



**Northwest  
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Action Plan**



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Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting of  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Toyama, Japan  
19-21 December 2017

**Report of the Meeting**

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**Annex 1:** Resolutions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

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## Introduction

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The 2<sup>nd</sup> IGM (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. The 4<sup>th</sup> IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, the People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centers (RACs). The 5<sup>th</sup> IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), as well as its Terms of Reference. The 8<sup>th</sup> IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, the People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the NOWPAP region.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the Member States have acknowledged the importance of setting up a RCU as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution 2 of the 6<sup>th</sup> IGM, the NOWPAP members decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host RCU offices in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Republic of Korea), respectively. Following the request of NOWPAP members, UNEP has recruited six staff members for the RCU; the RCU offices were inaugurated in early November 2004 in Toyama and Busan, respectively.

3. The 10<sup>th</sup> IGM (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The 11<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP RACs in 2007 to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, and adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the Member States and related organizations.

4. The 13<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Republic of Korea) decided to conduct RCU performance review with a focus on assessing effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RCU activities related to overall goal and objectives of NOWPAP, including achievements of planned outputs. The 13<sup>th</sup> IGM also approved NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) Spill Contingency Plan. The 14<sup>th</sup> IGM (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) discussed the enhancement of NOWPAP RCU performance, based on the performance review, and requested NOWPAP RCU, in close consultation with all NOWPAP RACs, to develop a draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) to facilitate an effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan. The 15<sup>th</sup> IGM (16-18 November 2010, Moscow, Russia) requested NOWPAP RCU to further revise MTS in close collaboration with RACs to reflect suggestions of Member States. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government will prepare a draft paper addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP to be discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> IGM.

5. The 16<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 December 2011, Beijing, the People's Republic of China) adopted revised TOR of NOWPAP RCU and reviewed the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 (adopted later by correspondence). While appreciating the increased contribution of Russia to the Trust Fund, the meeting agreed that the Korean Government would further revise the draft paper addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP and circulate among Member States for their

comments and suggestions before the 17<sup>th</sup> IGM. The 17<sup>th</sup> IGM (1-2 November 2012, Jeju, Republic of Korea) requested the RCU to prepare a scoping paper by June 2013 on possible measures to address financial situation of NOWPAP for consideration at the 18<sup>th</sup> IGM. The meeting also requested NOWPAP RCU to continue working closely with UNEP and IMO to obtain an observer status for NOWPAP at IMO meetings by finalizing an agreement of cooperation.

6. The 18<sup>th</sup> IGM (4-6 December 2013, Toyama, Japan) agreed on the scale of contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the next two years reflecting an increased contribution from the Republic of Korea starting from 2014. The meeting approved the Agreement of cooperation with IMO granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings and conferences. As some important decisions were not made during the meeting, the Member States adopted the meeting resolutions through correspondence in April 2014. The Meeting agreed to hold an extraordinary IGM in Korea in April 2014 to consider possible decisions on measures to address the concerns of the hosting countries over the financial sustainability of the RCU in compliance with the Host Country Agreements. The meeting asked UNEP to conduct an audit of RCU.

7. The 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM (9-10 April 2014, Seoul, Korea) decided to reduce the total number of RCU staff members of the UNEP to a maximum of four and requested UNEP to conduct a functional review of NOWPAP RCU offices two years after the recruitment of the last staff member. The meeting also decided to discuss functions of new posts for the two RCU offices at the 19<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM to be held in Russia in the second half of 2014, to conclude discussions on appropriate measures regarding the financial sustainability of the RCU offices.

8. The 19<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 October 2014, Moscow, Russia) decided to consider at the 20<sup>th</sup> IGM the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017. Financial Rules and Procedures for the NOWPAP Funds were adopted by correspondence after the meeting. The Member States also agreed to have a second extraordinary IGM in the first quarter of 2015 in Korea.

9. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM (1-2 April 2015, Seoul, Korea), Member States finalized the discussions on the NOWPAP RCU restructuring (with four UN staff members in two RCU offices) and approximate timing (around February 2016). It was decided also that fund management support will be provided by UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, to be covered by NOWPAP Project Support Cost.

10. The 20<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (28-30 October 2015, Beijing, the People's Republic of China) approved the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2016-2017, and requested RAC directors, in consultation with their Focal Points, to prepare detailed work plans with quarterly milestones to monitor the progress of implementation in line with the approved budget and NOWPAP 2016-2017 Programme of Work. The meeting has also decided that the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 should be prepared in close collaboration between Member States, NOWPAP RACs and RCU.

11. The 21<sup>st</sup> NOWPAP IGM (23-24 November 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea) requested Regional Coordinating Unit with the support of RACs Directors and in consultation with Member States and NOWPAP partners to finalize Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023) and prepare the revised Regional Coordinating Unit' Terms of Reference for the adoption by the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

12. Following the offer by the government of Japan to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 19-21 December 2017 in Toyama, Japan.

13. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP Member States, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Directors of NOWPAP RACs and RCU also attended the meeting. Representatives from the UNEP Office in Asia and the Pacific, Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (YSLME Phase II), North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and Japan Association of UNEP attended as observers.

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

14. The 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM was opened at 09:00 on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by Mr. Dong-q LEE, the head of delegation of R. Korea, the hosting state of the 21<sup>st</sup> NOWPAP IGM. He welcomed participants and invited Mr. Tamaki TSUKADA, Chairperson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM to give his opening remarks. Mr. TSUKADA emphasized the importance and relevance of NOWPAP activities during the period of a renewed global focus on ocean issues as demonstrated by the commitments at and actions that followed the UN Ocean Conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 in June 2017 and the following fourth Our Ocean Conference in Malta in October 2017. The Third United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a new resolution on marine litter and microplastics - the perennial issue for NOWPAP. In this context he stressed that NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 is an important document to mark a new stage in the development of NOWPAP combined with the increased replenishment of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and proposed NOWPAP special projects.

15. The meeting was addressed by the Governor of Toyama Prefecture, Mr. Takakazu ISHII. In his welcoming remarks Mr. ISHII introduced participants with various actions undertaken by the Prefecture to promote environmental sustainability and international cooperation, including G-7 Environmental Ministers Meeting and the Environmental Experts Meeting for North-East Asia Region, both held in Toyama in 2016. Toyama Prefecture undertakes several activities aimed at marine conservation, including through its support to NOWPAP.

16. Mr. Xiangbin PEI, Head of Delegation of P.R. China expressed gratitude to Government of Japan for hosting the meeting and noted that the country pays increasing attention to ocean governance issues as was reflected at the international forum on global ocean governance organized by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development in 2017.

17. Ms. Suyeon KIM, representative of R. Korea, delivered welcoming remarks and stressed the importance of the meeting to set up a new direction for NOWPAP in the framework of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023.

18. Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA, Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, welcomed participants and in her remarks noted the important role of NOWPAP in the protection of marine and coastal environment in the North Pacific during the last 20 years. New challenges faced by the region and the achievement of SDGs would define future of the regional mechanism. In this context, she emphasized several important future activities for NOWPAP such as ecosystem-based integrated coastal zone management and the next report on the state of the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region.

19. Ms. Dechen TSERING, Director of UNEP Asia and the Pacific office, welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. She informed participants about the resolutions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly and the work of the Asia and the Pacific Office on pollution, marine litter and ocean governance. In her remarks she highlighted the importance of addressing pollution and resource efficiency at the regional level and informed about the success of UNEP led #Clean Seas campaign aimed at reducing and eliminating single use plastics. Ms. Tsering concluded by emphasizing the importance of addressing regional dimension of SDGs through strengthened cooperation between Asia and the Pacific Office of UNEP and NOWPAP.

20. In his remarks, Mr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, acknowledged the support of Member States and NOWPAP RACs in preparing the meeting and noted the importance of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 in setting future course of the regional mechanism with its focus on the achievement of SDGs and particularly SDG 14. He discussed the relationship and links between the evolving global ocean agenda and the activities of NOWPAP at the regional level.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 2(a): Election of officers**

21. According to NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> IGM is a representative of the hosting state, the Rapporteur is a representative of the Member State hosting the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons are representatives of the remaining two Member States. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers among representatives of Member States:

Chairperson:	Mr. Tamaki TSUKADA
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Xiangbin PEI
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Tong-q LEE
Rapporteur:	Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA

### **Agenda Item 2(b): Organisation of work**

22. Meeting participants agreed that rules of procedures of UN Environment Assembly would be applied during the meeting with necessary adjustments (e.g., the meeting will be conducted in English and decisions will be made by consensus).

### **Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of the agenda**

20. Mr. Tamaki TSUKADA, Chairperson, introduced provisional agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/1) and annotated agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/2). Delegations agreed to the agenda except for deciding to discuss "Proposals for NOWPAP Strategic Initiatives / Projects" (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11) or Agenda Item 13 before the Agenda Item 11 "NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019" (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/12). The revised agenda was adopted.

### **Agenda Item 2(d): Presentation of credentials**

23. Upon request of the Chairperson, the Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation and NOWPAP Programme Officer reviewed and confirmed the acceptance of credentials from Member States.

### **Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan**

24. Mr. Lev NERETIN presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/3). He highlighted several important activities completed during 2017 by RACs and RCU and provided information about NOWPAP resource mobilization efforts. A total of US\$ 912,322 was leveraged by RACs and RCU in 2017 that was almost twice the amount deposited in the NOWPAP Trust Fund. He also briefed participants on the development of the NOWPAP new website, various public awareness and partnership building activities. Mr. NERETIN recommended the meeting to discuss and adopt the report of the Executive Director on the status of NOWPAP implementation and NOWPAP Trust Fund. He affirmed that RCU, together with RACs and in consultation with NOWPAP Member States, will continue efforts to secure additional funds from the external sources to supplement NOWPAP Trust Fund resources.

25. During the discussion, Japan expressed appreciation for RCU's successful work over the last two years during the period of restructuring noting that IGM resolutions have been implemented with limited available resources. Japan also welcomed achieving for the first time the target of \$US0.5 million annual contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. At the same time, Japan noted that NOWPAP should continue making efforts to reduce the unspent and accumulated budget in the Fund while maintaining sustainable financial outlook. Japan acknowledged active partnership building role of the RCU in 2017, but expressed the concern that physical absence of Coordinator for a longer period because of travel may affect NOWPAP RCU 's core role of the coordination.

26. P.R. China commented that the implementation of NOWPAP activities could be further improved. P.R. China raised caution about the proposed cooperation between NOWPAP and the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group that would fall under the mandate of the China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and would require further discussion and consensus before initiating relevant activities in the framework of NOWPAP.

27. Commenting on the report, R. Korea suggested developing an NOWPAP RCU's actionable plan for external resources mobilization and called upon NOWPAP RCU and RACs to put more efforts into public awareness activities. Internet security of RCU and RACs' websites was mentioned as a standing concern.

28. Russian Federation joined other Member States to acknowledging with satisfaction member contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund reaching 100% target in 2017. The country called upon NOWPAP entities to tackle further emerging environmental challenges, e.g., micro-plastics pollution. It also supported P.R. China's position on cooperation with the Arctic Council that would require further consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and consensus building in the NOWPAP.

29. In response, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator thanked Member States for their continuous support to the Action Plan. He clarified the Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group, specifically through its Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI), decided to explore potential for cooperation with UNEP NOWPAP at its Board Meeting in June 2017. Proposed NOWPAP activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly those related to CEARAC programme of work are relevant to AMBI actions along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. He suggested to set up a small group to discuss the proposal further. In addition to R. Korea's inquiry of the number of users of website and the status of their satisfaction, coordinator shared internet security concerns expressed by the delegation of R. Korea and informed participants that RCU is in the process of developing a new NOWPAP website hosted at the UNEP central server that



supposedly should provide up-to-date security backup. He agreed with the proposals to further strengthen NOWPAP public outreach activities and requested additional limited funds for the next biennial work programme.

30. After the discussion, the UNEP Executive Director Report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/3) was adopted.

**Agenda Item 4: Reports on the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2016 and 2017 by RACs**

31. Directors of NOWPAP RACs, Mr. Yuichi NAGASAKA for CEARAC, Mr. Feng YAN for DINRAC, Mr. Seong-Gil KANG for MERRAC and Mr. Anatoly KACHUR for POMRAC, presented results of RACs activities during the 2016-2017 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/1-4), including organization of Focal Points Meetings, implementation of specific projects, RAP MALI activities, cooperation and coordination among RACs and with the RCU, website updates as well as progress on other routine tasks.

32. Commenting on the reports of RACs, Japan acknowledged with satisfaction the work done by CEARAC on marine biodiversity and requested for more information about specific project on the future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities proposed in the 2018/2019 work plan. CEARAC clarified that in implementing the project, it will follow operational modality of the Marine Litter Action Plan working jointly with RCU and other RACs towards development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

33. R. Korea emphasized the importance of further and continuous development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. The country also asked about reasons behind lacking recent marine litter data for the NW Pacific Regional Node from P.R. China considering that other three countries already provided information. In response, P.R. China clarified that the expert is being internally selected and should be nominated shortly. During the next two years as a part of RAP MALI implementation, CEARAC is planning to collect information about microplastics programs and countermeasures in the NOWPAP countries.

34. MERRAC representative emphasized that the development of marine biodiversity activities should involve contributions from all NOWPAP RACs - the comment acknowledged and agreed by CEARAC. NOWPAP Senior Coordinator thanked CEARAC for the leadership and continuing efforts contributing to the development of the Regional Biodiversity Action Plan and agreed with the importance of undertaking these activities in close cooperation with all NOWPAP RACs and regional partners to avoid duplication, including UN ESCAP NEASPEC (on the regional network of MPAs), with Yellow Sea LME Phase II (on key biodiversity sites), and with PEMSEA (on ecosystem-based area management). He also noted that in case the meeting approves the increased budget envelope, additional funds of about US\$30,000 could be available for these consultations. RCU also noted that there is a need to continue mobilizing additional financial resources to implement biodiversity-related activities.

35. Regarding DINRAC's presentation, R. Korea stressed two challenges related to database management: collection and distribution of data or information - and noted the lack of DINRAC's progress in website development. DINRAC acknowledged the delay with website content migration and informed participants that the work will be completed by the end of this year. Japan acknowledged DINRAC's efforts in maintaining the information and databases, but raised concern about how effectively the database is used. It recommended DINRAC to

undertake a survey to assess how databases available on its portal are being used and who are the users of the information.

36. In response, DINRAC informed participants that it is tracking users of its website using their IP addresses. DINRAC could develop a questionnaire combining IP addresses analysis to understand user demand. DINRAC acknowledged the three main directions of its information management activities, including historical data analysis (which is challenging because of data unavailability), modelling and data visualization using web-GIS, and presentation of data and information for policy makers in a user-friendly format.

37. P.R. China noted that the NOWPAP is a small community and suggested to continue discussion on whether focus of DINRAC's website should be public-, academia-, or policy maker-oriented. The information needs of these three groups are different and the decision should be made about most appropriate users of DINRAC databases and information.

38. Providing comments to MERRAC's presentation, P.R. China inquired whether marine litter activities should continue to be discussed at the MERRAC Focal Point Meetings. In general, MERRAC Focal Points do not have expertise or assigned authority to address marine litter issues. R. Korea highlighted the important role played by the international conference on maritime disasters co-organized by Korea Coast Guard and MERRAC to strengthen regional cooperation. The conference was held in Busan, R. Korea in December 2017. He requested the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting to discuss holding such conferences on a regular basis. Russian Federation congratulated MERRAC on the well-organized international conference in Busan. She acknowledged that MERRAC's well established mandate focused on oil and NHS spill preparedness and response makes it challenging for MERRAC to address other issues.

39. Responding to comments from member states, MERRAC Secretariat informed that the RAC will continue focusing on the existing issues such as oil and NHS spill preparedness and response for the next biennium. The latter are also being discussed at the annual meetings of National Competent Authorities for Regional Oil and NHS Contingency Plan held back-to-back with the meeting of MERRAC Focal Points. MERRAC Focal Point Meetings discuss marine litter issues. The new Programme of Work for MERRAC for 2018-2019 allocates resources for the discussion on whether and how MERRAC could undertake additional activities beyond oil and NHS spills. Discussion on the best way forward to address sea-based sources of marine litter by MERRAC was deferred to the Agenda item 10.

40. Regarding POMRAC activities, Russian Federation emphasized POMRAC important work on integrated coastal zone management and the forthcoming State of Marine Environment Report (SOMER-3) as a contribution to the achievement of SDG 14 and other related SDGs. Japan agreed and welcomed POMRAC ongoing activities on microplastics that should expand beyond coastal waters of the Russian Federation. In response, POMRAC Secretariat confirmed that future microplastics work will involve experts from Japan, R. Korea, and P.R. China as well as NOWPAP RACs. Both, Japan and R. Korea requested further information on the administrative and financial arrangements of POMRAC through DINRAC in implementing several activities of POMRAC and asked RCU to work with POMRAC in finding a way to follow standard practice used by other RACs. Further details were provided on the financial arrangements by POMRAC and RCU. R. Korea mentioned that the arrangement of budget to DINRAC seems a temporary solution, and inquired of NOWPAP RCU for any improvement considering current POMRAC's situation. POMRAC noted that the arrangement is a working model considering existing institutional and tax situation of POMRAC. RCU agreed to continue looking for other ways to process payments on certain activities to POMRAC

directly, but requested Member States to support continuing current arrangements to avoid disruption of POMRAC activities.

41. After the discussion, NOWPAP RAC reports (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/1-4) were adopted.

**Agenda Item 5: Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2016-2017**

42. Mr. Ning LIU, Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU, presented the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2016-2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/6). He reported that about seventy seven percent of activities (by number) were completed on time. Eighteen percent are delayed, including the development of DINRAC website, annual update of existing database caused by delays in experts contracting and processing of payments. Five percent has not been started and this includes proposed NOWPAP activity on the impacts of climate change.

**Agenda Item 6: Reports by NOWPAP Member States and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation**

43. Member states reported their progress on the implementation of NOWPAP. Japan focused its intervention on the country's efforts to combat marine litter, focusing on microplastics. According to the survey on marine litter conducted at seven coasts of Japan from 2010 to 2014, plastics accounted for 80-90% of the total amount of marine litter. Since 2015, Ministry of the Environment of Japan was providing subsidies to local governments to collect marine litter having a total annual budget of 30 to 90 million US\$. Japan monitors distribution of microplastics in the open ocean around the country and continues supporting research on the adsorption of hazardous chemical substances, including PCBs on microplastics. Japan also collects information on drifting and seabed-based marine litter. In 2017, Japan expanded offshore surveys on floating marine debris and microplastics in cooperation with the universities in Japan in the north-western Pacific as well as in the open ocean using five research vessels. Following decisions of G7 Toyama Environment Minister's meeting in 2016, Japan is leading several international activities addressing microplastics. Japan organized an international expert meeting in December 2016 to discuss harmonization of monitoring methodologies of microplastics. The meeting recommended to identify which technical parameters are needed to be harmonized in monitoring microplastics and a draft of harmonized monitoring methods has been prepared. The progress is being made in the joint analysis of standard microplastics samples conducted by 11 institutes from 9 countries including P.R. China, R. Korea and the Russian Federation. Japan plans to collect the results of the analysis and prepare evaluation of the analysis in 2018. The results will be reported to GESAMP WG40 on microplastics in the marine environment. Japan contributed actively to drafting Resolution on marine litter and microplastics adopted at the Third United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in December 2017.

44. P.R. China reported that the Action Plan on Water Pollution Control has been issued. This is related to marine pollution reduction. In 2017, China's Ministry of Science and Technology has allocated significant funds to research on microplastics pollution.

45. Russian Federation informed participants about the involvement of various ministries in the NOWPAP implementation, including a coordinating role played by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport and its Marine Rescue Service, the Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of Environment (Roshydromet), and the Far Eastern Branch

of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Pacific Institute of Geography of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences hosting POMRAC performs the functions of a scientific coordinator in the Russian Far East. The year of 2017 was declared a Year of Environment in the Russian Federation in accordance with the Order of the President. The final event commemorating the end of the Year of Environment was the Fifth Russian Congress on Environmental Protection held in Moscow on 12-14 December 2017. The Congress is the largest discussion platform for the professional environment community in the Russian Federation. Round table at the Congress was focused on waste management issues. A set of measures aimed at reducing the amount of waste through waste reduction and disposal using recycling and processing was presented, including measures addressing accumulated environmental damage. The Congress also considered the importance of promoting closed cycle of production and consumption for various materials and products. Russian legislation on waste management introduced a new national waste circulation system in 2017. From 2019 all Russian regions should join a new system. Several Russian institutions participate in MERRAC's activities, including regional oil spill response system, communication exercises, on-line notification system, and in NOWPAP DELTA exercises. Expedition of the Maritime State University named after Admiral G. Nevelskoy completed the first phase of field research in the coastal waters of Primorskiy region studying contamination of aquatic organisms by microplastic particles. In 2018, Pacific Institute of Geography will continue research aimed at understanding microplastics contamination in river runoff and coastal waters in the Russian Far East. The year 2017 also marked 100 years since the establishment of a specially protected areas system in the Russian Federation. The anniversary was commemorated at a conference organized in Sochi in September 2017. About ten new specially protected areas were established in the country in 2017. The Forum "Caspian Sea Day 2017" was organized in Astrakhan on 10-11 August 2017. The roundtable entitled "Role of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea in the achievement of the environment sustainable development of the Caspian Sea region and in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals" included presentations from two Regional Seas. NOWPAP (RCU and POMRAC) and HELCOM shared regional experiences on achieving SDGs at the Forum.

46. R. Korea took active part in the 2017 International Coastal Clean-up and the 2017 Joint NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop (September 19-20, 2010, Toyama) where country representatives provided an overview of national policies and measures addressing marine litter as well as microplastics research findings. R. Korea attended the G20 High-Level Conference on Marine Litter (May 30-June 1, 2017, Bremen, Germany) that discussed the G20 achievement report and its future role in combating marine litter issues in various countries. Republic of Korea shared national experiences on policies and technologies related to marine litter management at the APEC platform. The country organized Capacity Building Workshop on Marine Debris Prevention and Management in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region in Yeosu, R. Korea in June 2017. At the workshop, working-level officials and experts from a total of 16 countries actively participated in lectures, field trips and shared experience on marine litter management. The second capacity building workshop is planned in 2018 in the Republic of Korea. NOWPAP representatives were invited to contribute and attend the event. R. Korea also attended the APEC High-Level Meeting on Accelerating Waste Management Solutions to Reduce Marine Litter (September 5, 2017, Bali, Indonesia) and the APEC Workshop on Best Practices Sharing on Marine Debris Management in Coastal Cities of the APEC Region (November 4-5, 2017, Xiamen, China) and shared marine litter policy and activities of APEC countries to reduce marine litter.

47. Mr. Jae-Young LEE, Deputy Head of Planning and Partnership Development, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) briefed

participants about the PEMSEA's Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia or SDS-SEA and its implementation for the period of 2017-2022. PEMSEA is looking forward to sharing knowledge, skills and capacities that are beneficial and supportive of NOWPAP mission and the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023, particularly on the ecosystem-based Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). PEMSEA highlighted its State of Oceans and Coast Report, and welcomed NOWPAP and its Member States to support the organization and participate in the forthcoming East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress in October 2018.

48. Ms. Nobuko KAJIURA, the representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) informed participants about the progress of the North-East Asia Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN) that aims to create a network of MPA managers and stakeholders of marine protected areas in North-East Asia and facilitate the exchange of experiences in MPA management. This sub-regional initiative would benefit from future technical work of NOWPAP as well as MPA Network component of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Phase II Project which commenced in 2017. Furthermore, ESCAP expects to commence implementation of "Strengthening the sub-regional cooperation through knowledge sharing on sustainable management of MPAs" project funded by the Government of Russian Federation. The project is of relevance to the proposed marine and coastal biodiversity activities of NOWPAP.

49. In its presentation, PICES stated that PICES views NOWPAP as a key collaborator. The joint PICES-NOWPAP Study Group on Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean developed a framework of enhanced collaboration between the two organizations, which serves as a basis for longer-term strategic planning. Several specific proposals were developed jointly by PICES Secretariat and NOWPAP RCU, including support for joint reports, workshops and capacity building activities. PICES stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the two institutions during the Decade of Ocean Science to Support Sustainable Development Goals (2021-2030) when such regional partnerships may become critical in building an effective and efficient regional ocean governance framework.

50. Mr. Yingfeng GUO, Manager of the YSLME Project Phase II, informed participants about the activities of the project financed by the Global Environment Facility. The project will organize YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Workshop in Qingdao, China in May 2018 aiming to contribute to the development of YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan for 2018-2030, including discussion on the conceptual MPA network. He would welcome sharing of experiences of NOWPAP Member States at the meeting. Moreover, YSLME project will review policies and regulations regarding solid waste disposal as well as technologies for reducing production and identifying recycling opportunities in 2018. In 2019, YSLME project will organize a regional workshop on marine litter, including microplastics and is looking forward to further cooperation in this area with NOWPAP.

51. Mr. Motoyuki SUZUKI, Chairman of the Japan Association for the United Nations Environment Programme, informed participants about the Association activities. It was established in 2016 and aims at raising awareness about UNEP activities in Japan. The association is looking forward to work closer with NOWPAP and intend to publish information about the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM in its forthcoming journal Our Planet.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017**

52. Mr. Ning LIU, Programme Officer of RCU, reported about the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 and lessons learned. He informed about the results of the Mid-term review of MTS 2012-2017 presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM held in Beijing, P.R. China in October 2015 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/1). The final evaluation of the MTS was a desktop review done by RCU using output indicators and did not include assessment of outcomes. He highlighted that all NOWPAP activities during the period of 2012-2017 were implemented in line with the NOWPAP MTS priorities. Notwithstanding progress achieved by NOWPAP across various priority areas of the MTS 2012-2017, few important activities were not implemented or completed, i.e., development of Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation, insufficient progress on building capacities for integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, prevention of alien species invasions through ballast waters, and the regional assessment of climate change impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. Collection and sharing of various environmental data also continues to be challenging. There is a need to advance NOWPAP activities addressing these issues.

53. Over time NOWPAP mechanism was transformed from a “project-based” into a “RAC-based” institution that limits its ability to secure additional funding and develop projects and activities with external partners. NOWPAP has put significant efforts to attract additional resources from outside the Trust Fund, but they are perceived to be insufficient. At the same time, no effort was made to assess leveraged resources secured by NOWPAP RACs and partners for the implementation of NOWPAP activities. The first such assessment is presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM. Overall, more than 83% of all activities listed in the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 were completed.

54. Responding to the report by RCU, R. Korea emphasized the importance of addressing revealed deficiencies of the MTS 2012-2017 in the future strategy, and specifically to develop monitoring and evaluation framework for the MTS 2018-2023.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)**

55. Mr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, presented the revised TOR of NOWPAP RCU that describes various functions of the RCU such as general coordination, specific programme management tasks and resource mobilization, financial management, and administration. After discussion, the meeting adopted the revised TOR as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/7/Ver.1.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter**

56. Mr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, introduced the latest developments of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). He informed participants that UNEP GPA Secretariat approached NOWPAP RCU about the availability of funds in the range between US\$10,000-20,000 to support the NW Pacific Regional Node of the GPML. NOWPAP RCU developed a proposal for funding (as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/8) and invited Member States to review the proposal and make decision on the hosting arrangements of the Regional Node. After the discussion emphasizing the important coordinating role of the NOWPAP RCU in all marine litter related activities, including the Node, Member States approved the proposal. Considering the focus of NOWPAP DINRAC activities on data and information management, members requested NOWPAP DINRAC to provide hosting services and management of the Regional Node and CEARAC with a help from NOWPAP RCU to

facilitate smooth transfer of the available information resources from Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) server to DINRAC.

**Agenda Item 10: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2016-2017 and proposals for RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2018-2019**

57. Mr. Ning LIU, Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU, introduced activities of Member States and RACs in implementing NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter during 2017, including prevention and input to marine and coastal environment; monitoring of marine litter quantities and distribution; and removing existing marine litter and its disposal.

58. He introduced proposals from NOWPAP RACs for the 2018-2019 biennium and invited the participants to review two budget scenarios for the implementation of RAP MALI activities in 2018-2019: Option A (US\$70,000 - the same budget envelope for RAP MALI activities as in 2016-2017) and Option B (\$91,000 – the increase by 30%).

59. Member States decided to defer RAP MALI budget discussion to the Agenda item 12 and focused on the necessity to upgrade the status of RAP MALI Focal Points. After an exchange of opinions, Member States requested NOWPAP RCU to develop Terms of Reference for the RAP MALI Focal Points that would reflect upon their strengthened role in overseeing all NOWPAP marine litter, including microplastics activities and NW Pacific Regional Node, while reviewing existing responsibilities of RAC Focal Points and TOR of RACs. Specific role of MERRAC in marine litter activities was discussed. Members agreed that MERRAC should continue working in this area, but would report to RAP MALI Focal Points in the future on RAP MALI activities. The new TOR of RAP MALI Focal Points should be agreed by correspondence before the 2018 RAP MALI Focal Points meeting.

**Agenda Item 11: Proposals for NOWPAP Strategic Initiatives / Projects**

60. In response to requests from NOWPAP Member States for enhanced resource mobilization efforts and recognizing limited technical and financial capacities of NOWPAP RACs and RCU, RCU introduced the new operational modality of NOWPAP special projects/initiatives to support implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. At the request of NOWPAP RCU, three project proposals were submitted by the NOWPAP Focal Point of P.R. China. Russian Federation distributed the fourth project proposal for consideration by members at the meeting. These project proposals are available in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1.

61. All four member states welcomed the idea and provided several important observations. Japan appreciated the efforts made by RCU in developing the new modality and requested that further project development should involve NOWPAP RACs in addition to lead national entities. The project proposal should be consulted not only with NOWPAP Focal Points, but also discussed by RAC Focal Points. Japan suggested that the use of NOWPAP Trust Fund resources for project implementation should not be ruled out, taking account of the current surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Japan supported moving ahead with the proposed operational modality starting from one project initially. R. Korea welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of having working meetings to review project proposals and NOWPAP RCU to develop further a mechanism for resource mobilization. P.R. China recommended to keep soliciting project ideas from national entities and for RCU to establish an inventory of project ideas for future implementation. Russian Federation welcomed further development of the project on microplastics.

62. Responding to comments, RCU explained that at present RCU does not have a capacity to take on the development of more than two projects. RCU will work together with relevant NOWPAP Focal Point and national entities in advancing the selected project proposal, including through the organization of a face-to-face meeting. He proposed to Member States to provide RCU with some flexibility in preparing project proposals using a budget envelope of US\$ 95,000 that deem to be sufficient for the development of no more than two projects.

63. After the discussion, the meeting agreed to allocate US\$95,000 for developing new projects in 2018-2019. The first project to move ahead is “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution” with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000. The second project proposal should be selected by NOWPAP Focal Points, including from the list of proposals in the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1) with further proposed project for consideration by the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

#### **Agenda Item 12: NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019**

64. Mr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP RCU, informed participants about the surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Fund (40PNL) of US\$1,050,000 as of 23/10/2017. Considering that major restructuring of the RCU is completed and the expenditure rate for the current biennium reached 80% for the Trust Fund in this biennium as well as that RACs have sufficient capacity to increase scope of their activities to some extent, RCU submitted two budget proposals for 2018-2019 biennium for consideration by Member States: Option A (status quo – US\$1,000,000) and Option B (increase by 30% using accumulated over the years surplus resources up to US\$1,300,000). Thus, the total requested budget for each RAC would be US\$151,000 for Option A and US\$185,000 for Option B. He also introduced activities aligned with the proposed NOWPAP MTS for 2018-2023 priority areas.

65. Member States expressed their consent to consider Option B further and requested RCU to prepare additional budget tables for each RAC and RCU separately. After lengthy discussion and review of the budget proposal, NOWPAP Programme of Work and budget for 2018-2019 biennium was adopted as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/12/Ver.1.

#### **Agenda Item 13: Discussion of the draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023**

66. Opening the discussion, Mr. Tamaki TSUKADA, Chair of the Meeting, emphasized that MTS 2018-2023 should support further strengthening of NOWPAP RAC activities and be accompanied by a robust performance indicator framework. Following his opening remarks, RCU introduced comments received from Member States, RACs and Partners on the MTS 2018-2023.

67. R. Korea agreed with the proposed MTS 2018-2023 document and stressed the importance of developing performance and evaluation framework, including measurable and evaluative indicators. The importance of the issue was raised by other delegations. In response, NOWPAP Coordinator, suggested that monitoring and evaluation framework of MTS 2018-2023 will be developed and presented for adoption by the next IGM meeting in 2018.

68. P.R. China raised several issues and requested the meeting to postpone adoption of the MTS in the current form. She noted that development of MTS this time utilized more top-down approach with insufficient involvement of NOWPAP RAC Focal Points. Their ownership of the document is crucial. P.R. China proposed to assign each RAC to lead one of the priority areas to establish the ownership and encourage cooperation with other RACs involved in relevant activities. Furthermore, additional streamlining and editing of the document would be required



before finalization. P.R. China would like to see a simplified version of the Strategy consisting of chapters introducing each priority area by describing its major focus, individual RAC responsibilities, and outputs. These chapters would follow by the description of cooperation partners and resource mobilization strategy.

69. Russian Federation agreed with the major principles contained in the document, but expressed an opinion that because of some editorial issues, it cannot adopt the document in its present form. The country also cautioned about narrowing down the document to the description of activities of individual RACs instead of supporting more strategic focus of the document.

70. Ms. Nobuko KAJIURA, Sustainable Development Officer of ESCAP, proposed to consider using NOWPAP as a regional reporting mechanism for relevant Sustainable Development Goals referring to a proposal submitted by UNEP as described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/5. Responding to the question, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, agreed with the suggestion and proposed to consider this issue during the next IGM in more detail. Mr. Mr. Yinfeng GUO, Chief Technical Advisor and Manager of the GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Phase II) informed participants that the project's main goal of ecosystem restoration and agreed to provide further comments on MTS to reflect upon potential cooperation between the project and NOWPAP.

71. After lengthy discussion on the best way forward in adopting the MTS, the meeting agreed with the principles of the MTS described in the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/10) and the schedule for finalizing and adopting the text of MTS as provided in Resolution 3 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (see Annex 1).

#### **Agenda Item 14: Preparation of the Twenty-Third Intergovernmental Meeting**

72. Following intervention by the Russian Federation and its generous invitation, the meeting agreed to hold 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM in the Russian Federation in late 2018 with the exact dates to be communicated by the country later after consultation with national stakeholders and UNEP.

#### **Agenda Item 15: Other Business**

73. Japan raised concern about the use of the term "UN Environment" in NOWPAP IGM working documents and in the discussions at the meeting by noting that the term is not formally accepted and adopted by all member states of the UNEP. Japan reaffirmed the position that the use of the term "UN Environment" is not acceptable.

#### **Agenda Item 16: Adoption of Resolutions of the Meeting**

74. After discussion, five resolutions drafted by RCU were adopted by Member States as presented in Annex 1.

#### **Agenda Item 17: Closure of the Meeting**

75. The Chairperson thanked meeting participants for fruitful discussions and emphasized that the meeting provided a good opportunity to understand each other, build trust and confidence. Participants expressed thanks to the Government of Japan and Toyama Prefecture for excellent organization and hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

76. The meeting closed at 13:00 on 21 December 2017.

77. List of participants and list of meeting documents are presented in Annexes 2 and 3, respectively.

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## **ANNEX 1: Resolutions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting**

### **Resolution 1**

#### **PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2018-2019 BIENNIUM**

*Acknowledging RACs and RCU efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW),*

*Recognizing the importance of joint efforts to protect the shared marine environment and manage sustainably its natural resources by engaging neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific regional actions contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and targets,*

*Recognizing the need to initiate new activities, including NOWPAP Special Projects in line with the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 principles,*

*Taking note that about 95% of the activities included in the 2016-2017 NOWPAP Programme of Work were implemented on time or to be completed at the beginning of 2018,*

#### **The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting.**

1. Approves the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/3), taking note of the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2016-2017 biennium.
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centers of the NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/1-4) and acknowledges with satisfaction progress made.
3. Decides, to simplify the administrative process of recruitment of and payment to foreign experts (consultants), to continue the existing practice of assigning the responsibility of implementation of POMRAC activities with a total 2018-2019 biennium budget of US\$80,000 to DINRAC, while these activities will be overseen by POMRAC.
4. Approves the NOWPAP Programme of Work (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/12/Ver.1) with the total budget of US\$1,300,000 as presented in Table 1.
5. Adopts the revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) as described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/7/Ver.1.
6. Requests RAC directors, in consultation with their Focal Points, to prepare detailed work plans with quarterly milestones to monitor the progress of implementation in line with the approved budget and NOWPAP 2018-2019 Programme of Work.
7. Requests also RAC Directors when reporting to the NOWPAP IGM to provide summary of their Focal Point Meetings and indicate clearly relevance of their activities to the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023.8. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the

implementation of work by providing coordination, support and assistance to the RACs and to circulate work plans of each RAC (with quarterly milestones) for Member States consideration by correspondence within two months after this IGM.

9. Requests NOWPAP RCU to undertake contractual arrangements to support timely and effective implementation of the Programme of Work 2018-2019.

10. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to develop and maintain partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects to further implementation of the biennial Work Programme 2018-2019 and MTS 2018-2023.

11. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme and report progress at each NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

12. NOWPAP RCU and RAC Directors to enhance efforts in public communication and outreach aiming at the increased NOWPAP presence, relevance and visibility in the region and beyond, including in all four languages of the region.

13. Hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM in the Russian Federation in 2018.

Table 1. NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2018-2019 biennium

(Thousand US\$)

Activity	Approved Budget	Suggested Budget Option B
	2016-2017	2018-2019
CEARAC	140	185
DINRAC	140	185
MERRAC	140	185
POMRAC*	140	185
RAP MALI	70	91
Public Awareness (RCU)	19	20
Coordination of RACs (RCU)	16	127
Implementation of NOWPAP (RCU)	83	
RCU Operation (RCU)	78	50
Resource Mobilization (RCU)	15	27
NOWPAP Special Projects / Initiatives	-	95
Sub-total	841	1150
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost	109	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,300</b>

## Resolution 2

### SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

*Recognizing with satisfaction the full replenishment and continuing and stable contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund by Member States achieved by the end of the year 2017,*

#### The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

1. Agrees to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2018 as presented in Table 1.
2. Request NOWPAP RCU together with RAC Directors undertake efforts to reach 100% expenditure rate of the NOWPAP Trust Fund biennial contributions by the end of 2019;
3. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme.

**Table 1. Scale of contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2018**

	<b>Annual contribution (US\$)</b>
People's Republic of China	125,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russian Federation	125,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>

**Resolution 3**  
THE NOWPAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2018-2023

*Recognizing the importance of the NOWPAP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2023 for aligning NOWPAP activities with national and regional priorities and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals,*

*Acknowledging the progress achieved and lessons learned during the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium Term Strategy 2012-2017 adopted at the NOWPAP 16<sup>th</sup> IGM 16<sup>th</sup> in 2011,*

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees on the principles contained in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023) as proposed in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/10 and to this effect requests:
  - a. NOWPAP Focal Points to submit additional editorial comments to the RCU by February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018;
  - b. NOWPAP RCU to prepare a revised version reflecting upon agreed principles of the MTS 2018-2023 considering comments received by Member states by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and submit for one month review by Member States, followed by the adoption by correspondence by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
  - c. NOWPAP RCU and RACs in consultation with the Focal Points, to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework for MTS 2018-2023 for adoption by the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

## Resolution 4

### REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

*Acknowledging the negative impacts of marine litter, including microplastics on the coastal and marine environment in the NOWPAP region,*

*Acknowledging also the efforts of NOWPAP Member States to address marine litter problem to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment,*

*Taking into account that the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) adopted in 2008 is in line with national and regional priorities identified by the NOWPAP Member States,*

*Taking note that most of RAP MALI activities are expected to be implemented at the national and local level, in cooperation with local governments and relevant authorities as well as private sector, research institutions, NGOs and the general public,*

*Complimenting NOWPAP RCU for its efforts working with UNEP GPA office and other relevant organizations and initiatives to expand activities addressing marine litter, including microplastics and its sources,*

#### The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

1. Approves NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan and budget (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/9) for the 2018-2019 biennium as presented in Table 1.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU to prepare and submit proposal for funding by the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) as described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/8.
3. Requests NOWPAP DINRAC to provide hosting services and management of the Regional Node and CEARAC with a help from RCU to facilitate smooth transfer of the available information resources from NPEC to DINRAC.
4. Requests NOWPAP RCU in consultation with the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points to prepare the Terms of Reference of RAP MALI Focal Points for the adoption by NOWPAP Focal Points by correspondence no later than two months before the 2018 RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.
5. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan as scheduled in close consultation with UNEP GPA office and other international organizations, projects and programmes involved.
6. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to carry out activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at a national and local level through the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.



**Table 1. NOWPAP Trust Fund allocation for 2018-2019 RAP MALI activities**

	<b>Budget, US\$</b>
<b>2018 NOWPAP ICC campaign and NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop in R. Korea</b>	20,000
<b>2018 NOWPAP ICC campaign and NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop in P.R. China</b>	20,000
<b>Enhancing NW Pacific regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)</b>	External funding by UNEP GPA (up to 20,000)
<b>CEARAC: Regional overview of national efforts to address microplastics</b>	9,250
<b>DINRAC: Updating and visualizing database on marine litter</b>	9,250
<b>MERRAC: Understanding floating marine litter sources and flows</b>	9,250
<b>POMRAC: Research on micro-plastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf</b>	9,250
<b>RCU supported by all RACs: Third Regional Overview of marine litter in the NOWPAP region</b>	6,000
<b>RCU: Support for regional cooperation, travel and development of public awareness materials</b>	8,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>91,000</b>

## Resolution 5

### NOWPAP SPECIAL PROJECTS

*Acknowledging the importance of securing larger-scale and sustained impact of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 through closer integration of MTS objectives into national or regional strategies and plans using partnerships,*

*Acknowledging also the importance of external resource mobilization to complement and enhance the impact of NOWPAP RAC activities, particularly in areas with insufficient expertise,*

*Having considered four project proposals submitted by Member States as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1,*

#### The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves budget envelope of up to US\$95,000 for the 2018-2019 biennium to develop two project proposals.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU together with the lead project agency to develop project proposal submitted by P.R. China “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution” with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000 and the second project proposal to be selected by NOWPAP Focal Points, including from the list of proposals in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1 for consideration by the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.
3. Requests NOWPAP RCU to keep track record of the submitted project proposals and continue soliciting further project ideas for consideration by the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

**ANNEX 2: List of Participants****People's Republic of China****Mr. Xiangbin Pei**

Director

Department of Water Environmental Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)

Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie 115#, Beijing, P.R. China

Tel: +86 10 66556276

Fax: +86 10 66556236

Email: pei.xiangbin@mep.gov.cn

**Mr. Qingjia Meng**

Associate Professor

Institute of Water Environment Research

Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

# 239 of No. 8 Dayangfang, Chaoyang District, Beijing, P.R. China

Tel: +86 10 84915305

Fax: +86 10 84915305

Email: mengqj@craes.org.cn

**Mr. Chunchang Zhang**

Deputy Director

Dangerous Goods Control and Pollution Prevention China Maritime Safety Administration

No.11 Jianguomengnei Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing, P.R. China

Tel: +86 10 65292581

Fax: +86 10 65293424

Email: zhangchunchang@msa.gov.cn

**Ms. Li Gu**

Deputy Director Level

Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)

Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie 115#, Beijing, P.R. China

Tel: +86 10 66556535

Fax: +86 10 66556513

Email: gu.li@mep.gov.cn

**Japan****Mr. Tamaki Tsukada**

Deputy Assistant Minister

International Cooperation Bureau, Global Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5501 8352

Fax: +81 3 5501 8244

Email: tamaki.tsukada@mofa.go.jp

**Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki**

Senior Deputy Director

Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8000  
Fax: +81 3 5501 8244  
Email: atsushi.iwasaki@mofa.go.jp

**Mr. Toshiyuki Hokari**

Deputy Director  
Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8000  
Fax: +81 3 5501 8244  
Email: toshiya.hokari@mofa.go.jp

**Ms. Kumi Sakurai**

Assistant Director  
Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8000  
Fax: +81 3 5501 8244  
Email: kumi.sakurai@mofa.go.jp

**Mr. Katsunori Yano**

Deputy Director  
Office of Marine Environment, Water Environment Division, Environmental Management  
Bureau, Ministry of the Environment  
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5521 9023  
Fax: +81 3 3593 1438  
Email: katsunori\_yano@env.go.jp

**Mr. Kiyoto Inoue**

Director for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism  
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8918, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5253 8266  
Fax: +81 3 5253 1549  
Email: inoue-k2qg@mlit.go.jp

**Republic of Korea**

**Mr. Tong-q Lee**

Deputy Director-General  
Climate Diplomacy Division, Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03172, R. Korea  
Tel: + 82 2 2100 7711  
Fax: + 82 2 2100 7987  
Email: tqlee96@mofa.go.kr

**Ms. Jeonghye Pyon**

Third Secretary

Climate Diplomacy Division, Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03172, R. Korea  
Tel: + 82 2 2100 7860  
Fax: + 82 2 2100 7991  
Email: jhpyon17@mofa.go.kr

**Ms. Suyeon Kim**

Deputy Director  
Marine Policy Office, Marine Environment Policy Division  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries  
94 Dasom 2ro, Sejong-si, R. Korea 30110  
Tel: + 82 44 200 5285  
Fax: + 82 44 200 5299  
Email: kimsuyeon2016@korea.kr

**Mr. Hyunkue Choi**

Deputy Director  
Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, Korea Coast Guard  
2 Chungsa-ro 13, Sejong-si, R. Korea 30128  
Tel: +82 44 205 2193  
Fax: +82 44 205 8965  
Email: iian7516@korea.kr

**Mr. Sunbong Ha**

Assistant Director  
Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, Korea Coast Guard  
2 Chungsa-ro 13, Sejong-si, R. Korea 30128  
Tel: +82 44 205 2293  
Fax: +82 44 205 8965  
Email: hasb56@korea.kr

**Ms. Sooyeon Cho**

Researcher  
International Affairs Team  
Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation  
28 Songpa daero 28 gil, Songpa-gu, Seoul, R. Korea  
Tel: +82-2-3498-7129  
Fax: +82-2-3498-7707  
Email: planklove@koem.or.kr

**Ms. Sungyoung Chae**

Assistant Manager  
Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation, International Affairs Team, Korea  
Marine Environment Management Corporation  
Tel: +82 2 3498 8588  
Fax: +82 2 3498 7707  
Email: sychae@koem.or.kr

**Russian Federation**

**Ms. Natalia Tretiakova**

Head of Division  
Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources and the  
Environment of the Russian Federation  
4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow, 123995, Russia  
Tel: +7 499 254 7947  
Fax: + +7 499 254 8283, +7 499 766 2750  
Email: nataliat@mnr.gov.ru

**Ms. Natalia Kutaeva**

Counsellor to the Director  
Federal Budgetary Institution "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot" (MRS), Ministry of  
Transport of the Russian Federation  
3/6, Petrovka Street, 125993, Moscow, Russia  
Tel: +7 495 626 1806  
Fax: +7 495 626 1809  
Email: kutaevang@morspas.com

**Mr. Konstantin Kozlov**

Second Secretary  
International Organizations Department  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation  
32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq.119200, Moscow, Russia  
Tel: + 7 499 244 2164  
Fax: +7 499 244 2101  
Email: dmoecology@mid.ru

**UNEP**

**Ms. Dechen Tsering**

Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific Asia and the Pacific Office  
United Nations Environment Programme  
UN Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Tel: +662 288 2901  
Email: dechen.tsering@un.org

**NOWPAP RACs**

**Mr. Yuichi Nagasaka**

Director  
NOWPAP CEARAC  
5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City, 930-0856, Japan  
Tel: +81 76 445 4571  
Fax: + 81 76 445 1581  
Email: nagasaka@npec.or.jp

**Mr. Takafumi Yoshida**

Senior Researcher  
NOWPAP CEARAC  
5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City, 930-0856, Japan  
Tel: +81 76 445 1571  
Fax: + 81 76 445 1581

Email: yoshida@npec.or.jp

**Mr. Genki Terauchi**

Senior Researcher  
NOWPAP CEARAC  
5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City, 930-0856, Japan  
Tel: +81 76 445 1571  
Fax: + 81 76 445 1581  
Email: terauchi@npec.or.jp

**Mr. Feng Yan**

Director  
NOWPAP DINRAC  
No.5 Houyingfang Hutong, Xicheng District, Beijing 100035, P.R. China  
Tel: +86 1082 68262  
Fax: +86 1082 200579  
Email: yan.feng@chinaaseanenv.org

**Mr. Seong-Gil Kang**

Director  
NOWPAP MERRAC  
32, Yuseong-daero, 1312 beon-gil, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-343, R. Korea  
Tel: +82 42 866 3620  
Fax: +82 42 866 3630  
Email: kangsa@kriso.re.kr

**Mr. Jeong-Hwan Oh**

Senior Consultant  
NOWPAP MERRAC  
32, Yuseong-daero, 1312 beon-gil, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-343, R. Korea  
Tel: +82 42 866 3621  
Fax: +82 42 866 3630  
Email: jhoh@kriso.re.kr

**Mr. Anatolii Kachur**

Director  
NOWPAP POMRAC  
7 Radio Street, Vladivostok, 690004, Russia  
Tel: +7 914 790 7957  
Fax: +7 423 231 2159  
Email: kachur@tig.dvo.ru

**Mr. Vladimir Shulkin**

Head of Laboratory  
NOWPAP POMRAC  
Pacific Geographical Institute FEB RAS  
7 Radio Street, Vladivostok, 690004, Russia  
Tel: +7 914 656 9357  
Fax: +7 423 231 2159  
Email: shulkin@tig.dvo.ru

**Ms. Tatyana Orlova**

National Scientific Center of Marine Biology, Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
Palchevsky Street 17, Vladivostok, 690041, Russia  
Tel. +7 423 231 7111  
Fax: +7 423 231 0900  
Email: torlova06@mail.ru

### **Observers**

#### **Mr. Yinfeng Guo**

Chief Technical Advisor and Manager  
GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Phase II)  
18F G-tower, 175 Art Center-daero (Songdo-dong), Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, 406-840, R. Korea  
Tel: +82 70 4161 2241  
Fax: +82 70 9157 4898  
Email: yingfengg@unops.org

#### **Ms. Nobuko Kajiura**

Sustainable Development Officer  
East and North-East Asia Office, UNESCAP ENEA  
G-Tower, 175 Art Center-daero, Songdo-dong, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Korea  
Tel: +82 32 458 6619  
Fax: + 82 32 458 6699  
Email: kajjura.unescap@un.org

#### **Mr. Jae-Young Lee**

Deputy Head  
PEMSEA Resource Facility  
Planning and Partnership Development  
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) PEMSEA,  
DENR Compound,  
Visayas Ave., Quezon City 1100, Philippines  
Tel: +63 2 929 2992 loc. 102  
Fax: +63 2 926 9712  
Email: jlee@pemsea.org

#### **Mr. Motoyuki Suzuki**

Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Japan Association of UNEP  
Tel: +81 090 7005-2486  
Email: suzuki@ouj.ac.jp

### **UNEP NOWPAP RCU**

#### **Mr. Lev Neretin**

Senior Coordinator  
NOWPAP RCU  
5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Tower 111-6F Toyama City, 930-0856 Japan  
Tel: +81 76 444 1611  
Fax: +81 76 444 2780  
Email: lev.neretin@un.org



**Mr. Ning Liu**

Programme Officer

NOWPAP RCU

16 Gijanghaean-ro, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 46083, R. Korea

Tel : +82 51 720 3001

Fax: +82 51 720 3009

E-mail: ning.liu@un.org

**Ms. Chika Kimura**

Programme Management Assistant

NOWPAP RCU

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Tower 111-6F Toyama City, 930-0856 Japan

Tel: +81 76 444 1611

Fax: +81 76 444 2780

Email: chika.kimura@un.org

**Ms. Kotoe Kuroda**

Intern NOWPAP RCU

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Tower 111-6F Toyama City, 930-0856 Japan

Tel: +81 76 444 1611

Fax: +81-7-444-2780

**ANNEX 3: List of Documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2016 and 2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/1	CEARAC report of activities in 2016 and 2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/2	DINRAC report of activities in 2016 and 2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/3	MERRAC report of activities in 2016 and 2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/4	POMRAC report of activities in 2016 and 2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/5	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/6	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2016-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/7/Ver.1	Revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/8	Proposal for the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/9	Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2016-2017 and proposals for RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/10	NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1	Proposals for NOWPAP Special Projects
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/12/Ver.1	NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/13	Report of the 22nd Intergovernmental Meeting

**Information documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPP IG. 22/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/3	Summary of the 2017 NOWPAP-TEMM Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management and 2017 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/4	Compilation of comments submitted by NOWPAP and RACs FPs on the MTS 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/5	Follow-up and review of SDG 14 through the Regional Seas programmes
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/6	Statement of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/7	Statement of ENEA Office of ESCAP
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/8	Statement of PICES
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/9	Statement of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.21/10	Report of the 21st NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/  
FPM 15/12

Report of the Fifteenth NOWPAP CEARAC  
Focal Points Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/  
FPM 15/16

Report of the Fifteenth NOWPAP DINRAC  
Focal Points Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/MERRAC/  
FPM 20/20

Report of the Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC  
Focal Points Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/  
FPM 14/9

Report of the Fourteenth NOWPAP POMRAC  
Focal Points Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/RAP MALI  
FP/2017/3

Summary of the 2017 RAP MALI FP Meeting

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