



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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28 January. 2008

Ref: EHLM/PPT/LRTAP/2008/751

Subject: Cooperation between the Malé Declaration and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Dear Dr. Shrestha,

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2007 concerning the Malé Declaration and its invitation for future cooperation between it and the Convention. I drew the letter to the attention of the Bureau of the Executive Body when it met on 10 December. It was also discussed at the session of the Executive Body that took place on 10-13 December.

The Executive Body recognizes the common interests it holds with the Malé Declaration and with other regional agreements. It continues to encourage its secretariat and its subsidiary bodies to develop outreach activities under the Convention with the aim of sharing knowledge and addressing common interests. At its session in December, the Executive Body "encouraged Convention bodies, in particular programmes, task forces and expert groups, to collaborate with relevant experts and organizations from outside the region to share the Convention's experiences and useful scientific and technical information". To this end it "invited the Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects, the Steering Body of EMEP and the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider this issue with the appropriate task forces, expert groups and programme centres, to review all their current activities linked to outreach and to explore opportunities for including items on outreach in their future workplans". Some of the Convention's bodies, such as the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, have already established contacts and cooperation with regional organizations in Asia, including the Malé Declaration.

The Executive Body and its Bureau welcomed in particular the initiative of the Malé Declaration in contacting the Convention and wished to follow up the invitation to develop joint programmes. More specifically, at its December session the Executive Body "requested its Bureau and secretariat to reply to the invitation and to inform the Bureaux of the main subsidiary bodies as appropriate."

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Dr. Surendra Shrestha
Regional Director
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
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Thailand

Cc: The Chair and Bureau of the Executive Body

Through this letter I also wish to inform you of action we are taking to develop joint programmes that might be approved by the Malé Declaration and the Convention's Executive Body before the end of 2008.

First, we plan to copy this letter to the Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects, the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review. We shall invite these Bureaux to consider possibilities for joint programmes with the Malé Declaration, to present proposals for discussion at the subsidiary body sessions in September, and forward agreed workplans for approval by the Executive Body in December. The Bureaux will also be invited to present outline plans to the next meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Body that will be held in April.

In addition, we shall copy this letter to the chairs of relevant task forces and heads of programme centres inviting them to consider at their upcoming meetings the possibilities for joint programmes with the Malé Declaration. They will also be invited to put their proposals in the form of workplans before their Working Group/Steering Body at their session in September 2008. I note that you refer in particular to capacity-building for monitoring and to air pollution impacts on crops as possible topics for joint programmes. I welcome any further suggestions you might have on other priority areas so that I might inform the respective bodies working under the Convention.

The secretariat and Bureau of the Executive Body will keep you informed of developments and will aim to provide outline and final workplan proposals after the Bureau's April and September meetings.

To assist in the development of possible joint programmes it would help greatly if you could provide contact details of technical persons responsible for the programmes of the Malé Declaration. We would forward these to our chairpersons and programme centres so that they might discuss possibilities and options at a technical level with your contacts, prior to putting plans for joint programmes before any decision-making body.

I thank you for your interest in the Convention and its work and look forward to increased cooperation in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Bull

Secretary to the Executive Body for the
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

28 February 2008

Dear Dr. Bull,

Subject: Co-operation between the Malé Declaration and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January 2008 on the joint activities between the Malé Declaration and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP). We are pleased to know that the Bureau of the Executive Body encouraged its secretariat and its subsidiary bodies to develop joint activities with the Malé Declaration.

Ninth session of the intergovernmental meeting of the Malé Declaration held in October 2007 developed plans for the implementation of the Declaration during 2008-2010 (Phase 4). A summary of the Phase 4 plan is enclosed. The plan will be useful for the identification of activities for the joint programmes.

Mr. Mylavakanam Iyngararasan at the Malé Declaration Secretariat will serve as the technical level communication focal point. The Malé Declaration secretariat will liaise with the national experts and assist with the identification of priority areas for the joint activities.

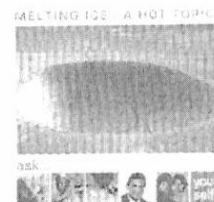
Thank you for your continued support in developing the joint programme between the Malé Declaration and the LRTAP.

Yours sincerely,

Surendra Shrestha
UNEP Regional Director and Representative
for Asia and the Pacific

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EHLM Division
Date received
26 MARS 2008
Action/Attention:
KRB, Chron



Executive Summary of Phase IV Plan

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
1. Strengthen Regional Cooperation	1.1 Convene Intergovernmental meeting 1.2 Convene Stakeholder engagement at regional and national levels 1.3 Establishment of a Task Force on the future development of the Malé Declaration. 1.4 Feasibility study on the establishment of specialised regional centres adopted by the IG8 1.5 Establishment of specialized regional centres as decided by IG8
2. Strengthen air pollution monitoring network and conduct regular monitoring	2.1 Air pollution concentration and wet deposition monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve operation of the established monitoring stations (11) - Establish additional monitoring stations - Revise monitoring guidelines to include standard format for reporting meteorological data 2.2 Quality Assurance /Quality Control (QA/QC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement inter-laboratory comparison - Translate standard operating manual and relevant documents in local languages. 2.3 Soil acidification monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop guidelines - Selection of specialized institutions in each country - Training on risk assessment 2.4 Conduct annual refresher training 2.5 Regional database <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly update of regional database - Quality control of data in database - Develop annual data reports 2.6 Early warning systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish air quality indices for citizen advisory during air pollution episodes

<p>3. Enhance the impact assessment capacity of the national institutions and assess the impacts of air pollution in the participating countries</p>	<p>3.1 National-scale assessment of health and air pollution together with capacity building and training (in-country and central); and implementation of simple epidemiological studies in selected countries</p> <p>3.2 National-scale crop impact assessment together with capacity building training (in-country and Central)</p> <p>3.3 Corrosion impact assessment together with capacity building training (in-country and central)</p> <p>3.4 Conduct rapid urban assessment for selected cities together with capacity building and training</p> <p>3.5 Assessment of indoor air pollution in urban and rural areas</p> <p>3.6 Develop a synthesis assessment using available data and knowledge for policy makers</p>
<p>4. Enhance the capacity of NIAs on emission inventory development and Integrated Assessment Modeling, and compilation of emission inventories</p>	<p>4.1 Emission inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of Malé emissions inventory preparation Manual and Workbook. - Improvement of national level emission inventories - Development of methodologies for specific sectors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest / vegetation fires 2. Road transport 3. Small industries (e.g. brick kilns) 4. Natural emissions (modelling projects on biogenic NMVOCs from vegetation and soil dust uplift) <p>4.2 Integrated Assessment Modeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further Development of the IIAS. - Build specific skills in hand-picked people in order to build specialist capacity for application in each country and for the whole region. - Further application of the MATCH model in South Asia
<p>5. Assist with air pollution reduction policies and strategies</p>	<p>5.1 Regional Level Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a feasibility study on developing a regional framework such as a convention on air pollution in South Asia - Development of a regional framework for air pollution reduction on the basis of the feasibility study results <p>5.2 National Level Activities</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of country-specific technical, fiscal and policy measures for emission reduction - Develop partnership with stakeholders for emission reduction (national level) - Assist with the implementation of technical, fiscal and policy measures for emission reduction
6. Raise awareness for action through targeted dissemination	<p>6.1 Develop handbook on control and prevention of air pollution</p> <p>6.2 Conduct training cum awareness workshops targeting middle level policy makers</p> <p>6.3 Publication of Malé Declaration newsletter.</p> <p>6.4 Conduct awareness programs such as through a painting competition, debate competitions, poster campaigns, newspaper articles, etc. at the national level</p> <p>6.5 Conduct awareness programmes for youths</p>



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Dear Dr. Bull,

Subject: Co-operation between the Malé Declaration and the LRTAP Convention

We are pleased that you, through Dr. Lars Nordberg, have been able to provide a brief update on the activities of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) for the Fourth Session of the Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination meeting of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration). The presentation has reflected the increasingly close contacts which have developed between our neighbouring regional air pollution organisations in recent years, both within the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and more generally.

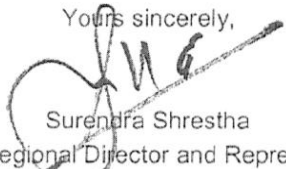
I am pleased to inform you that the Fourth Session of the Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination meeting of the Malé Declaration expressed interest to develop joint programmes between LRTAP and Malé Declaration. I am now writing to invite the LTRAP Executive Body's support for the development of joint programmes for further co-operation between LTRAP and Malé Declaration.

Parties to both of our international agreements of both of our organisations increasingly recognise that there are problems and challenges common to our two regions where joint work could be of real assistance to each of the regions in tackling our respective problems. Specific areas for joint programmes could be identified through follow-up discussions. Some of the areas could include capacity building for monitoring, and assessment of air pollution impacts on crop and food security. A summary of the phase 4 plan, adopted by the 9th Session of the Intergovernmental meeting of the Malé Declaration, for the implementation of the Declaration during 2008-2010 is enclosed for your reference.

I hope that with the consent of the LTRAP Executive Body, your colleagues will agree to participate in what we believe could be a significant and valuable initiative.

Thank you for your continued support for the implementation of the regional air pollution networks in Asia.

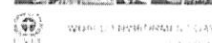
Yours sincerely,


Surendra Shrestha
UNEP Regional Director and Representative
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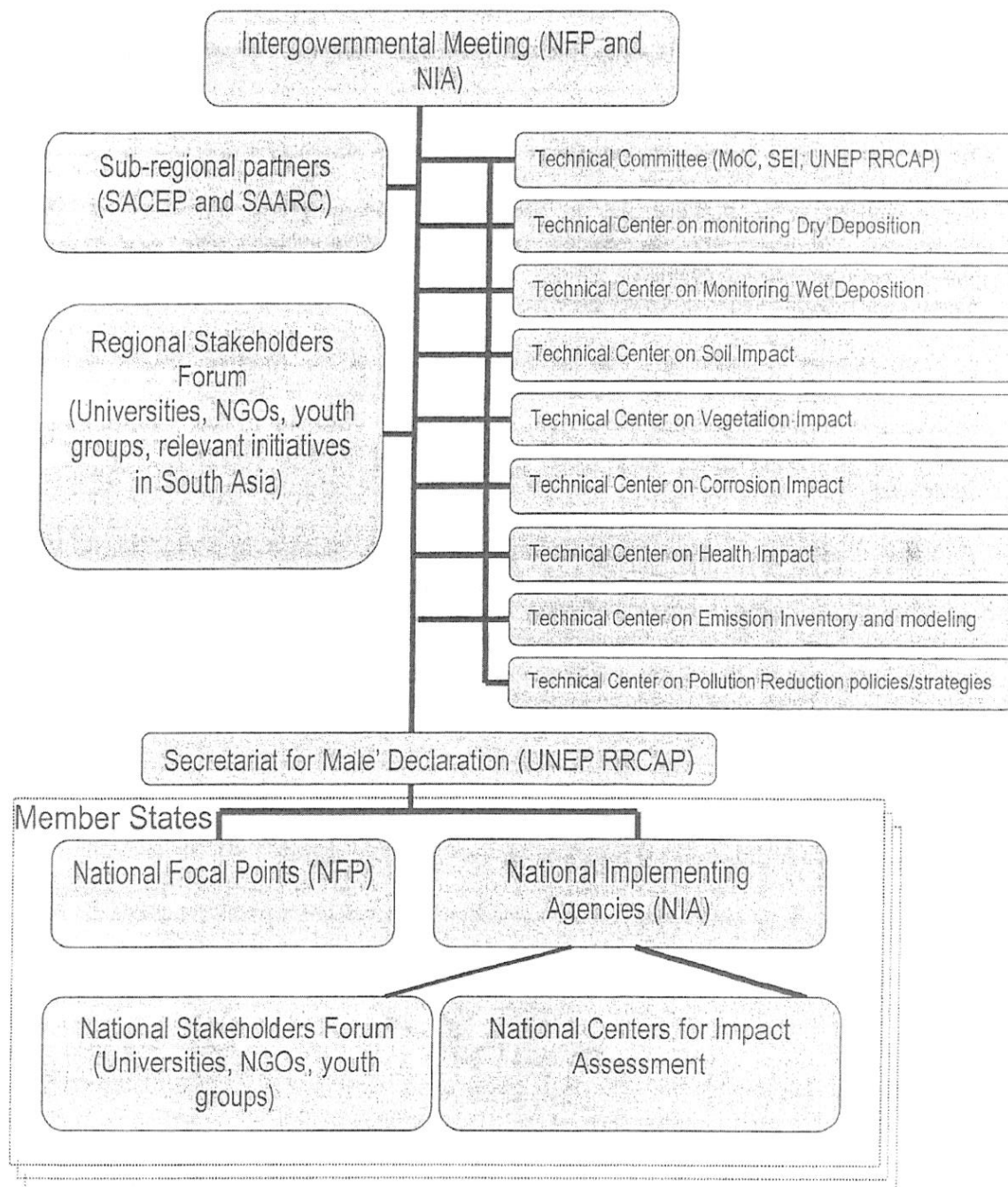


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MELTING ICE A HOT TOPIC



Malé Declaration Organizational Chart



Acronyms:

MoC: Monitoring Committee

NFP: National Focal Point

NIA: National Implementing Agency

SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SACEP: South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme

SEI: Stockholm Environment Institute

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

EHLM Division
Date received:
06 DEC. 2007
Action/Attention:
KRB, WJ, AK, TA