

**Minutes of Sixth Project Steering Committee meeting to discuss various matters under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative**

The **Sixth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting** of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI) was held in hybrid mode at 03:00 P.M on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India and Her Excellency Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. The list of participants is enclosed in **Annexure I**.

1. The agenda was taken up ad seriatim. At the outset, Additional Secretary, welcomed all the participants to the sixth meeting of the PSC and briefed the participants on the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. The Additional Secretary welcomed Her Excellency, Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, as Co-chair of PSC.
2. Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, highlighted that the Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged approach towards the elimination of single-use plastics and effective plastic waste management by focusing on elimination of identified single-use plastic products which have low utility and high littering potential, and Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging. He recalled that projects that have been undertaken on different themes related to plastic waste management, marine plastic litter and microplastics under India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.
3. H.E Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi welcomed the PSC members and participants to the sixth meeting of the PSC. The Ambassador also noted the progress made under various projects of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.
4. Following the introduction by the co- chairs, the project partners were asked to highlight the activities undertaken in their respective projects. It was mentioned that virtual meetings were held with each project partner, prior to this PSC meeting to understand the work carried out, since the fifth PSC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

The PSC was informed that the tenure of Letter of Intent had been extended till December, 2024 by mutual agreement between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Royal Norwegian Embassy on behalf of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway. The PSC endorsed the extended tenure of Letter of Intent till December, 2024 with further terms as agreed by both sides. The PSC was also appraised about the provision made by Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi for undertaking technical exposure visit to recycling zones/Industries in Norway under India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

5. H.E Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, appreciated the extension of Letter of Intent till December 2024 and provision for undertaking technical exposure visit to Norway.

6. **Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Waste Management Sector - Centre for Science and Environment (CSE):** CSE presented on the work carried out by CSE under INMPI. The work carried out during the period under review including reports published and on site framings of ULBs held were presented. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure II**.

7. **India Norway Cooperation Project on capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in India (INOPOL) – NIVA:** Senior Research Scientist, NIVA made a presentation on their work and the case studies done in Surat and Vapi in Gujarat. The Indian partners in the project are The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants (MGC), Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Toxics Link. It was highlighted that catchment study approach was adopted to study plastic and POPs linkages. The publications prepared under the project and way forward activities were presented. It was informed that full scale activities have been taken up in Tamil Nadu and pilot work has been taken up in Uttarakhand. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure III**.

8. **Ocean plastic turned into an opportunity in the circular economy – (OPTOCE)- SINTEF:** Research Scientist, SINTEF, presented on the work done under the Initiative. The objective of the project is to investigate how co-processing can increase the treatment capacity for non-recyclable plastic wastes. It was informed that pilot demonstration have been conducted in local cement plants in four countries. Details of pilots undertaken in India were presented. The publications brought out under the project were presented. The planned activities for 2024 were presented for consideration of PSC. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure IV**.

9. **Marine Litter and Mindset change programme in Mumbai- Afroz Shah Foundation :** Manager- Project, Partnership Development & Outreach, Afroz Shah Foundation gave an overview of the progress under the project. The activities undertaken at pre-litter, litter and post litter stage were presented. The activities undertaken for behavioral change were also presented. The future plan of activities for consideration of PSC was presented. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure V**.

10. **Coordinating and Providing a Common Platform for India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative in India-UNEP:** Programme Officer, UNEP, gave a presentation on the progress made in the project under the Initiative. The findings of the ongoing studies on banned SUP items, availability of alternatives, plastic waste recycling and plastic packaging sector were presented. The activities for 2024 were presented for consideration of PSC. The copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure VI**.

11. Director, MoEFCC noted with appreciation the contribution by Ms. Marit Strand, Counsellor & Head of Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Ms. Beate Langset, Counsellor (Climate & Environment), Royal Norwegian Embassy for the implementation of India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

12. Ms. Marit Strand, Counsellor & Head of Cooperation , Royal Norwegian Embassy and Ms. Beate Langset, Counsellor ( Climate & Environment), Royal Norwegian Embassy recalled the productive engagement with stakeholders under INMPI projects

and suggested that more Government to Government interaction may be taken under India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. Also , CSO component and business component under India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative may be strengthened.

13. Based on the deliberations of the PSC, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) The work plan for 2024 was approved. Project partners were asked to submit specific proposals to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI and Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi for approval. It was decided that project partners shall inform the details regarding the status of implementation of all ongoing/new activities along with the manpower engaged.
- (ii) It was decided that financial details regarding all the completed/ongoing/new activities may be shared with PSC/MoEFCC so as to help understand the scale of funding needed in taking up similar activities as well as scaling up of any activity.
- (iii) The committee endorsed the extension of tenure of Letter of Intent till December, 2024, with further agreed terms.
- (iv) The PSC noted with appreciation the provision for undertaking technical exposure visit to recycling zone/Industries to Norway under India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

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## ANNEXURE I

### **Sixth Project Steering Committee Meeting of India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative-14<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

#### **A. List of participants who attended the meeting at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the participants</b>	<b>Organizations</b>
<b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India</b>		
1.	Dr. Satyendra Kumar	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
2.	Dr. Amit Love	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
3.	Dr. Omdeo K Gohatre	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
<b>Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi</b>		
1.	Ms. Marit M. Strand	Royal Norwegian Embassy
2.	Ms. Beate Langset	Royal Norwegian Embassy
3.	Mr. Suresh Mathevan	Royal Norwegian Embassy

#### **Central Pollution Control Board**

1	Mr. Bharat Kumar Sharma	Central Pollution Control Board
2	Ms. Divya Sinha	Central Pollution Control Board

<b>Project Partners</b>		
1.	Dr. Divya Datt	UNEP, India
2.	Dr. Sumit Sharma	UNEP, India
3.	Mr. Kaushik Chandrashekar	UNEP, India
4.	Mr. Dilip Menon	UNEP, India & MoEFCC
5.	Mr. Afroz Shah	Afroz Shah Foundation
6.	Mr. Faizaan Ali Contractor	Afroz Shah Foundation
7.	Mr. Suheel Syed Peerzada	Afroz Shah Foundation
8.	Mr. Atin Biswas	Centre for Science and Environment
9.	Mr. Aditya Batra	Centre for Science and Environment
10.	Mr. Suneel Pandey	TERI

**B: List of participants who attended the meeting virtually:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the participants</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Mr. Arne Jan Flolo	Hon'ble Consul General , Royal Norwegian Consulate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway
2	Mr. Atul Bagai	Head, UNEP India Country Office
3	Andreas B. Schei	Govt. of Norway
4	Dr. Kare Helge Karstensen	SINTEF
5	Gauri Bandekar	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway
7	Dr Pravakar Mishra	NCCR MoES
8	Ms. Girija Bharat	Mugamma Consultants

9	P. K. Singh	
10	Filippa Braarud	Second Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13	Mr. Palash Kumar Saha	SINTEF
14	Director NCSCM, Chennai	
15	Mia Andersen Linnerud	Royal Norwegian Consulate General Mumbai
16	Mr. Ankit Jain	Assistant Adviser, MoHUA
17	Prof. Paromita Chakraborty	SRMIST
18	Shubhanjali	
19	Dr. Smita Mohanty	SARP-LARPM, CIPET
21	Dr. Hans Adam	NIVA, Norwegian Institute for Water Research
22	Dr. Anshika Singh	NITI Aayog
	Mr. Shubham	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
23	Mr. S. K. Srivastava	NMCG, Ministry of Water Resources

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