

United Nations Environment Programme

NOWPAP



Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan

Distr.: GENERAL
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/14
7 December 2018
Original: English



Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Moscow, the Russian Federation
9-11 October 2018

Report of the Meeting

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to seek additional copies.

**Regional
Seas**

Contents

Agenda of the meeting	3
Introduction.....	4
Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting.....	6
Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting.....	7
Agenda Item 2(a): Presentation of credentials	7
Agenda Item 2(b): Election of officers	7
Agenda Item 2(c): Organisation of work.....	7
Agenda Item 2(d): Adoption of the agenda.....	7
Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2017 and 2018.....	7
Agenda Item 4: Status of the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018- 2019	8
Agenda Item 5: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2017-2018.....	10
Agenda Item 6: NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status.....	10
Agenda Item 7: Reports by NOWPAP Member States and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation in 2017-2018.....	11
Agenda Item 8: NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023	13
Agenda Item 8a. Public version of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023.....	13
Agenda Item 8b. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023	13
Agenda Item 9: Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Proposal for the external NOWPAP Institutional Assessment.....	13
Agenda Item 10: Follow up and review of SDG 14 implementation using NOWPAP mechanism	14
Agenda Item 11: Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs	15
Agenda Item 12: Preparation of the Twenty-Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting.....	15
Agenda Item 13: Other Business.....	15
Agenda Item 14: Adoption of Resolutions of the Meeting	16
Agenda Item 15: Closure of the Meeting.....	16
ANNEX 1: Resolutions of the 23 rd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting	17
Resolution 1: PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2018-2019 BIENNIUM.....	17
Resolution 2: SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.....	19
Resolution 3: THE NOWPAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2018-2023.....	20
Resolution 4: REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER.....	21
Resolution 5: NOWPAP SPECIAL PROJECTS	22
ANNEX 2: List of Participants.....	23
ANNEX 3: List of Documents	32

List of Tables

Table 1. Scale of contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2019.....	19
--	----

Agenda of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
 - (a) Welcome remarks by the hosting country
 - (b) Welcome remarks on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director
 - (c) Participants introduction and opening remarks
2. Organization of the meeting:
 - (a) Presentation of credentials
 - (b) Election of officers
 - (c) Organization of work
 - (d) Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2017 and 2018
4. Status of the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018-2019
5. Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2017-2018
6. NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status
7. Reports by NOWPAP member states and observers on issues related to NOWPAP implementation in 2017-2018
8. NOWPAP Medium-term strategy (MTS) 2018-2023:
 - (a) Adoption of the public version of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023
 - (b) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023
9. Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Proposal for the external NOWPAP Institutional Assessment
10. Follow up and review of SDG 14 implementation using NOWPAP mechanism
11. Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs
12. Preparation of the Twenty Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting
13. Other business
14. Adoption of meeting resolutions
15. Closure of the meeting

Annex 1: Resolutions of the 23rd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: List of documents

Introduction

1. The 1st 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 2nd 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 4th IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, the People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The 5th 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 8th 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 6th 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 10th 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 11th 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 13th 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 13th IGM also approved NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) Spill Contingency Plan. The 14th 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 15th 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 16th IGM.

5. The 16th 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 17th IGM. The 17th 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 18th 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 18th 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 1st 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 19th 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 19th IGM (20-22 October 2014, Moscow, Russia) decided to consider at the 20th 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 2nd 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 20th 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 21st 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 22nd NOWPAP IGM.

12. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM (19-21 November 2017, Toyama, Japan) has agreed the principle of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023), approved the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019 with the total budget of US\$1,300,000, adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), and requested NOWPAP RCU in consultation with the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points to prepare the Terms of Reference of RAP MALI Focal

Points. Furthermore, the meeting has approved a budget envelope of up to US\$95,000 for the 2018-2019 biennium to develop two project proposals.

13. Following the offer by the government of the Russian Federation to host the 23rd NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 9-11 October 2018 in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

14. 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 Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) also attended the meeting. A representative from the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (YSLME Phase II) participated in the meeting as observer. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) sent their statements to the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

15. The 23rd NOWPAP IGM was opened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 9th October 2018 by Mr. Atsushi IWASAKI, Head of delegation of Japan, the hosting state of the 22nd NOWPAP IGM. He welcomed participants and invited the First Deputy Minister of the Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation Denis Khramov to give his opening remarks.

16. Mr. Khramov welcomed the participants of the 23rd NOWPAP IGM. He highlighted that over the past twenty-five years, NOWPAP turned out to be an acting mechanism of international collaboration in the field of regional environmental protection, conservation of its ecological capacity, and pollution prevention of the marine environment in the Northwest Pacific Region. The well-established, clear and transparent organizational structure of NOWPAP provides the effectiveness of activities via its Regional Activity Centres. He noted that NOWPAP has played a very important role for the Northwest Pacific Region as various interests and intensive economic activity are interacting in the region. He stressed that the effective implementation of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 is a top priority for the UNEP Regional Seas Programme's organizations today.

17. Mr. Iwasaki, Head of Delegation of Japan, noted that conserving marine environment, in particular, the issue of marine litter and plastics has emerged rapidly as one of the most pressing global issues at various fora in the past few years and highlighted the role of NOWPAP as a regional mechanism of cooperation for marine conservation in this context. He also recalled the outcomes of the IGM22 held last year in Toyama, Japan and expressed his hope to have a good discussion at this meeting to lay down a good solid base for the future work of NOWPAP in line with the new Medium-Term Strategy.

18. Mr. Xiangbin Pei, Head of Delegation of P.R. China, expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting the meeting and highlighted the importance of NOWPAP mechanism for information exchange in the aftermath of Sanchi oil spill incident in 2018. He thanked Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and MERRAC for their support.

19. Mr. Tong-q Lee, Head of Delegation of R. Korea, delivered welcoming remarks and stressed that climate change, sustainable development and marine litter are all global challenges. He welcomed NOWPAP progress thus far and expressed hope that the mechanism would will make more progress in the upcoming decade.

20. Mr. Lev Neretin, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, delivered the statement of United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, Coordinator Marine and Coastal

Ecosystems Branch. Her remarks highlighted that Year 2018 is another milestone year for the global action to protect and develop sustainably oceans and coasts. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals give a prominent role to the sustainable blue economy. She encouraged NOWPAP to play a leading role among Regional Seas programs addressing marine litter, particularly on such a globally important emerging issue as microplastics pollution.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Presentation of credentials

21. Upon request of the Chairperson, NOWPAP Programme Officer reviewed and confirmed the acceptance of credentials from Member States.

Agenda Item 2(b): Election of officers

22. According to NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the 23rd IGM is a representative of the hosting state, the Rapporteur is a representative of the Member State hosting the next meeting, and two Vice Chairpersons are representatives of the two other Member States. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers among representatives of Member States:

Chairperson:	Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Atsushi IWASAKI
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Tong-q LEE
Rapporteur:	Mr. Xiangbin PEI

Agenda Item 2(c): Organisation of work

23. Meeting participants agreed that rules of procedures of the 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(d): Adoption of the agenda

24. Ms. Natalia Tretiakova, Chairperson, introduced provisional agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/2). Delegations agreed to the agenda without a revision.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2017 and 2018

25. Mr. Lev Neretin presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/3). The highlights of NOWPAP in 2018 included: Annual meeting of CEARAC Focal Points agrees on starting deliberations on CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity and NOWPAP

Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO); Expert workshop launches NOWPAP Special Project on “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution”; NOWPAP and partners celebrate 2018 World Environment Day #BeatPlasticPollution with the successful 2018 NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop on Marine Litter Management, 2018 NOWPAP International Cleanup Campaign and the NOWPAP-Asia Pacific Forum on Marine Litter (APML) Joint NGO Forum; DINRAC assessment concludes that up to 143 marine species in the NOWPAP region are endangered; NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 is adopted; MERRAC Focal Points acknowledged with great satisfaction effective implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan during 2018 Sanchi oil accident; POMRAC starts working on Ecological Quality Objectives indicators aligned with the SDG indicators.

26. He stressed out that NOWPAP Trust Fund is fully replenished for the second year (2017 and 2018) with USD500,000 annual contributions from all four Member States. Arrears of US\$690,000 represent about 9% of the total contributions since the inception of the mechanism. About twice the amount of the Trust Fund or US\$922,860 were mobilized by NOWPAP RACs and RCU, mostly cash from additional contributions by Member States. Actual expenditures and financial obligations for NOWPAP Trust Fund by August 3rd, 2018 are at about \$US703,000 or 54% of the total allocated resources for the biennium. Actual expenditures without outstanding commitments are about US\$106,000 by July 31st, 2018.

27. During the discussion, Japan thanked for the comprehensive report delivered by RCU. Japan acknowledged that resolutions adopted at the last NOWPAP IGM were implemented smoothly and appreciated RCU's good work with a limited staff. Japan expressed its concern about the surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Fund and requested RCU's continuous efforts to reduce the unspent balance and continue looking for quality projects that could be funded from the surplus. Furthermore, Japan noticed the erroneous allocation of funds between Toyama and Busan offices and urged UNEP and RCU to resolve the issue as quickly as practicable and avoid such problems in the future. Responding to Japan, Ms. Vanda ANDROMEDA, Finance and Budget Officer of UNEP, informed the meeting that the error is already corrected partially and will be fully corrected by the end of 2018.

28. R. Korea supported the adoption of the Executive Director report also stressing the importance of correcting funds allocation error in Japan's and R. Korea's Trust Funds for NOWPAP RCU personnel. R. Korea emphasized the importance of continuing and strengthening NOWPAP public outreach and communication activities and encouraged NOWPAP to engage more actively in public campaigns, especially for marine litter management and response to maritime incidents. R. Korea noted good regional cooperation in handling the aftermath of Sanchi oil incident. R. Korea recommended RCU to share with Member States mission reports and timely information about upcoming events, including on NOWPAP website.

29. After the discussion, the UNEP Executive Director Report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/3) was adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Status of the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018- 2019

30. Directors of NOWPAP RACs, Mr. Michitaka YOKOI for NOWPAP CEARAC, Mr. Feng YAN for NOWPAP DINRAC, Mr. Seong-Gil KANG for NOWPAP MERRAC and Mr. Anatoly KACHUR for NOWPAP POMRAC, presented results of RACs activities during the 2018-2019 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/1-4), 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.

31. Commenting on the report of CEARAC, Japan highlighted the importance of developing the roadmap for Regional Action Plan on Marine Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO) and emphasized the need for RCU and all RACs to work together to advance this important activity. P.R. China commented that CEARAC report showed CEARAC has participated in various activities, but China did not receive advance information and recommended that RAC Secretariats and RCU should notify NOWPAP Focal Points in advance of their participation at relevant meetings. If presentations or working paper are submitted on behalf of NOWPAP, China would prefer that these products are being circulated in advance to give Member States a chance to provide comments and assistance when necessary. R. Korea noted the good work of CEARAC and emphasized that marine biodiversity is a major part of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 and RAP BIO would play an important role in the region. R. Korea supported comments from China on the need to provide advance information to NOWPAP Focal Points on the RACs upcoming meetings and presentations and stressed the importance of timely delivery of RACs technical reports.

32. Commenting on the DINRAC report, Japan expressed its satisfaction with the progress of transferring and development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The Regional Node should be the key information source on marine litter for governments and NGOs in the region. Japan also pointed out some facts in the part of 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 in the report. With regards to collection of data on Red List species, Japan continues leading this work providing useful information for marine biodiversity conservation in the region. Japan requested further cooperation from Member States to provide relevant data on Red List species to DINRAC. P.R. China also expressed its satisfaction with the progress by DINRAC on data collection, website development, and construction of the Regional Node. However, it was noted that there is a continuing overlap on biodiversity activities between DINRAC and CEARAC that should be addressed. Furthermore, China emphasized that while DINRAC mandate remains in data and information management, this area advanced significantly since the establishment of NOWPAP and every RAC now has its own information and data resources. Member States should define better the scope of RAC's activities with respect to data and information management and called upon RCU to work together with DINRAC and other RACs towards this goal. The Chairperson added that the revision of the original DINRAC Terms of Reference is one of the possible options to consider in the future. Japan agreed with these comments in general and also welcomed the opportunity to discuss the future direction of NOWPAP DINRAC activities. Responding to comments from Member States, RCU emphasized the increasing importance of collecting information and data on ocean-related SDGs where DINRAC could play an important role in the future. RCU proposed to discuss the future direction of DINRAC activities with the Government of P.R. China and NOWPAP DINRAC Secretariat followed by a consultation with other Member States to advance this discussion at the next NOWPAP IGM in 2019.

33. Commenting on the MERRAC report, Russia congratulated MERRAC on organizing a successful DELTA exercise held in Japan. R. Korea highlighted MERRAC success in ensuring effective information exchange among member states in the aftermath of Sanchi incident as an excellent model. The brainstorm workshop planned by MERRAC in 2019 would be an important opportunity to discuss the future directions of MERRAC to align its activities further with the priorities of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023.

34. Mr. Ning LIU, Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU, presented the overall status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/6). He reported that about seventy six percent of activities (by number) were on track, while twenty four percent are delayed, including the re-establishing integrated coastal and river basin management working group (ICARM WG), the development of NOWPAP website, and the delay in issuing a contract for NOWPAP Special Project on microplastics assessment. Delays in processing some contracts could be explained partially by the introduction of new due diligence requirements by UNEP Headquarters for partner organizations.

35. NOWPAP RACs and RCU reports (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/1-4 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/7) were adopted considering comments provided by Member States.

Agenda Item 5: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2017-2018

36. 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 2018 across the three Plan's categories of marine litter prevention, monitoring and removal, and disposal. He thanked Government of R. Korea for generous support and excellent collaboration in the successful completion of the 2018 NOWPAP-TEMM marine litter management workshop, 2018 RAP MALI Meeting, and the International Coastal Clean-up Campaign organized in Busan, R. Korea in June 2018. Marine litter related activities of NOWPAP RACs were also introduced.

37. The revised Terms of References (ToR) of the RAP MALI Focal Point Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/9) were presented and discussed. The meeting reviewed and adopted the ToR of the RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/9 Rev.1.

38. Member States provided national updates on NOWPAP RAP MALI implementation. P.R. China reported about the ongoing research institutes to study microplastics issues as well as about several campaigns to clean up polluted rivers, rural areas, and improve waste management practices. The Member noticed the important role of NGOs in coastal clean-up activities. R. Korea updated participants about country's support for various regional meetings, including co-organization of the 2018 NOWPAP-TEMM marine litter management workshop and ICC, organization of 2018 APEC capacity building marine litter workshop and the development of APEC marine litter guidelines, and country's support for marine litter activities implemented by COBSEA.

39. Russian Federation emphasized the importance of continuing addressing issues of microplastics in the ocean and welcomed further engagement of NOWPAP in this area.

40. After the discussion, NOWPAP RAP MALI report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/8) was adopted.

Agenda Item 6: NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status

41. Mr. Ning Liu, Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU introduced the status of the development of NOWPAP Special Projects (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/10). The 22nd IGM requested RCU and Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science (CRAES) to develop the project proposal, "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution" with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000.

42. RCU organized a teleconference with CRAES in February 2018 to discuss the work plan. CRAES proponents prepared a draft project preparation document that was reviewed and commented by RCU; National experts from all member states were nominated by June 2018. The Expert Meeting on the Special Project held in Busan on June 5th 2018 provided an excellent overview of national efforts and agreed on the major goals and priorities of the Special Project. While delayed, RCU intends to finalize contractual arrangements with CRAES to start project preparation shortly after the meeting. In its comments P.R. China informed about country's intention to submit final project proposal for approval at the next 24th NOWPAP IGM in 2019. R. Korea supported the project idea and urged project proponents to speed up preparation activities.

43. Japan noted the delay of the project and urged project proponents to continue preparation to finalize the project proposal by IGM24. Japan also requested information of the project to be shared timely to the RAP-MALI FPs.

44. National Scientific Centre for Marine Biology of the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences submitted project proposal "Identification of key indicator species and ecosystems of biodiversity change in the NOWPAP region" at the 22nd NOWPAP IGM in 2017. The project was presented at the 16th CEARAC FPM and 15th POMRAC FPM, and shared among NOWPAP Focal Points several weeks before the 23rd NOWPAP IGM. Regarding biodiversity project, Japan requested the content of the project should not overlap with the ongoing marine biodiversity activities of CEARAC but be complementary to them. Japan also supported RCU proposal to develop project preparation guidelines for NOWPAP Special Projects. R. Korea welcomed new marine biodiversity project and noted the importance for the project to generate tangible and useful for the region results. Russian Federation also supported the project and invited project proponents to consider issues of species transfer with ballast waters when developing the project.

Agenda Item 7: Reports by NOWPAP Member States and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation in 2017-20187

45. Japan informed participants about the national law on marine litter enacted in 2009 that provides an overall national framework for addressing the issue. The government continues providing financial support to prefectures to remove marine litter along Japanese coasts. The total amount of the removed litter amounted to approximately 31 thousand tons in fiscal year 2016. In June this year, this law was strengthened. Floating and seabed litter were added in the scope of the law, and new measures for microplastics management such as controlling the use of microplastics in products were also added. The basic national policy based on the law will be finalized by March 2019. Moreover, based on the 4th National Plan for a Sound Material-Cycle Society, a new 'Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics' is being developed, which will be finalized before the G20 Summit in 2019. Japan continues supporting active monitoring program for beach litter, floating litter, seabed litter, and floating microplastics. Japan continues playing an important role in supporting international cooperation on marine litter management. Since 2016 Ministry of Environment of Japan supports an international project on harmonization of monitoring methodologies on marine microplastics, which focuses on comparison of net sampling in the ocean using various methodologies. Project goals are to identify harmonized technical parameters as well as to consider minimum requirements and specific needs for the analysis. In fiscal year 2017, Japan conducted joint analysis of standard samples with 12 institutions from 10 countries, including from NOWPAP member states. Recommendations and guidelines on monitoring microplastics in the ocean will be prepared in fiscal year 2018. As a Chair of

G20 Osaka Summit, Japan will take up the issue of marine litter and plastic circular economy aiming to announce a global initiative.

46. Russia stated that the NOWPAP activities are of great importance for the Russian Federation. In this regard Member States should be provided with reliable and comprehensive information of the state of the marine and coastal environment in the region. Therefore, regional cooperation on marine transboundary issues in the framework of NOWPAP should be developed further. The Russian Federation is interested in the development of a regional program for the marine and coastal environment monitoring. She highlighted the important role of NOWPAP POMRAC Centre based at the Pacific Institute of Geography of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Vladivostok in gathering information and data on atmospheric and river pollution and on marine and coastal environment observations. Furthermore, the analysis and systematization of regional data and information on accidents caused by oil and hazardous chemicals spills, as well as all related activities carried out by NOWPAP MERRAC are of particular importance for the country. Russian Federation noted successful engagement of the Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot in the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan, participation and organization of joint training and response exercises as well as support for other NOWPAP MERRAC activities. Russian Federation expressed its support for NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 and NOWPAP's role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other ocean-related goals of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, including supporting integrated coastal and river basin planning and management, assessing the state of the marine and coastal environment, reducing pollution on land and in adjacent seas, and conserving marine and coastal biodiversity. Russian Federation also welcomed further development of NOWPAP Special Projects that support the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS in collaboration with relevant global, regional and national institutions. Finally, the Member State emphasized the importance of developing the Third Report on the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP Region to be initiated during the next biennium. The Report should be used as a reliable source of information to support and extend the national activities of the NOWPAP States. In this regard Russia called upon RCU and RACs to strengthen further coordination in the development of this important regional activity.

47. Mr. Sanjin LEE, Representative of the Yellow Sea LME Phase II Project, expressed appreciation to NOWPAP for sharing with the project knowledge on marine litter management and related activities. In May 2019, the YSLME Project will organize the YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Workshop in Qingdao, P.R. China aiming to contribute to the development of YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan for 2018-2030 and further development of the MPA network in the Yellow Sea. He invited NOWPAP to join this meeting. YSLME will cooperate with NOWPAP DINRAC on information sharing related to marine litter.

48. Statements from PICES and IMO were read at the meeting as provided in the documents UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/5 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/7, respectively. 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 in 2015 to serve as the basis for longer-term strategic planning. The Study Group reviewed each organization's scientific needs, especially PICES' Strategic Plan and NOWPAP's Medium-Term Strategy, and identified key questions or scientific issues that might be explored jointly by both organizations. PICES and NOWPAP have an ongoing need to both, review our achievements under the Framework, but to also look forward to areas where future collaboration will be efficient and effective. In its statement, IMO noted that the 73rd Session of the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee will discuss a number of topics relevant to NOWPAP and its Member States. The

Committee will discuss, for the first time, the development of an IMO action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships (agenda item 8), the development of measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters (agenda item 9), and is expected to adopt amendments concerning the prohibition on the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion purposes or operation on board a ship (agenda item 3).

Agenda Item 8: NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023

Agenda Item 8a. Public version of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023

49. Mr. Lev NERETIN presented the public version of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. After the discussion, the text was adopted without changes as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/6.

Agenda Item 8b. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023

50. Mr. Ning LIU, introduced the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023. He explained that the framework aims to ensure a higher level of transparency and accountability to assess NOWPAP progress against the following five criteria: (i) coordinating regional implementation of the ocean-related SDGs; (ii) strengthening implementation of the NOWPAP based on ecosystem approach and achieving Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs); (iii) strengthening regional and global partnerships; (iv) engaging in global processes and mechanisms supporting effective measures towards achieving SDGs, and (v) monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the voluntary commitments registered at the 2017 UN SDG 14 Conference.

51. In their comments, all Member States noted the importance of MTS Monitoring and Evaluation and requested for having more time to review the proposed framework and its indicators. P.R. China noted the importance of full engagement of RACs in collecting information and data for MTS monitoring and evaluation framework. The meeting agreed to undertake further review of the proposed document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/5) initially by NOWPAP RACs followed by the review by NOWPAP Focal Points before its adoption inter-sessionally. The review process should be coordinated by NOWPAP RCU.

Agenda Item 9: Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Proposal for the external NOWPAP Institutional Assessment

52. Mr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, introduced the RCU Discussion Paper aiming to provide a rationale for NOWPAP to undertake an independent institutional assessment of its “fit for purpose” as a regional coordination mechanism of SDG 14 implementation as presented in the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/11). Recommendations of the assessment will serve as a basis to improve synergies, complementarities and coherence in the evolving regional oceans governance framework of the Northwest Pacific and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. He noted that many Regional Seas Programmes are in the process of aligning their strategies and implementation with the achievement of SDGs. NOWPAP’s response to this challenge was the adoption of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023 in June 2018. NOWPAP’s MTS vision for the 2030 Agenda is to lead and coordinate the regional implementation of ocean-related SDGs for building a resilient Northwest Pacific marine and coastal environment for the long-term benefit of present and future generations. RCU identified four major challenges to implement NOWPAP MTS vision. NOWPAP’s

role continues to be unique in the region with a strong inter-sectoral mandate rooted in the ecosystem-based approach to ocean management. Its true potential for further integration and enhanced cooperation with other relevant institutions is significant but not yet fully realized. The proposed assessment should build upon the credibility and positive image of NOWPAP, consider previous NOWPAP evaluations, learn and apply best practices from other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, and assess NOWPAP “business model” in line with the priorities of MTS 2018-2023 and the achievement of relevant SDGs.

53. P.R. China noted that the country does not see a strong rationale for undertaking such an assessment after the adoption of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 in 2018. In principle, Japan supported the idea of undertaking the assessment that could focus on how to improve the coordination inside NOWPAP and achieve higher efficiency of the mechanism. R. Korea also supported the recommendation of undertaking the assessment and stressed that it’s goal should be on how to improve NOWPAP’s business model. After further discussion, the meeting took note of the merit of the proposal on conducting external institutional assessment of the NOWPAP’s “business model” as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/11 as means to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, but in the absence of consensus agreed not developing the proposal further at this time.

Agenda Item 10: Follow up and review of SDG 14 implementation using NOWPAP mechanism

54. Mr. Lev Neretin introduced the background document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/12): Follow up and review of SDG 14 implementation using NOWPAP mechanism that invited Member States to consider using NOWPAP as a regional coordination mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the selected SDGs indicators in line with NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with the following recommendations: (i) Consider establishing NOWPAP Ad-Hoc Coordination Group on SDG 14 monitoring and reporting with a proposed membership among nominated SDG 14 country points, RACs Secretariats (or RAC nominated experts) and RCU; (ii) In consultation with NOWPAP Focal Points, request RCU to develop Terms of Reference for the Group and circulate to member states for adoption by the 24th NOWPAP IG; (iii) Develop respective budget envelope to support work of the Group during the 2020-2021 NOWPAP Programme of Work; (iv) Request RCU in close cooperation with RACs to engage in UNEP-led work on the selection and verification of SDG 14 indicators and report about the progress of this work to NOWPAP IGM.

55. During the discussion, Member States inquired what the added value for NOWPAP to involve in the process of SDG monitoring and reporting. Several Member States noted that the issue of SDG monitoring and reporting is complex and still work in progress; both at the global and at the national level. There was a consensus that while the discussion should continue in the framework of NOWPAP on these issues, establishing an Ad-hoc Working Group and start the process formally is pre-mature at this time. Relevant indicators for SDG 14 follow up (not monitoring) are already included in the proposed Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and could be a good step forward; further suggestions could be incorporated into the next NOWPAP biannual Programme of Work 2020-2021.

56. Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Lev Neretin underlined that Member States continue seeing NOWPAP’s role in the follow up to SDG 14 and suggested linking this work with NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 Monitoring and Reporting Framework. Furthermore, there is a need for NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue engaging in the global and regional processes leading to the development of relevant SDG 14 indicators. Member States requested RCU and RACs to continue providing them

with the information about such engagements and results achieved by sharing respective mission reports.

Agenda Item 11: Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs

57. Mr. Lev Neretin introduced the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/13: Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs noting that the 1st Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM in 2014 decided to undertake a functional review of NOWPAP RCU offices two years after the recruitment of last staff member (i.e., in September 2016). After conducting an internal review, RCU concluded that there is a good match between the revised Terms of Reference of NOWPAP RCU and current responsibilities and tasks of the RCU staff. To align them better, RCU recommends including few additional functions in the staff work plans for 2018-2019 during the mid-term review in October 2018 and keeping these tasks in the work plans unless demand changes. Furthermore, the document recommended for Member States to consider establishing a post Junior Professional Officer / Individual Contractor in the NOWPAP RCU for enhance support for the implementation of specific programme management tasks.

58. The meeting agreed to add additional functions described in the document in RCU staff work plans. R. Korea noted that the country is reluctant to support the establishment of a new post in NOWPAP RCU because RCU restructuring was just completed in 2016. Japan acknowledged the increased volume of NOWPAP RCU activities since the restructuring of RCU in 2016 and supported the proposal for establishing the post of individual contractor in NOWPAP RCU in principle. However, the country noted that this potential position should be time-bound and limited in scope, tasks and responsibilities. P.R. China and the Russian Federation agreed with the comments provided by Japan.

59. After further discussion, the meeting agreed in principle to allocate financial resources from the contribution from Japan for Toyama office of NOWPAP RCU for a post of Individual Contractor in charge of time bound tasks in the NOWPAP RCU for a limited period and requested NOWPAP RCU to prepare Terms of Reference for the position within one month after the 23rd NOWPAP IGM and submit for comments and approval by Member States.

Agenda Item 12: Preparation of the Twenty-Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting

60. Following intervention by the People's Republic of China and its generous invitation, the meeting agreed to hold 23rd NOWPAP IGM in Beijing, P.R. China (tentatively) in late 2019 with the exact dates to be communicated by the country after consultation with national stakeholders and UNEP later. The meeting agreed not having a dedicated celebration of the 25th anniversary of NOWPAP in 2019.

Agenda Item 13: Other Business

61. R. Korea raised two issues for the consideration of the IGM. Regarding the Sanchi oil spill case, R. Korea noted that NOWPAP should play additional role in the aftermath of oil/HNS spill accidents by supporting joint monitoring of environmental effects after spill accidents or at a minimum by sharing information and data from each Member States' marine environment monitoring after the accidents. Furthermore, considering the recent reports of mass media in Japan and Korea on the planned release of Fukushima radioactive wastewater, R. Korea conveyed concerns of Korean people about potential risk of such release. R. Korea emphasized the importance of using precautionary principle and applying due diligence in this matter as well as share the information. The Member suggested for

NOWPAP to have a certain role in facilitating information sharing on this issue and consider developing projects to monitor situation from a regional perspective.

62. In response to the concerns raised by the R. Korea regarding the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water stored in Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, Japan informed the meeting that Tokyo Electric Power Co., Inc. has a policy in place and regulatory standards that require purifying the already treated water again to assure its safety before release into the environment. No decision has been made thus far on the final treatment of the treated water pending technical review and consultation with local people and experts. Japan made it clear that it would continue to ensure transparency and provide explanation to the R. Korea as well as the international community regarding Government of Japan efforts to handle the aftermath of the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Agenda Item 14: Adoption of Resolutions of the Meeting

63. Five resolutions were drafted, discussed and adopted by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM as presented in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 15: Closure of the Meeting

64. The Chairperson thanked meeting participants for fruitful discussions and emphasized that the meeting provided a good opportunity for mutual understanding, building trust and confidence. Delegations and RCU expressed thanks to the Government of the Russian Federation for excellent organization and hosting the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.

65. The meeting closed at 13:00 on 11 October 2018.

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

ANNEX 1: Resolutions of the 23rd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

Resolution 1: PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2018-2019 BIENNIUM

Acknowledging RACs and RCU efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2018-2019 Programme of Work (PoW),

Recognizing the importance of joint efforts to protect the shared marine environment and manage sustainably its natural resources by engaging neighbouring 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,

The Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting.

1. Approves the Report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/3), takes note of the NOWPAP implementation progress and the status of resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund.
2. Approves report on the Status of Implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2018-2019 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/7) and the reports of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres – CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/1-4).
3. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work.
4. With a reference to the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/13:
 - Requests NOWPAP RCU include additional functions in the staff work plans for 2018-2019 during the mid-term review in October 2018 as recommended in the document;
 - Approves in principle to allocate financial resources from the contribution from Japan for Toyama office of NOWPAP RCU for a post of Individual Contractor in charge of time bound tasks in the NOWPAP RCU for a limited period not exceeding 36 months without extension. Requests NOWPAP RCU to prepare Terms of Reference for the position within one month after the 23rd NOWPAP IGM and submit for comments and approval by Member States. After agreeing with the Government of Japan the position's budget envelope, requests RCU to undertake necessary contractual arrangements.
5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to provide regular (quarterly) updates to NOWPAP Focal Points on missions undertaken by RCU and RACs supporting implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work.
6. Requests NOWPAP RCU and RACs to make full use of focal points mechanism to achieve better communication and coordination while implementing the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018-2019.
7. 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 Programme of Work 2018-2019 and NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023.

8. Requests 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 and report progress to the 24th NOWPAP IGM.
9. Hold the 24th NOWPAP IGM in Beijing, People's Republic of China in 2019.

**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,

The Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2019 as presented in Table 1.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU together with RACs undertake efforts to reach full expenditure rate of the approved budget for the 2018-19 biennium by the end of 2019.

Table 1. Scale of contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2019

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

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, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 14,

The Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting,

- a. Adopts public version of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/6 Ver.1 and requests NOWPAP RCU to publish and disseminate the Strategy widely among relevant national, regional and global fora.
- b. Approves Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 in principle as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to submit the Framework document for two-month comments period by RACs following the 23rd IGM, then to NOWPAP Member States for two-months comments and prepare for adoption by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.
- c. Encourages NOWPAP RACs and RCU to enhance further regional cooperation and coordination for follow up on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) in the Northwest Pacific region, including but not limited to providing relevant inputs to global and regional processes for the development of SDG 14 indicators. Requests NOWPAP RCU to report annual progress on the follow up on SDG 14 related to NOWPAP MTS.
- d. Takes note of the merit of the proposal on conducting external institutional assessment of the NOWPAP's "business model" as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/11 as means to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14.

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 and 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 Third Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves Terms of Reference of NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/9 Rev.1.
2. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the work plan in close consultation with UNEP GPA office and other relevant international organizations, projects, and programmes.
3. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to carry out further activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at national and local levels.

Resolution 5: NOWPAP SPECIAL PROJECTS

Acknowledging the importance of securing larger-scale and sustained impact of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 through closer integration of the Medium-Term Strategy 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 progress achieved and lessons learned in the development of NOWPAP Special Projects and new project proposal submitted by the Russian Federation Member States as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/10,

The Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Taking notes with concern delay in submitting NOWPAP Special Project proposal “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution” for the decision by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM and encourages NOWPAP RCU together with the lead national agency and project partners to accelerate project preparation and submit the project for approval by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU in consultation with RACs and together with the lead national agency to develop project proposal submitted by the Russian Federation “Identification of key indicator species and ecosystems of biodiversity change in the NOWPAP region” (as presented in Annex 1 of the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/10) with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$45,000 for consideration by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.
3. Requests NOWPAP RCU to develop draft Guidelines for preparing NOWPAP Special Projects and submit for consideration by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.
4. Requests NOWPAP RCU to coordinate mobilization of financial resources for the approved Special Projects with the lead national agency, relevant external partners and RACs.
5. Encourages Member States to identify and propose new NOWPAP Special Projects supporting the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and NOWPAP RCU to keep track record of the submitted proposals for consideration by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.

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

Director Level

Department of Water Environmental Management

Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie 115#, Beijing

Tel: +86-10-66556276 Fax: +86-10-66556236

Email: pei.xiangbin@mep.gov.cn**Ms. Li GU**

Deputy Director Level

Department of International Cooperation

Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie 115#, Beijing

Tel: +86-10-66556535 Fax: +86 10 66556513

Email: gu.li@mep.gov.cn**Mr. Chunchang ZHANG**

Deputy Director

Dangerous Goods Control and Pollution Prevention

China Maritime Safety Administration

No.11 Jianguomengnei Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Tel: +86-10-65292581 Fax: +86-10-65293424

Email: zhangchunchang@msa.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

Tel: +86-10-84915305 Fax: +86-10-84915305

Email: mengqj@craes.org.cn

Japan**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

Tel: +81-3-5501-8000 Fax: +81-3-5501-8244

Email: atsushi.iwasaki@mofa.go.jp**Ms. Noriko KOBAYASHI**

Assistant Director

Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

Tel: +81-3-5501-8245 Fax: +81-3-5501-8244

Email: noriko.kobayashi@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

Tel: +81-3-5521-9025 Fax: +81-3-3593-1438

Email: KATSUNORI_YANO@env.go.jp**Mr. Shunichi WATANABE**

Chief

Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8918

Tel: +81-3-5253-8266 Fax: +81-3-5253-1549

Email: watanabe-s2dc@mlit.go.jp

Republic of Korea**Mr. Tong-q LEE**

Head of Delegation / Deputy Director-General
Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Scientific Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03172
Tel: + 82-2-2100-7711 Fax: +82-2-2100-8470
Email: Tqlee96@mofa.go.kr

Ms. Donghee HAN

3rd Secretary
Global Environment and Science Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03172
Tel: +82-2-2100-7831 Fax: +82-2-2100-8470
Email: dhhan18@mofa.go.kr

Ms. Suyeon KIM

Deputy Director
Marine Environment Policy Division
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (ROK)
Government Complex Sejong, 94, Dasom 2-Ro
Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82-44-200-5285 Fax: +82-44-200-5299
Email: kimsuyeon2016@korea.kr

Mr. Yunil KIM

International Affairs Specialist
International Affairs Team
Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation
28, Songpa-daero 28-gil, Songpa-gu, 05718 Seoul
Tel: +82-2-3498-8583 Fax: +82-2-3462-7707
Email: kevinkim@koem.or.kr

Dr. (Ms.) Soo Yeon CHO

Researcher
International Affairs Team
Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation
28, Songpa-daero 28-gil, Songpa-gu, Seoul 05718
Tel: +82-2-10-5039-1126 Fax: +82-2-3462-7707

Email: planklove@koem.or.kr

Mr. Sejin PARK

Deputy Director

Marine Pollution Response Planning Division

Korea Coast Guard

10, Jeongbu 2cheongsa-ro, Sejong-si 30129

Tel: +81-44-205-2193 Fax: +81-44-205-8965

Email: tpwls0710@korea.kr sejinpark157@gmail.com

Mr. Sun Bong HA

Assistant Director

Marine Pollution Response Planning Division

Korea Coast Guard

10, Jeongbu 2cheongsa-ro, Sejong-si 30129

Tel: +81-44-205-2293 Fax: +81-44-205-8965

Email: hasb56@korea.kr hasunbong56@gmail.com

Mr. Soonwook KWON

Counsellor for Maritime, Agriculture and Fisheries

Economic division

Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Plyushikha, 56 bld1, 119121 Moscow

Tel: +7-903-722-4785 Fax: +7-495-783-2777

Email: Swkwon72@mofa.go.kr

Ms. Lee Sun KIM

Third secretary

Economic division

Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Plyushikha, 56 bld1, 119121 Moscow

Tel: +7-903-743-2202 Fax: +7-495-783-2777

Email: Lskim18@mofa.go.kr

Russian Federation**Mr. Denis KHRAMOV**

First Deputy Minister

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation

4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, 123995 Moscow

Tel: +7-499-657-5700 Fax: +7-499-254-66-10

Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA

Focal Point to NOWPAP of the Russian Federation

Head of Division

Department for International Cooperation

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation

4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, 123995 Moscow

Tel: +7-499-254-7947 Fax: +7-499-254-82-83

Email: nataliat@mnr.gov.ru

Ms. Julia LEBEDEVA

Consultant

Department of State Policy and Regulation in the Field of Environmental Protection
and Ecological Safety

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation

4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, 123995 Moscow

Tel: +7-499-254-81-74

Ms. Natalia KUTAEVA

Counsellor to the Director

Marine Rescue Service (MRS), Ministry of Transport

3/6, Petrovka St, 125993 Moscow

Tel: +7-495-626-1806

Email: kutaevang@morspas.com

Ms. Tatyana BUTYLINA

Deputy Director

ANO "Centre for International Projects"

58b Pervomaiskaya Str., 105043 Moscow

Tel: +7-499-165-63-81 Fax: +7-499-165-08-90

Email: okpd@eco-cip.ru

Mr. Denis POPOV

Third Secretary

Environmental Affairs Division
Department for International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
32/34, Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq., 119200, Moscow
Tel: +7-499-244-4696 Fax: +7-499-244-2401
Email: dapopov@mid.ru

Ms. Tatyana ORLOVA

Deputy Director
Focal Point of NOWPAP CEARAC of the Russian Federation
National Scientific Center for Marine Biology, the Far East Branch of the Russian
Academy of Sciences
17 Palchevskogo Street, 690041 Vladivostok
Tel: +7-499-165-63-81 Fax: +7-499-165-0890
Email: torlova@mail.ru

Mr. Sergey PAVALATI

Head
ANO "Centre for International Projects"
58b Pervomaiskaya Str., 105043 Moscow
Tel: +7-499-254-7947 Fax: +7-499-254-66-10
Email: okpd@eco-cip.ru

Mr. Alexey MAKHINOV

Deputy Director
Institute of Water Ecological Problems
The Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
65 Kim Yu Chen Street, 680063 Khabarovsk
Tel: +7-4212-32-57-55 Fax: +7-421-222-75-73
Email: amakhinov@mail.ru

Mr. Alexander KORSHENKO

Head
Department for Marine Environment Monitoring
State Oceanographic Institute, Roshydromet
Kropotkinsky per., 6, 119034 Moscow
Tel: +7-499-246-72-88 Fax: +7-499-246-72-88
Email: korshenko@mail.ru

UNEP**Mr. Vladimir MOSHKALO**

Head

UN Environment Russia Office

United Nations Environment Programme

9, Leontyevsky Lane, 125009 Moscow

Tel: +7-495-787-21-54 Fax: +7-495-787-77-63

Email: Vladimir.Moshkalo@un.org**Ms. Vanda ANDROMEDA**

Finance and Budget Officer

Ecosystems Division

United Nations Environment Programme

UN Environment, Ecosystems Division, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 762 5411 Fax:

Email: vanda.andromeda@un.org**NOWPAP RACs****Mr. Michitaka YOKOI**

Director

NOWPAP CEARAC

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City, 930-0856, Japan

Tel: +81-76-445-1571 Fax: +81-76-445-1581

Email: yokoi@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

Tel: +86-10-82268262 Fax: +86-10-82200579

Email: yan.feng@chinaaseanenv.org

Dr. Seong-Gil KANG

Director

NOWPAP MERRAC

Korea Research Institute of Ships & Ocean Engineering (KRISO)

32, Yuseong-daero, 1312 beon-gil, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-343

Tel: +82-42-866-3620 Fax: +82-42-866-3630

Email: kangsg@kriso.re.kr

Ms. Joung-Yun LEE

Consultant

NOWPAP MERRAC

Korea Research Institute of Ships & Ocean Engineering (KRISO)

32, Yuseong-daero, 1312 beon-gil, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-343

Tel: +82-42-866-3690 Fax: +82-42-866-3630

Email: jylee@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 Lab

Laboratory of Geochemistry

Pacific Geographical Institute Far Eastern Branch Russian Academy of Sciences

7 Radio Street, Vladivostok, 690004, Russia

Tel: +7-4232-320652 Fax: +7-423-231-2159

Email: shulkin@tigdvo.ru

Observers

Mr. Sangjin LEE

Environmental Economist

UNDP/GEF YSLME PhaseII Project

UNOPS

5th floor, G-tower, 175 Artcenterdaero, Yeonsugu, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82 7041612242 Fax: +82 7041574898

Email: SangjinL@unops.org

UNEP NOWPAP RCU

Mr. Lev NERETIN

Senior Coordinator

NOWPAP RCU

United Nations Environment Programme

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

Tel: +81-76-444-1611 Fax: +81-76-444-2780

Email: lev.neretin@un.org

Mr. Ning LIU

Programme Officer

NOWPAP RCU

United Nations Environment Programme

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

Tel: +82-51-720-3001 Fax: +82-51-720-3009

Email: ning.liu@un.org

Ms. Chika KIMURA

Programme Management Assistant

NOWPAP RCU

United Nations Environment Programme

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

Tel: +81-76-444-1611 Fax: +81-76-444-2780

Email: chika.kimura@un.org

Ms. Jihee YI

Programme Management Assistant

NOWPAP RCU

United Nations Environment Programme

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

Tel: +82-51-720-3003 Fax: +82-51-720-3009

Email: jhee.yi@un.org

ANNEX 3: List of Documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2017 and 2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/1	CEARAC report of activities in 2017 and 2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/2	DINRAC report of activities in 2017 and 2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/3	MERRAC report of activities in 2017 and 2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/4/4	POMRAC report of activities in 2017 and 2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/5	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2013
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/6	Public version of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/7	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/8	Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2017-2018
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/9 Ver.1	Terms of Reference for NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/10	NOWPAP Special Projects
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/11	Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Proposal for the external NOWPAP institutional assessment
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/12	Follow up and review of SDG 14 implementation using NOWPAP mechanism
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/13	Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/14	Report and resolutions of the 23 rd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/3	UNEP Case Study: NOWPAP Ecological Objective setting and future use of its framework for SDG monitoring
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/4	Statement of the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/5	Statement of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/6	Statement of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/INF/7	Statement of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM16/10	Report of the 16 th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16	Report of the 16 th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 21/18	Report of the 21 st NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 13 th Competent National Authorities Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 15/9	Report of the 15 th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/10 Rev.1	NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/13	Report of the 22 nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/ 2018 NOWPAP - TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop	2018 NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop
UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/12	Report of the Fifteenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/2018 RAP MALI Meeting/6	Report of the 2018 RAP MALI Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP-APML Joint NGOs Litter (APML) Joint NGOs Forum	Summary of the NOWPAP-Asia Pacific Forum on Marine Forum on Marine Litter (APML) Joint NGOs Forum
UNEP/NOWPAP Microplastic meeting	Report of the meeting "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution"
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/4	Report on the performance review of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6	Report on NOWPAP RACs evaluation
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23	UNEP (2018): Regional Seas contribution to the follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
