

Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of
Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and
Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration)
16 October 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Report on the Progress of Malé Declaration after the
Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14)
(Draft)**

I. Introduction

1. This report presents and reviews the progress of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration) activities after the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 November 2015.
2. This document was presented and discussed during the Fifth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD5) held on 19 August 2016, New Delhi, India.

II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Policy Formulation

3. The Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) of the Malé Declaration was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 November 2015. Representatives of the eight participating countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in the Session. Experts from international organizations, such as, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Environment Program, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP), and the Secretariat, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP) also attended in the meeting.
4. The IG14 considered, discussed, and endorsed the following agenda: (1) Review on the progress of implementation of the Malé Declaration at the national level; (2) Consideration on the implementation of Malé Declaration at the regional level, including financial status and updates; (3) Consideration on strengthening the framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia; and (4) Consideration on the Work Programme and Budget of Malé Declaration in 2016 and the future development. Each member country made a presentation on the progress of implementation of the Malé Declaration at the national level. All presentations and reports were acknowledged at the Session, and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of the Malé Declaration was endorsed. The Session also approved the work programme and budget in 2016. The Report of the Session was attached as Annex 1.

5. The First Meeting of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration (EG1) was convened on 18 August 2016 in New Delhi, India. The Meeting discussed Preliminary Report of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of the Malé Declaration and deliberated on the issues and challenges in the implementation of existing standards and available technologies of the member countries.
6. In line with the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, approved by the IG14, the Secretariat sought information on available and existing ambient air quality standards and guidelines, emission standards for industrial and mobile sources for the member countries, issues in the implementation of existing standards, and available technologies. The same was used in the drafting of the preliminary report discussed at EG1. The Report of the Meeting was circulated to all National Focal Points (NFPs), National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) and participants of EG1.
7. The Fifth Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development (TFFD5) was convened on 19 August 2016 in New Delhi, India. The agenda of the meeting included the following: 1) discussion on Malé Declaration implementation; 2) discussion on the Preliminary Report of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration; 3) discussion on the Proposal for Phase VI of the Malé Declaration; and 4) consultation on the Work Programme for 2017 of the Malé Declaration. The Report of the Meeting was circulated to all NFPs, NIAs and participants of TFFD5.

III. Strengthen Capacity Building Programmes and Monitoring

8. The National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) have continued operation of the monitoring activities in their respective countries. Some of the member countries have shared with the Secretariat their monitoring data, i.e. Bangladesh, Maldives and Iran. It is requested that the monitoring results from all member countries be submitted to the Secretariat for discussion and assessment at the Regional Refresher Training proposed early next year. The Report of Analysis in Phase V will also be prepared with the coordination of the Regional Center on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring, India.

IV. Development of Project Proposals and Other Activities on Regional Cooperation

9. In view of strengthening the network and aiming at financial sustainability, the Secretariat had communicated to some international institutions/organizations. On 7 January 2016, the Secretariat received a letter Ms. Albena Karadjova, Secretary to the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) expressing their willingness to strengthen the cooperation between the Malé Declaration and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.
10. The Secretariat consulted with the countries and confirmed interest in strengthening such cooperation. It was believed that there was scope for collaboration specifically

regarding Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) in South Asia, which are included in the current activities of Phase V (2014-2016) of the Malé Declaration. Potential areas of collaboration include:

- Strengthening the air pollution monitoring networks, including those for SLCPs, and conducting regular monitoring of air quality;
 - Enhancing the impact assessment capacity of national institutions in South Asia and assessing the impacts of air pollution and SLCPs (such as the impacts on crops of ozone) and the socioeconomic implications for member countries; and
 - Enhancing the capacities of member countries to carry out emission inventories of black carbon, scenario development, atmospheric transfer modelling of BC and integrated assessment modelling.
11. UNECE communicated that the cooperation was included in the discussion at the Executive Body meeting of the UNECE in May 2016, but has no decision yet.
 12. The Secretariat had initiated communicating with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) regarding the “Transboundary Air Pollution Training Course” for the member countries. Discussion on this matter is still on-going.

Administrative, Financial Aspects and others

13. For the year 2015, the Secretariat received the amount of financial contribution from India government, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, an amount US\$ 61,531.07, transaction dated 14 December 2015.
14. The Secretariat sent the letter to all member countries on 9 February 2016 regarding the voluntary financial contribution and requesting the kind transfer of their contributions for the regional core activities in the year 2016, to the account of Malé Declaration. The Secretariat received the voluntary contributions in 2016 from Bangladesh, US\$ 1, 931.00 on 21 April 2016 and Pakistan, US\$ 16,300.00 on 23 June 2016. It is kindly requested that other member countries be able to do so.
15. The Secretariat has been continuously updating the website of the Malé Declaration. The regional database is available online at: <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/male/>.

Table: Financial Contributions Received from the Member Countries

| Date | Country | Amount in US\$ |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 14-Dec-15 | India | \$ 61,531.07 |
| 21-Apr-16 | Bangladesh | \$ 1,931.00 |
| 23-Jun-16 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan | \$ 16,300.00 |
| | Total Income Received | \$ 79,762.07 |