



**Northwest  
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Action Plan**



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Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting of  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Moscow, Russian Federation  
20-21 December 2006

**Report of the Meeting**

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## Introduction

1. The First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994) adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific (NOWPAP). The meeting decided to undertake five programme activities for the 1994/1996 biennium, and to consider later the institutional and financial arrangements for the implementation of NOWPAP.

2. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP (Tokyo, 20 November 1996) decided the geographic scope of NOWPAP. The meeting approved the programme document, work plan and budget for the 1997/1998 biennium. The meeting further decided a tentative scale of contributions to the Trust Fund, based on the currently pledged contributions from the NOWPAP member states. The meeting requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to compile information on the experiences of other regional seas conventions and action plans relevant to the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for NOWPAP.

3. The Third Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 9 April 1998) endorsed the revised work plan and budget for the 1997/1998 biennium. The meeting decided on the procedure of the establishment of a network of Regional Activity Centres (RACs).

4. The Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (Beijing, 6-7 April 1999) approved the work plan and budget for the 1999/2000 biennium. The meeting decided to establish an RCU in the future and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a proposal for its creation for the consideration of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting.

5. The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (Incheon, 29-30 March 2000) endorsed the revised work plan and budget for the 2000/2001 biennium, and decided on the procedures of the establishment of the NOWPAP RCU, including its Terms of Reference. It further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a summary of the offers for hosting the RCU and present it for discussion by the NOWPAP member states during the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting.

6. The Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo, 5-6 December 2000) agreed in principle to establish a co-hosted NOWPAP RCU in Toyama, Japan and Busan, the Republic of Korea, respectively. The meeting decided also to establish a new activity on "Assessment and Management of Land-based Activities" within the NOWPAP work programme. Following this decision, UNEP was requested to assist the member states in the development of a GEF project proposal on the "Formulation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Northwest Pacific Region

to Address Pollution of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities” for consideration at the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting.

7. According to decision 21/30 of the Governing Council on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (9 February 2001), the UNEP Executive Director was requested to establish RCU administered by UNEP and to negotiate co-hosting RCU with the governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea. The governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea, in response to resolution 2 of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting, submitted a “Detailed Plan of Co-Hosting the Establishment of NOWPAP RCU” to UNEP by on 24 April 2001.

8. Four Regional Activity Centres were established in the NOWPAP member states between 2000 and 2002 in accordance with the IGM decisions.

9. The Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) approved the work plan and budget for the 2002/2003 biennium. The meeting also approved the modalities and Terms of References for the Working Groups of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Furthermore, the meeting requested UNEP to advertise the vacancy announcements in accordance with the interim responsibilities of the two offices of NOWPAP RCU and summary description of the positions at the RCU.

10. The Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting (Sanya, 5-7 November 2003) approved the work plan and budget for the 2004/2005 biennium. The meeting also approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding 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. Furthermore, the meeting approved the Terms of References for the four RAC Focal Point Meetings.

11. During the 2002/2003 biennium, UNEP and the two host countries negotiated the text of the Host Country Agreements (HCAs). The HCAs were signed by the Ambassador of Japan, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and the Executive Director of UNEP, in Nairobi on 16 September 2003 and on 8 September 2004, respectively. Following the request of the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings, UNEP recruited the six staff members for RCU during the 2004/2005 biennium. The RCU offices were inaugurated on 1 and 2 November 2004, in Toyama and Busan, respectively and commenced their functions in December 2004 and in January 2005.

12. The Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting (Busan, 2-4 November 2004) agreed to develop a new activity on marine litter in the region. It requested the UNEP to further proceed with the currently developed GEF PDF-B proposal by submitting the project concept to GEF for approval. Furthermore, it was decided to convene an “Intersessional Workshop” around mid-2005 in order to further discuss the marine litter activity, increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund and new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU. Prior to the meeting, the ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NOWPAP took place in Toyama and the signatures of the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Co-operation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region were presented in Busan.

13. The Intersessional Workshop (Seoul, 25-26 July 2005), organized by the newly established NOWPAP RCU, made four recommendations to the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on new directions of work for NOWPAP RACs and RCU, marine litter initiative in the NOWPAP region, sustainable contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, and update of the NOWPAP/2 project overview.

14. The Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, 24-26 November 2005) approved the work plan and budget for the 2006/2007 biennium, including a new project, Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region. The meeting agreed on new directions of work for NOWPAP RACs and RCU and also requested RCU to prepare criteria and methods to evaluate performance of NOWPAP RACs. The meeting further approved the extension of geographic coverage of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The meeting decided in principle to increase the total annual amount of the Trust Fund contributions for ensuring sustainability of the NOWPAP activities that would be further discussed at the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting. Finally, it requested the member states to facilitate official endorsement/support of the GEF PDF-B proposal.

15. Following the offer of the government of the Russian Federation to host the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting, the meeting was held on 20-21 December 2006 in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

16. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting.

17. 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. The Directors of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres also attended. The representatives from the UNEP East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit and the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project attended as observers. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II to the report. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

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

18. The Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 December 2006 in Moscow, the Russian Federation, by Mr. Hideo Fukushima, head of the delegation of the hosting state of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting. He extended a warm welcome to all participants in this meeting.

19. On behalf of the hosting government, Mr. Igor Maydanov, head of the Russian delegation, welcomed all participants to the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting. In his opening statement, he stated that NOWPAP has established an international collaboration mechanism in the field of protection and conservation of the marine environment at the regional level for over last 10 years. He mentioned that the framework of UNEP would bring great merits for NOWPAP to implement the Action Plan and to achieve its overall objectives. Stressing the importance of the

marine environment in the Far Eastern region of the Russian Federation, he explained his government's efforts and concerns to elaborate NOWPAP activities such as the oil spill contingency plan, the first exercise on combating oil spills and the MALITA project. Finally, he wished the meeting would be successful and fruitful to further develop regional collaboration.

20. The opening statement of Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Head of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme was delivered by Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator. She appreciated the dynamics of NOWPAP RCU in coordinating the NOWPAP programme of work and generous support from the member states. She gave several good examples of successful NOWPAP activities, including NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), and further stressed that as a result, NOWPAP become more visible at an international level. Finally, she recalled the Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programme, emphasizing the importance of long-run sustainability of NOWPAP activities, which could be ensured only through the sustainable level of the NOWPAP Trust Fund contributions.

21. Ms. Mengheng Zhang, head of delegation of the People's Republic of China expressed her government's appreciation to the Russian Federation for hosting the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and to NOWPAP RCU for organizing the meeting. She mentioned that her government identified prevention of marine pollution from land-based activities as key area of the marine environment protection. She also stressed that her government has attached great importance to the implementation of NOWPAP, addressing the need of the protection of the marine environment and ecological resources in the region for economic growth and social stability that could be met through appropriate obligations and responsibilities. Lastly, she pointed critical issues such as the review of the Terms of References for RACs and RCU, RACs evaluation and sustainable contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund and wished to reach consensus on these through this meeting.

22. Mr. Hideo Fukushima, head of delegation of Japan expressed his governmental deepest appreciation to the Russian government hospitality and to RCU for organizing this meeting. He stressed the member states' efforts to make substantial progress on NOWPAP since 1994 including the establishment of the four RACs and RCU, conclusion of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) and its Memorandum of Understanding, and the realization of the expansion of the geographical coverage of RCP. He expressed Japanese government appreciation for all participants from the member states who joined the International Coastal Cleanup and Workshop held in Yamagata in September this year. Finally, he mentioned the necessity of the practical regional cooperation framework to conserve the marine environment more effectively. In this regard, he further mentioned that the NOWPAP member states would enhance their efforts and cooperation to ensure positive outcomes of NOWPAP activities.

23. Mr. Heung-kyeong Park, head of delegation of the Republic of Korea extended gratitude, on behalf of his government, to the government of the Russian Federation for warm hospitality and NOWPAP RCU for their hard work to organize and prepare the meeting. He stated that NOWPAP has now established a reliable regime for marine environmental cooperation in the region through the member states' support. He mentioned, in addition to the institutional arrangements of NOWPAP, that new directions of work, including new projects to broaden its activities, were decided at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and stressed that these new and future activities could be only ensured and secured through sustainable financing. He finally

remarked that the meeting would resolve the pending issue on the increased contributions from member states to the Trust Fund, together with other agenda items to be discussed such as RAC evaluation and NOWPAP policy on data and information sharing.

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

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

24. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Meeting would be the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur would be the representative of the member state to host the next Intergovernmental Meeting, and two Vice Chairpersons would be the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The meeting agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Anatoly Yanchuk, the Russian Federation.
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Hideo Fukushima, Japan.
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Heung-kyeong Park, the Republic of Korea.
Rapporteur:	Ms. Mengheng Zhang, the People's Republic of China.

### **Agenda Item 2(b): Organization of Work**

25. It was agreed that the UNEP Governing Council's rules of procedures would be applied through the meeting as appropriate. The meeting conducted its business in plenary with English as the working language.

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

26. After considering the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/ 1), the meeting adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Agenda item 2: Organization of the meeting
  - (a) Election of officers
  - (b) Organization of work
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda
3. Presentation of credentials

- 4: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan:
  - (a) Programme implementation in 2005 – 2006
  - (b) Budget and Trust Fund
  
- 5: Reports of the RAC Directors on the implementation of work during 2005–2006:
  - (a) CEARAC
  - (b) DINRAC
  - (c) MERRAC
  - (d) POMRAC
  
- 6: Approval of new TOR for the RCU and RAC Focal Points Meetings
  
- 7: Proposal on methods and criteria for RACs evaluation
  
- 8: Consultations on increased contributions to the Trust Fund
  
- 9: Preparation for the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting
  
- 10: Other business:
  - (a) General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing (DINRAC)
  - (b) Any other issues.
  
- 11: Adoption of the report of the meeting
  
- 12: Closure of the meeting

### **Agenda Item 3: Presentation of Credentials**

27. The heads of delegations of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation presented their credentials to the Secretariat. The credentials were reviewed and accepted.

### **Agenda Item 4: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan**

#### **Agenda Item 4(a): Programme Implementation in 2005-2006**

28. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander Tkalin, presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/3). He briefed the progress of the four RACs with



respect to their major outcomes mentioning that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 5. He welcomed the fact that RACs have already initiated some new activities reflecting new directions of work for RACs in accordance with resolution 3 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting.

29. He reported that RCU together with RACs, for better and more effective implementation of the NOWPAP activities, paid continued attention to build up partnerships with relevant international organizations, programmes and projects in the region such as the UNEP East Asian Seas Action Plan, the North East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observation System, the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific and the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project.

30. The NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the NOWPAP public awareness strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/4) mentioning the efforts to increase visibility of NOWPAP, including the establishment of the NOWPAP homepage, a variety of publications and promotional materials, as well as participation in and co-organization of local, regional and global meetings and events.

31. He presented the NOWPAP resources mobilization strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/5) that was developed by RCU and distributed to RACs and Marine Litter National Focal Points during the intersessional period. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the government of the Russian Federation for hosting the First NOWPAP Joint Oil Spill Exercise (11-12 May 2006, Sakhalin), to the Republic of Korea for hosting the First NOWPAP Marine Litter Workshop (8-10 June 2006, Incheon) and to Japan for hosting the International Coastal Cleanup and the Workshop (29-30 September 2006, Yamagata). All these events were held successfully.

32. He stated that the overview on national environmental legislation of the member states (NOWPAP/2 project), prepared in 2000, have been updated and would be published very soon according to resolution 7 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting.

33. The NOWPAP Coordinator further explained the current progress of the NOWPAP MALITA project: the MALITA website was established by DINRAC providing access to the collected national data and information related to the marine litter; the four national summaries on national legal aspects of marine litter were prepared by the member states and a regional overview will be published in early 2007. In addition, the First NOWPAP Marine Litter Workshop and the MALITA Working Meeting (8-10 June 2006, Incheon) and the International Coastal Cleanup and the Workshop (29-30 September 2006, Sakata) were held with financial and administrative support from the Republic of Korea and Japan, respectively. He stated that some outcomes of the MALITA implementation contained in the reports of the RACs would be further presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 5.

34. He emphasized with appreciation very generous supports from all member states and close cooperation with the four RACs as keys to the successful implementation of the NOWPAP MALITA project so far. Finally, he encouraged the member states, RACs and Marine Litter Focal Points to continue their support and contribution to move successfully towards the second phase of the MALITA implementation, aiming at the development of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management.

35. He explained the progress on the development of the GEF PDF-B project concept which was not re-submitting to the GEF Pipeline due to lack of the endorsement and support letters from the People's Republic of China and Japan at that time (October 2006). Japan has provided its support letter on 11 December 2006. He reminded the meeting of resolution 5 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and a series of previous related resolutions adopted since the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (2000). He invited to reconsider this issue and facilitate submission of the endorsement letter of the People's Republic of China. He emphasized that the implementation of the PDF-B proposal would contribute substantially to the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as well as to strengthening NOWPAP activities as a whole.

#### **Agenda Item 4(b): Budget and Trust Fund**

36. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the current status of the Trust Fund (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/3) and recalled resolution 2 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting. He also illustrated the annual pledges and actual contributions of the member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the years of 1995-2006. He informed that this issue would be revisited under Agenda Item 8 with a view of ensuring the sustainability of NOWPAP activities.

37. The delegate of Japan remarked that the voluntary contributions from Japan and the Republic of Korea to support financially the First NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter (Incheon, June 2006) and the International Coastal Cleanup (Yamagata, September 2006), respectively, would be acknowledged somehow. He appreciated that the member states participated actively in the 2006 Yamagata International Coastal Cleanup. He also mentioned that the Japanese government would support the Second NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter to be held in Toyama in March 2007. He further expressed the willingness of his government to continuously support the International Coastal Cleanup in the region and encouraged the member states to organize similar events continuously in the region. Finally, regarding the GEF PDF-B proposal, he informed that the Japanese government has submitted the support letter and reaffirmed his government's strong support for this project.

38. The delegate of the Republic of Korea appreciated the progress on the NOWPAP activities implemented successfully since the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting. He stated that the Korean government supported the First NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter (Incheon, June 2006) and would further support and facilitate the 2007 International Coastal Cleanup to be held in the Republic of Korea in September. Regarding the GEF PDF-B proposal, he encouraged its submission to the GEF Secretariat with strong support from the member states and hoped the project would be implemented as soon as possible by RCU in cooperation with RACs. In addition, he emphasized importance of close cooperation between the member states to

implement activities related to oil spills and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) in the region. He also explained that the Korean government is currently preparing the domestic law to join OPRC - HNS protocol.

39. The delegate of the People's Republic of China stated that her government would pay more attention to increase the public awareness of NOWPAP at the national and regional level. Appreciating the government contribution from Japan and the Republic of Korea to support the implementation of the MALITA project, she informed that the People's Republic of China is also planning to host the International Coastal Cleanup and Workshop in Shandong Province in 2007. Regarding the GEF PDF-B proposal, she mentioned that the Chinese government is currently in the middle of internal consideration which are expected to be finalized by February 2007.

40. The delegates of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea confirmed that their respective contributions to the Trust Fund for 2006 have been paid.

41. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of NOWPAP for 2005-2006.

## **Agenda Item 5: Reports of the RAC Directors on Implementation of Work during 2005–2006**

### **Agenda Item 5(a): Report of the Director of CEARAC**

42. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Takeshi Ogawa, presented the report on the activities of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4/1) and the modified workplan and budget for CEARAC, as approved by the Fourth CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (Toyama, 8-9 March 2006).

### **Agenda Item 5(b): Report of the Director of DINRAC**

43. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of DINRAC, Mr. Jianguo Wang, presented the report on the activities of DINRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/2) and the modified workplan and budget for DINRAC, as approved by the Fifth Focal Points Meeting (Shenzhen, 10-11 May 2006).

### **Agenda Item 5(c): Report of the Director of MERRAC**

44. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of MERRAC, Mr. Chang-Gu Kang, presented the report on the activities of MERRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/3) and the modified workplan and budget of MERRAC, as approved by the Ninth Focal Points Meeting (Daejeon, 5-7 June 2006).

**Agenda Item 5(d): Report of the Director of POMRAC**

45. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly Kachur, presented the report on the activities of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4) and the modified workplan and budget of POMRAC, as approved by the Fourth Focal Points Meeting (Qingdao, 25-26 April 2006).

46. The delegate of the Republic of Korea congratulated the four RACs on conducting creatively and effectively the new activities as well as the existing ones under budget and work force shortage. He stressed that it is important for NOWPAP to strengthen the capability of RACs, hold close discussions and build mutual exchange among RACs. He recommended RACs to maintain their efforts and to promote new activities in an organized practice such as drawing up a roadmap with a well-designed timeframe.

47. The delegate of Japan welcomed reinforcement of the websites and asked DINRAC of any possible changes and value-added in establishing a user-friendly "Clearing House" function. In response to this, the Director of DINRAC explained that the Clearing House is not a database but a mechanism to link the existing national, regional and global web pages.

48. The delegate of the People's Republic of China pointed out that the significant portion of the budget allocated to RACs was spent to organize the workshops and meetings. She encouraged RACs to have more practical activities, such as demonstration projects, which NOWPAP could further promote in the future.

49. The delegate of the Russian Federation mentioned that MERRAC would concentrate on sea-based garbage in the region as defined in the MARPOL Convention Annex V. He emphasized the importance of the oil spill exercises and suggested holding such exercise once a year or at least once in every two years in the future where the cost should be covered by the hosting country and that kind of contribution of the member states should be properly acknowledged. He further mentioned that the oil spill contingency plan should be updated timely in line with continuous changes in related information in this field. In this regard, he suggested that MERRAC as a Secretariat to implement the contingency plan would take into account a concept of the "Clearing House" as its new activity in the future if additional budget to do so might be available.

50. The meeting approved the RAC reports on their work for 2005-2006.

**Agenda Item 6: Approval of new TOR for RCU and RAC Focal Points Meetings**

51. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, presented the revised Terms of Reference for the Focal Points Meeting of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/2), MERRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/3) and POMRAC

(UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/4), respectively, that were adopted recently by the Focal Point Meetings of these RACs.

52. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted the revised Terms of Reference for the Focal Points Meeting of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, respectively, with minor amendments. The revised documents will be distributed by NOWPAP RCU within one week after the meeting.

53. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the revised Terms of Reference for RCU (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/1), originally adopted at the Fifth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

54. With regard to signing MOUs, the delegate of the Republic of Korea mentioned that RCU could sign MOUs subject to the consent of the member states during the intersessional period for the effective discharge of the secretariat functions.

55. Since the delegates of other member states expressed their concern of possible legally binding nature of such MOUs, the meeting agreed to keep the original text of the paragraph that was discussed. All member states, however, encouraged RCU to build partnerships with other relevant organizations.

56. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted the revised Terms of Reference for RCU with minor amendments. The revised document will be distributed by NOWPAP RCU within one week after the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7: Proposal on Methods and Criteria for RAC Evaluation**

57. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the methodology and criteria for evaluation of RACs performance prepared by RCU (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/6) according to resolution 1.7 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting. Taking into account the existing examples of such evaluation from the Mediterranean Action Plan, Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region, East Asian Seas Action Plan and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme as attached in Annex I to the document, he suggested hiring a consultant to evaluate RACs performance with two options (with and without travel involved). He also suggested that the consultant to be hired should be from outside the NOWPAP region with proven previous evaluation experience.

58. The delegate of the Republic of Korea suggested several elements critical for successful evaluation of RACs performance. Firstly, evaluation should reflect how the current RACs system helps to achieve the goal and objectives of NOWPAP. Secondly, evaluation should be efficient and fair, aiming at practical, informative and helpful results; selection of qualified consultant is highly recommended. Thirdly, the member states should have a chance to review the evaluation results before the next IGM.

59. The delegate of Japan agreed to hire a consultant outside the NOWPAP region and supported modality suggested by the Republic of Korea. Regarding methodology, he questioned whether the involvement of the NOWPAP National Focal Points in the RAC evaluation procedure is appropriate. Regarding criteria, he also suggested to mention in the questionnaires such issues as increasing efficiency, prioritization of projects and re-allocation of resources.

60. The delegate of the People's Republic of China suggested sending questionnaires to other relevant organizations in the region in addition to the NOWPAP National Focal Points. She asked RCU on the selection procedure. In response to this, the NOWPAP Coordinator explained the established UNEP procedure on the consultant selection and hiring briefly.

61. After the small group meeting consisting of the head of delegation and/or expert from each member state, the meeting agreed in principle on the RCU prepared methods and criteria for RAC evaluation. It requested RCU to slightly modify methods and criteria taking into account comments and suggestions raised by the member states and to distribute the revised materials to the member states in January 2007. RCU was also requested to distribute the short list of consultant candidates with their CVs to select the best candidate. For fair, transparent and efficient evaluation of RACs, it was further agreed that a consultant to be hired should be outside the NOWPAP region. The draft report of evaluation would be reviewed before the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting through e-communication and then presented at the meeting. Finally, the results of RAC evaluation would be reflected in RAC activities in order to improve their performance in the future and might be also used for efficient resource allocation to the RACs.

62. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted this proposal taking into account all comments and suggestions raised by the member states. The meeting also requested RCU to take necessary steps as agreed upon in the resolution 1.

### **Agenda Item 8: Consultations on Increased Contribution to the Trust Fund**

63. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator reminded about the necessity of increasing the total amount of the NOWPAP Trust Fund for sustainability of NOWPAP activities together with rearranging the contribution scale of the member states. He also recalled resolution 2 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting referring to the document of UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/7,

64. The delegate of the Republic of Korea stressed that it is indispensable to establish a certain scale of the Trust Fund for sustainable development of NOWPAP. He supported to increase the total amount of the Trust Fund and further suggested that the contribution scale of the member states should reflect the generally recognized ability to pay. In this regard, he called upon the member states to consider the Korean proposal presented at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting favourably. He also stressed the willingness of his government to increase the volume of contribution to the Trust Fund under the new framework and hoped that this meeting would reach mutual agreement.

65. The delegate of Japan suggested remaining their current scale of contribution to the Trust Fund with respect to sharing responsibility. He stressed that the contribution scale would be based on equal shares between the member states. However, recognizing gaps between the current expenditure and the level of contributions from the member states, he recommended to economize the expenditure and mentioned that after the evaluation of RAC performance there might be found some room to reallocate resources in a more efficient manner. Finally, he encouraged the member states to provide voluntary contributions for specific occasions and projects in addition to the core contributions to the Trust Fund.

66. The delegate of the Russian Federation reminded the decision made by the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting concerning the current insufficient level of the Trust Fund. He stated that his government would be ready to contribute to the Trust Fund at the level of 25% of the total amount from next year when the government decision is finalized.

67. The delegate of the People's Republic of China shared the view that the current level of annual contributions is not sufficient to support the future NOWPAP activities and stressed the necessity to increase the total amount of the Trust Fund. Regarding the contribution scale of the member states to the Trust Fund, she suggested that sharing of the contribution to the fund should reflect different level of the economic development of the member states while all the member countries should make a synchronized effort for the purpose of increasing the scale.

68. The NOWPAP Coordinator reminded the meeting of resolution 2 of the Tenth Intergovernmental meeting that this matter should be resolved no later than 2007.

69. Following discussion, bearing in mind resolution 2 of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting, the meeting agreed to revisit and discuss this issue at the Twelfth Intergovernmental meeting (as reflected in resolution 2 in Annex I attached to the report).

### **Agenda Item 9: Preparation for the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting**

70. The representative of the government of the People's Republic of China announced that the Chinese side invites the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting in 2007 and the date and venue would be decided at a later stage in consultation with the other member states and RCU.

### **Agenda Item 10: Other Business**

#### **Agenda Item 10(a): General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing (DINRAC)**

71. Upon the request of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the brief background on the general NOWPAP policy on data and information sharing (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/7) developed by DINRAC.

72. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted the general policy on data and information sharing with minor editorial and technical modifications.

**Agenda Item 10(b): Any other issues**

73. The Chairman invited the member states to make any comments and suggestions to be shared.

74. The NOWPAP Coordinator explained the current status of the GEF PDF-B proposal in detail and mentioned the possibility that the PDF-B proposal would not be approved by the GEF Secretariat due to their new priorities and procedures. In such a case, to save preparation time and efforts, he suggested discussing the possible alternative proposals through the already established mechanism such as e-mail discussion group, consisting of national experts of the member states who have been involved in preparing the project proposal in collaboration with UNEP DGEF and NOWPAP RCU.

75. The delegate of the Russian Federation supported the idea proposed by RCU and suggested establishing an *ad-hoc* group meeting to discuss the preparation of the new project proposals where biodiversity could be considered as one of potential topics for the new activity.

76. The delegates of Japan and the Republic of Korea supported to discuss alternative options on the GEF PDF-B proposal through e-mail discussion group if the current proposal is not approved.

77. The delegate of the People's Republic of China mentioned that her government would do its best to provide the national endorsement letter for the current PDF-B proposal and encouraged RCU and member states, on the other hand, to seek other potential donors to support the project such as ADB and other international organizations.

78. The member states recognized the current transitional situation in the GEF Secretariat and agreed to discuss the alternative way through the e-mail discussion group if the NOWPAP GEF PDF-B project proposal is not approved.

79. The NOWPAP Coordinator informed on the current status of updating the national overviews on legal issues (NOWPAP/2 project) which will be circulated to the national experts of the member states for final check through DINRAC.



80. The Chairman invited observers attended this meeting to make a short statement if they wished to do so.

81. The Coordinator of COBSEA congratulated on finishing successful meeting and expressed her special interest in RAC activities in terms of lessons learnt from NOWPAP and willingness to build up partnerships with NOWPAP under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. She also mentioned the possible co-organization of the International Coastal Cleanup between two organizations next year.

82. The representative of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project stated that NOWPAP is a member of the Yellow Sea Partnership aiming at raising public awareness of the environment issues in the Yellow Sea. He further stressed that currently on-going and future cooperation between both sides would be further strengthened and will contribute to better management and development of the regional marine and coastal resources.

83. The delegate of the Republic of Korea raised the matter of rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the two NOWPAP RCU offices in Toyama and Busan according to the decision of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/DEC/NOWPAP/IG. 7/10). He also suggested discussing this matter at the next meeting and requested RCU to prepare a background documents on this issue accordingly.

84. The delegate of the Russian Federation suggested establishing a centre for biodiversity monitoring in the Northwest Pacific region regarding not only different anthropogenic influences on marine ecosystems but also climate change. He mentioned that the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences has enough experience and resources to establish such centre.

### **Agenda Item 11: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**

85. The meeting approved resolutions and agreed that the meeting report with its annexes would be distributed within one week and then finalized.

### **Agenda Item 12: Closure of the Meeting.**

86. The Chairman invited the member states and RAC Directors to make a closing statement if they wish so.

87. The delegate of the People's Republic of China appreciated the hospitality of the Russian Federation and the Chairman's stewardship. She also remarked that some pending issues to be further discussed and resolved at the coming meeting.

88. The delegate of the Russian Federation expressed his sincere gratitude to Chairman, all participants and local organizers and mentioned that achievements and suggestions made during this meeting would be helpful to take further steps towards better protection of marine environment in the region.

89. The delegate of the Republic of Korea thanked the Chairman and RCU for hard work. He conveyed his deep gratitude to the Russian Federation for its hospitality. He also remarked on the outstanding issues such as increased contributions to the Trust Fund and hoped to resolve differences between the member states and finally agree upon this issue at the next meeting.

90. The delegate of Japan expressed his gratitude to Chairman, RCU and the Russian Federation for leadership, hard work and hospitality.

91. The Directors of MEERAC, DINRAC and CEARAC, as well as NOWPAP Coordinator, expressed their sincere thanks to the hosting state with short notes, respectively.

92. After the customary exchange of courtesies. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 17:00 pm on Thursday, 21 December 2006.

## Annex I

### RESOLUTIONS

#### RESOLUTION 1

##### PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2006-2007 BIENNIUM

##### The Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Acknowledging the progress on the implementation of the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity since its adoption at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting,
2. Taking note of the efforts made by NOWPAP RACs and RCU to initiate new directions of work adopted at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting,
3. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities,
4. Approves also the reports on the activities of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) in 2005-2006,
5. Approves further the revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/1 - 4, revised),
6. Encourages NOWPAP RCU to continue actively developing partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects in the region,
7. Requests NOWPAP RCU after consultation with member states to hire a consultant to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP RACs by making use of possible funds of UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and, in case UNEP RSP resources are not sufficient, by using up to US\$15,000 from NOWPAP budget for 2006-2007 biennium,
8. Adopts the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/7, revised),
9. Requests NOWPAP RCU to prepare a background document for consideration of 12th NOWPAP IGM concerning the rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Toyama and Busan offices according to UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10 (Annex III).

## **RESOLUTION 2**

### **SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND**

#### The 11th Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Taking into account the need to implement current NOWPAP projects and to initiate new activities,
2. Recognizing therefore the necessity to increase the total amount of the Trust Fund and contributions from all NOWPAP member states, while making all possible efforts to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner,
3. Decides to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

## **RESOLUTION 3**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF A GEF PDF-B Proposal**

#### The 11th Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Recognizing the importance of the GEF Project concept on addressing land-based activities that affect the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region developed by UNEP together with member states and RCU,
2. Requests the member states to submit their endorsement and support letters as soon as possible in order to resubmit the concept to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Pipeline.

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### Annex III

#### Working documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2005 – 2006
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4/1	CEARAC Report of activities, 2005-2006
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4/2	DINRAC Report of activities, 2005-2006
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4/3	MERRAC Report of activities, 2005-2006
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/4/4	POMRAC Report of activities, 2005-2006
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/1	Revised Terms of Reference for NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/2	Revised Terms of Reference for NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/3	Revised Terms of Reference for NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/5/4	Revised Terms of Reference for NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/6	Methodology and criteria for the performance evaluation of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/7	General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing

#### Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/3	Provisional timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/4	NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/INF/5	NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/5/rev.1	NOWPAP EVOLUTION: New Directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/6	Establishment of a Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/7	Proposal for increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/10	Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: report of the meeting