

Record of Discussion of the Seventh Meeting of the Project Steering Committee under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative held on 26th March 2025 at 04.30 P.M at Teesta Conference Hall, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi (in hybrid mode)

The Seventh Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was co-chaired by Shri Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate (MoEFCC), Government of India and HE May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), New Delhi. The list of participants is placed at Annexure I.

The Joint Secretary, MoEFCC welcomed the participants to the seventh meeting of the PSC under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI). He highlighted about the cooperation of India and Norway under the INMPI. He also mentioned that the progress made by project partners would be reviewed and further next steps be agreed upon.

The national initiatives taken by India were highlighted such as ban on single-use plastics and extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging to address littered and unmanaged plastic waste. The role of alternatives to single use plastics, innovative, scalable and replicable business models were emphasized.

HE Ambassador gave a brief background on the establishment of the INMPI and commended the work undertaken by project partners under the INMPI. It was mentioned that Govt. of Norway is looking forward to continuing the work done under the Initiative and would discuss the objectives, focus areas and additional topics for the next phase. The alignment of Initiatives such as INMPI and Task Force of Blue Economy, focusing on circular economy were underscored as possible activities for the second phase of INMPI.

A review of progress undertaken by project partners and overall achievement during the tenure of the projects being implemented were discussed. Project partners made presentations on their respective progress of work carried out. The presentations are placed in Annexure II.

The PSC acknowledged the work undertaken by the projects in 2024, and supported the work plans for 2025, including for the two projects that are currently in work extension phases (UNEP January to June 2025 and CSE March to July 2025), in order to complete their mandated project work schedules.

After deliberations, the PSC agreed on following decisions:

- i. The PSC recommended continuation of activities under the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. It was decided that the objectives, scope and focus areas of work for the second phase of the Initiative will be discussed. A draft new Letter of Intent for the second phase of the Initiative will be shared by Norway for consideration.

[Action: MoEFCC, RNE]

- ii. Explore opportunities to exchange learnings from projects being implemented on marine litter and waste management by India and Norway while planning the next phase of the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

[Action: MoEFCC, RNE]

- iii. Coordinate the exposure visit to Norway for government officials from India nominated by MOEFCC.

[Action: MoEFCC, RNE]

- iv. All project partners are to share their publications with UNEP, at the earliest, to be put up on the website of the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative, to ensure wider dissemination.

[Action: Project partners under INMPI]

- v. UNEP to share a concept note for a new phase of the “Coordinating and Providing a Common Platform for India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative in India” project, outlining the elements presented in the seventh PSC meeting for further consideration, as required and deemed appropriate for the next phase of India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

[Action: UNEP]

ANNEXURE I**Seventh Project Steering Committee Meeting of India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative-26th March 2025**

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

| Sl. No. | Name of the participants | Designations | Organizations |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India | | | |
| 1. | Dr. Amit Love | Additional Director | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) |
| 2. | Mr. Dilip Menon | Assistant Programme Management Officer | MoEFCC & UNEP, India |
| 3. | Dr. Omdeo K Gohatre | Consultant B | MoEFCC |
| Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi | | | |
| 1. | Mr Andreas B Schei | Counsellor Climate and Environment | Royal Norwegian Embassy |
| 2. | Ms Filippa Sofia Braarud | Second Secretary Economic Team | Royal Norwegian Embassy |
| 3. | Mr. Suresh Mathevan | Advisor | Royal Norwegian Embassy |

| Central Pollution Control Board | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Mr. Bharat Kumar Sharma | Member Secretary | Central Pollution Control Board |
| 2 | Ms. Divya Sinha | Scientist-F & Head, UPC-II Division | Central Pollution Control Board |

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| Project Partners -UNEP | | | |
| 1. | Mr. Valentin Foltescu | Deputy Head Programme Management Officer | UNEP, India |
| 2. | Dr. Sumit Sharma | Programme Officer | UNEP, India |
| 3. | Mr. Kaushik Chandrashekar | Assistant Programme Management Officer | UNEP, India |
| 4. | Mr. Dilip Menon | Assistant Programme Management Officer | UNEP, India & MoEFCC |
| Project Partners -Mu Gamma Consultants | | | |
| NIVA project | | | |
| 5. | Ms. Girija Bharat | Managing Director | Mu Gamma Consultants NIVA project |
| Project Partners -CSE | | | |
| 6. | Mr. Atin Biswas | Programme Director | Centre for Science and Environment |
| 5. | Mr. Siddharth Ghanshyam Singh | Programme Manager | Centre for Science and Environment |

B: List of participants who attended the meeting virtually:

1. Dr. Anil Kumar Vijayan, Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. Mr. S R Marigoudar, National Centre for Coastal Research(NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences
3. Mr. Ankit Jain, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA)
4. Ms. Monica Nagelgaard, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway
5. Mr. Jon Heikki Aas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway
6. Dr. Smita Mohanty, CIPET_SARP-LARPM
7. Mr. Suneel Pandey, TERI

8. Adv Afroz Shah, Afroz Shah Foundation
9. Prof. Paromita Chakraborty, SRMIST
10. Mr. Hans Nicolai Adam, NIVA
11. Ms. Amy-Kristine Andersen, NIVA
12. Mr. Palash Kumar Saha, SINTEF
13. Ms. Natalie Harms, UNEP
14. Mr. Faizaan, Afroz Shah Foundation
