presented. It was suggested that this document will be finalised by email communications to all the members of the TFFD.

Draft Resolution

- It was suggested to revise the section “atmospheric issues” in the paragraph 1, 2nd line

- to “air pollution prevention and control issues”.
- It was suggested that the paragraph 1 should include what have been done under the past 11 years of the Malé Declaration implementation, what has been achieved, then what more need to be done, which will lead to the succeeding paragraphs.
 - It was suggested that the resolution should be put in a form that reflects the language of the ministerial level. The draft resolution will be revised and enhanced by the TFFD further by email communications.
10. The Session adopted, with modifications the “Report of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration”, 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.
 11. The members of the TFFD will finalise the document by email communications after incorporation of the comments and suggestions made during the Session.
 12. The meeting requested the Secretariat to send a letter to each participating country specifying the amount of voluntary financial contribution and modalities of contribution.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF MALÉ DECLARATION IN 2010 (Agenda item 4)

13. Ms. Ma. Bernadeth Lim, UNEP RRC.AP presented the draft Work Programme in 2011 for Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration/IG11/6/1).
14. Major activities included are under the six key objectives:
 - Strengthen Regional Cooperation*: IG13 to be held during second quarter of 2012; 7th Regional Stakeholders cum coordination meeting (RSC7) before the IG13 during the 2nd quarter of 2012; National Stakeholders Meeting during 2nd quarter of 2012; 3rd TFFD meeting after IG12 on June 2011 before the Ministerial level Meeting; and the 4th TFFD meeting on 1st quarter of 2012 before the IG13;
 - capacity building on air pollution monitoring*: 9th regional training programme during the third quarter of 2011 and the third attempt for inter-laboratory comparison will be conducted during 3rd quarter of 2011;
 - capacity Building on emission inventory*: emission inventory training to be held together with the 9th regional training during 3rd quarter of 2011;
 - capacity building on impact assessment*: national level health impact assessment will be done during 3rd quarter of 2011;

-Assist with air pollution reduction: 1st Regional-level training cum-awareness will be conducted on the 3rd quarter of 2011, national level country-specific air pollution measures is being developed by Bangladesh;

-Rising awareness: two newsletters will be published during the year 2011, national level public awareness youth workshop to be held in Sri Lanka on July 2011, regional youth awareness workshop will be held in November 2011.

15. The Session was invited to discuss the proposed work plan. The following are the major discussions made:
 - It was agreed that a Task Force meeting will not be convened before the Ministerial level meeting. All the comments from this meeting will be incorporated, and then will be communicated to all members of the TFFD for finalisation.
 - It was mentioned that the IG13 might be held in Pakistan. An option to hold the meeting in Bhutan was also raised if it is not possible to have the IG13 in Pakistan. The Secretariat will communicate with the proposed countries to host for finalisation of the arrangements.
 - It was suggested that the costs on hosting the IG13 shall be considered as contribution of the country. The least-cost country to host the IG will be considered.
16. The workplan will be revised according to the suggestions of the meeting.

VI. SUMMARY AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION (Agenda item 5)

17. Mr. R. Rajamani, the regional facilitator, mentioned that this had been a momentous meeting. He thanked the Ministry of Environment and Forests and CPCB for excellent arrangements of the meeting. He gave thanks to UNEP, UNEP RRC.AP, SACEP, SEI and all participants for the continued support.
18. Mr. R.N. Jindal, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India proposed vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting. He mentioned that this meeting is significant as all participating countries are represented. He thanked all participants and UNEP, SEI for continued cooperation.
19. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP, thanked all the member countries for participating the Session. He thanked the local hosts for the great efforts concerning the arrangements of the Session. He also thanked Mr. Rajamani for being very supportive to the network. He pointed out the importance of having a good document for the Ministerial meeting.
20. Mr. J.S. Kamyotra, CPCB, in closing, appreciated the contributions of the Secretariat of Malé Declaration.

Attachment

List of Participants

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