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Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Beijing, People's Republic of China
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Report of the Meeting

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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, 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, 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 in order 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 also 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, China) adopted revised TOR of NOWPAP RCU and reviewed the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 (adopted later on 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 in order 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, in order 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. Following the offer by the government of the People's Republic of China to host the 20th NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 28-30 October 2015 in the Environmental Development Centre of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China.

11. 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 (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea and Russia). Directors of the NOWPAP RACs, a representative of UNEP Headquarters and RCU staff members also attended the meeting. A representative of the North Pacific Science Organization (PICES) attended the meeting as an observer. The Resolutions adopted at the meeting are attached in Annex I to this report. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II and the list of documents as Annex III.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

12. The 20th NOWPAP IGM was opened at 09:00 on Wednesday, 28 October 2015, by Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA, the head of the delegation of Russia, the hosting state of the 19th NOWPAP IGM. Welcoming all the participants, she expressed her gratitude to China as the host of the meeting and RCU as the secretariat for organizing the meeting. She recalled the history of 20 years of NOWPAP indicating that NOWPAP is becoming an active mechanism for regional cooperation on marine environment conservation. She recalled also the 20th anniversary symposium held in Moscow last year back to back with the 19th IGM in which achievements, challenges and recommendations for way forward were presented. She mentioned the 2nd Extraordinary (EO) IGM held in April 2015 where important issues were discussed and decided regarding RCU restructuring. Highlighting the pressure of human activities and importance of resource development and environmental conservation in the region, she stressed the need of furthering the regional cooperation through implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017. Mentioning the importance of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres in addressing the environmental issues in the region, she gave examples of the Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) and State of Marine Environment Report (SOMER) conducted by POMRAC. Closing her opening remarks, she wished a successful 20th IGM. Then she invited other delegations to deliver their opening statements.

13. On behalf of the hosting government, Ms. Lei LI welcomed all the participants to Beijing for this meeting held during the golden autumn and expressed thanks to RCU for preparing the meeting. She pointed out that it had been 21 years since 1994 when NOWPAP was adopted and the regional cooperative mechanism was maturing. She pointed out also that due to the joint efforts of the Member States, RACs and RCU, a lot of progresses had been made including achieving the goals stipulated in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2012-2017. Mentioning challenges facing NOWPAP such as the restructuring of RCU in recent years, smooth implementation of the MTS, financial support and resource mobilization, she confirmed that China would continue supporting NOWPAP and collaborating with other Member States to move NOWPAP forward. Referring to the implementation of NOWPAP and IGM decisions, she introduced some practices in recent years in China such as legislation on pollution control and action plans on air quality, water quality and solid wastes, in particular the water pollution control action plan which covers the marine and costal areas. She mentioned also the 2015 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup and workshop held in Yantai China.

14. On behalf of the Japanese government, Mr. Hiroyuki NISHIURA gave thanks to China for organizing the meeting in the place which is also called the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre of Environmental Protection, a symbol of cooperation. Stressing the importance of the marine environment conservation, he mentioned goal 14 of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted last month which set targets for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. He mentioned also the G7 Summit to be held in Japan in 2016 which earlier has acknowledged marine litter as a global concern and committed to global actions for a solution. He reminded the meeting of a global study on marine litter to be reported to the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in 2016. Welcoming the reconstruction of RCU is to be completed along with the resolution adopted at the 2nd EO, to move NOWPAP forward, he wished that a new Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 would be discussed without delay. Acknowledging the difficulties facing NOWPAP, he called for further cooperation between the Member States to solve them.

15. Mr. Hyung-jong LEE, the head of Korean delegation, expressed thanks to China for hosting the meeting and to RCU for the preparation of the meeting. As it was his second visit to Beijing, he was impressed by the good air quality. He mentioned also the new SDGs

which cover the issue of protection of oceans for sustainable development as well as upcoming important UNFCCC meeting in Paris in December 2015 which will address wide range of climate change related issues and hopefully will reach an agreement. Noting the decision in April 2015 on RCU restructuring, he said that now it would be the time to make NOWPAP more efficient and effective.

16. Mr. Didier SALZMANN, representing UNEP, acknowledged great efforts and remarkable achievement made by the Member States redefining NOWPAP and RCU in the past years at the 18th and 19th IGM as well as the 1st and 2nd EO IGM. He pointed out that as the efforts made has brought NOWPAP back to its financial sustainable track which was not a easy task, the Member States might now focus on environmental issues which is the essence of NOWPAP. In this regard, he noted that discussion on the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2016-2017 and the new Medium-term Strategy and related decisions would be expected at this meeting. He reminded the meeting that as the UN is in a transition to a new enterprise resource planning system Umoja, NOWPAP operations have been affected and some delays would be expected. He pointed out that with the establishment of working capital reserves and substantial surplus expected in both PNL and QNL funds, NOWPAP would remain a healthy and active member of the Regional Seas family. He mentioned that during the meeting the status of implementation of the recommendations of the UN Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) would be reported. He noted also with pleasure that Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was invited for the meeting. Closing his remarks, he reminded the meeting of a recent Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans held in Istanbul which NOWPAP representative also attended.

17. Mr. Alexander TKALIN, the NOWPAP Coordinator, reported to the meeting that RCU would be ready to implement, together with UNEP Headquarters, the decisions of the Member States. He mentioned also that two bank accounts of RCU Offices have been closed which caused some difficulties for NOWPAP operations. Regarding the invitation letter sent to DPRK, as requested by the Republic of Korea and agreed upon by other Member States, no response was unfortunately received.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Election of officers

18. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the 20th IGM is the representative of the hosting state, the Rapporteur is the representative of the Member State to host the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons are the representatives of the remaining two Member States, respectively. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers among the representatives of the NOWPAP Member States attending the meeting:

Chairperson:	Ms. Jieqing ZHANG, China
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms. Natalia Tretiakova, Russia
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Hiroyuki Nishiura, Japan
Rapporteur:	Mr. Hyung-jong Lee, Korea

Agenda Item 2(b): Organisation of work

19. The meeting participants agreed that the rules of procedures of the UNEA would be applied for the meeting with necessary adjustments (e.g., meeting will be conducted in English and decisions will be made by consensus). The meeting participants also agreed that the meeting should be conducted according to the timetable to avoid evening sessions.

Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of the agenda

20. Upon invitation by the Chairperson, the NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the provisional list of documents and timetable for the meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/INF/1 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/INF/3, respectively). Then the Chairperson introduced the provisional agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/1) and annotated agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/2) and the meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2(d): Presentation of credentials

21. Upon the request of the Chairperson, NOWPAP Coordinator confirmed that the delegates of China, Japan, Korea and Russia presented their credentials to the RCU, which were reviewed and accepted.

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

22. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, NOWPAP Coordinator presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director (ED report, UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/3). He briefed the meeting on the major outcomes achieved in 2014 and 2015 by the four NOWPAP RACs and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under agenda item 4. Then he mentioned the major challenges and difficulties facing the RACs. For CEARAC, as the Director has other functions to perform, he could not committed 100% of his time to CEARAC business. For DINRAC, because replacement of its server had not been completed and also frequent change of its Director, delivery of some activities had been delayed. For MERRAC, some activities were changed after approval of its workplan and budget for 2014-2015 by the 18th IGM. MERRAC Focal Points were also reluctant to initiate the activities related to ballast water management and climate change as suggested in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017. For POMRAC, as financial transactions in contracting foreign experts within Russia were extremely difficult, most activities were suspended in 2015, including organizing its Focal Points Meeting. NOWPAP Coordinator reminded the meeting that certain decisions were needed from this meeting in this regard, in particular on MERRAC and POMRAC, which would be discussed under agenda item 7 later on.

23. The NOWPAP Coordinator also reported on coordinating of RAC activities stressing the preparation of the Programme of Work of each RAC for 2016-2017. Mentioning the partnerships being built up, he gave examples of PICES and PEMSEA which had cooperative activities with NOWPAP. For raising public awareness, he emphasised among others the role of NGOs in this region mentioning Japan Environmental Action Network (JEAN), Our Seas of East Asia Network (OSEAN) and Ocean Conservancy (OC) who have been actively promoting marine litter related activities. For resource mobilization, he reminded the meeting that although departure of two responsible RCU staff members caused difficulties, the remaining RCU staff members had managed to secure limited funding from the GPA office in Nairobi to support marine litter activities (implemented by CEARAC). He reported to the meeting the status of implementation of the resolutions of the 19th IGM pointing out that most of the decisions had been implemented with only a few still ongoing. Referring to the ratio of approved budget against expenditure shown in the ED report, he explained the relatively low rate of expenditure comparing to the previous biennia was in part because the 2014-2015 budget was separated into two years and because of late approval of each annual budget for 2014 and for 2015 by the IGM. He introduced also the status of

the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions by the NOWPAP members, and suggested each Member State to contribute US\$ 125,000 to the Trust Fund starting from 2016.

24. Korea commented that although there were many challenges and some difficulties in terms of working environment and conditions, there was certain progress thanks to RACs officials and experts. However, after 20 years, high level of expenses related to NOWPAP activities, which are covered by tax payers, is still a major concern for Korean authorities. As expressed at the last IGM, Korea was concerned about resource mobilization and asked RCU to keep dialogue with the Member States. As for recruiting staff members by UNEP for the restructured RCU, Korea wanted it to be done on time according to the 2nd EO IGM resolution, observing deadlines. Regarding contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to which all other three countries contributed US\$ 125,000, Korea wished that China could consider its equal share positively.

25. Japan expressed its concern over the remaining positive balance of NOWPAP Trust Fund PNL account which accumulated about US\$ 1.3 million surplus. In such situation, it might be difficult for Japan to maintain the same level of contribution to the Trust Fund.

26. China was concerned about the big remaining balance in 2014-2015 biennium and suggested the meeting to consider how to make use of it. As for the Trust Fund contributions, China would not increase its contribution given the fact that in recent years Member States had a lot of discussions on restructuring the RCU which resulted in the reduced number of staff members and downgraded posts. In such situation it would be hard to convince the financial authorities to contribute more money to NOWPAP. Nevertheless, China increased its contribution from US\$ 40,000 to 100,000 in 2013 and would contribute the same level of US\$ 100,000 in 2016 demonstrating its continuing support to NOWPAP.

27. Russia also noted the RACs unspent budget for 2014-2015 shown in Table 6 in the ED report and suggested to keep that balance for RACs for the next biennium. Regarding contributions to the Trust Fund, Russia would like to contribute US\$ 125,000 for the next biennium. As for the POMRAC financial transaction difficulties, Russia considered it had nothing to do with Russian regulations which had not been changed but with the Umoja system being introduced, and a resolution would be needed from this meeting to solve the issue. Russia also noted the remarkable savings from QNL accounts resulted from RCU restructuring and asked the RCU host countries, Japan and Korea, to explain what they would like to do with the savings. In conclusion, Russia had no objection to have ED report adopted.

28. Upon request of the Chairperson, answers were provided for the questions asked by the Member States.

29. Responding to the inquiry on recruiting the new RCU staff members, the UNEP representative reported to the meeting that although he would give a detailed explanation under agenda item 6, he summarized the situation as follows. The restructured RCU would have P5 and G6 posts in Toyama as well as P3 and G4 posts in Busan. For the G6 post, after closing the job opening, interviews with shortlisted candidates were completed by a panel which sent a recommendation to a central review board to make a decision. As for the P3 post, it had been open on INSPIRA website and the Member States were encouraged to disseminate the vacancy announcement to interested experts. Interviews would be conducted in two months. As for the G4 post, the job announcement would not go through INSPIRA but be posted on UNEP and NOWPAP websites. Regarding the P5 post, as the current P5 Coordinator would stay until August 2016 (after the extension of the contract valid till December 2015), recruitment process would begin later on.

30. On RACs unspent budget, both UNEP representative and NOWPAP Coordinator explained that the balance would be taken into account when the Programme of Work and budget for 2016-2017 are approved, which means when RACs receive money for the newly approved budget, the remaining unspent balance would be deducted.

31. As the expenditure figures in the ED report were as of August 2015, Korea asked what would be a prediction by the end of the year. In response, the NOWPAP Coordinator said it would be hard to make such prediction.

32. To answer the question on the savings from the QNL account, Korea said it would be kept for possible moving of the P5 Coordinator from Toyama to Busan when decided in the future. Japan did not provide explanation regarding the surplus in their QNL account.

33. After discussion, the ED report was adopted by the Member States.

Agenda Item 4: Reports on the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2014 and 2015 by RACs

34. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, Directors of RACs, Mr. Kazuya KUMAGAI for CEARAC, Mr. Feng YAN for DINRAC, Mr. Seong-Gil KANG for MERRAC and Mr. Anatoly KACHUR for POMRAC, presented the reports on their activities in 2014 and 2015 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/4/1-4). The RAC directors reported respectively the status of the implementation of their Programme of Work covering the organization of their Focal Points Meetings, specific projects, RAP MALI activities, cooperation and coordination among RACs and with the RCU, website updates as well as other routine tasks and plans for 2016-2017 biennium. In his report, the MERRAC Director explained (in response to the challenges and difficulties raised by the NOWPAP Coordinator while presenting the ED report) why the activities were changed after the approval by the 18th IGM and why the activities related to ballast water management and climate change have not been initiated.

35. Commenting on the RACs reports, Korea stressed the important role of RACs in implementing the NOWPAP Programme of Work and need of moving NOWPAP forward given that fact the Member States contributed considerable amount of money to the Trust Fund. Korea asked explanation on how CEARAC Director dealt with the challenge of committing sufficient time to CEARAC activities and why there was overlapping of the dates of CEARAC and MERRAC Focal Points Meetings in 2015. Korea also suggested that the summaries of each RAC Focal Points Meeting and updated list of the RACs Focal Points should be shared with NOWPAP National Focal Points. In addition, Korea questioned the data quality in DINRAC web-based databases and frequency of data updating.

36. Japan shared the same concern as Korea regarding DINRAC data quality and wanted an explanation from DINRAC.

37. On MERRAC proposed activities and budget for 2016-2017 in the table 4 of its report, China questioned why there was an entry named "others (to be decided)" under the specific projects and suggested to delete that entry. China suggested also that RAC reports and workplans should be standardized in format by adding one column indicating how their activities were relevant to the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017.

38. Russia stressed also the importance of RACs in achieving NOWPAP goals and mentioned the MERRAC workshop on oiled wildlife held one week prior to the 20th IGM. Russia said that a new project proposal was suggested and discussed at the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in 2015 but was not accepted by all the Focal Points. It was worth discussing at this meeting so it could be included in MERRAC workplan to replace "others".

39. Responding to the questions, the CEARAC Director explained that there were 3 full time staff members working for CEARAC and himself worked for both CEARAC and Toyama Prefecture. MERRAC Director explained that the overlapping of its Focal Points Meeting with CEARAC one was because originally planned meeting was postponed and it was hard to find other option to avoid such overlapping. To follow up the oiled wildlife workshop recommendation, the MERRAC Director mentioned that regional guidelines might be developed in the future. As for the “others” project, the MERRAC Director asked the meeting to allow it to be decided at the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in 2016.

40. The DINRAC Director explained that the data collected were provided by the DINRAC Focal Points or experts in the Member States based on a common protocol. He explained further that as the new DINRAC website was still under development, the existing old one was running in parallel without recent updates. With the new website to be in place in November 2015, improvements would be expected with new features to be added such as users’ analysis and visitors’ statistics. The new website would also have the improved WebGIS interface to enrich the data presentation.

41. As there were a lot of discussion on whether MERRAC should keep “others” entry in the workplan, the Chairperson asked the Member States to consult with each other and reflect the results of consultations under agenda item 9 on the 2016-2017 NOWPAP Programme of Work (PoW).

Agenda Item 5: Reports by NOWPAP Member States and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation

42. Mr. Chuanlin HUO, a representative of PICES, delivered a presentation briefly introducing PICES and highlighting cooperatives activities with NOWPAP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/5/3), in particular the annual PICES meetings in Yeosu, Korea and in Qingdao, China, where NOWPAP experts were heavily involved. Expressing the willingness of continuing the cooperation, he expected the partnership between the two organizations to be further enhanced.

43. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, the NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator introduced the written statements (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/5/1-2) provided by PEMSEA and IOC WESTPAC as they were not be able to attend the 20th IGM in person. Highlighting the successful cooperation with PEMSEA and IOC WESTPAC, he indicated the possible areas where NOWPAP could conduct collaboration in the future including jointly organizing capacity building training workshops.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion of outcomes and recommendations of the OIOS audit of NOWPAP RCU

44. There were four issues under this agenda item which came out of the recommendations of the UN OIOS audit report: concluding a MoU between UNEP and NOWPAP Member States, writing off the outstanding pledges to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, having performance indicators for the NOWPAP RCU and establishing working capital reserve for the NOWPAP Trust Fund accounts (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/6).

45. The UNEP representative gave a presentation on the status of implementation of decisions of the 19th IGM and 2nd EO IGM on RCU restructuring and the recommendations of the UN OIOS audit report. As the process of recruitment of the G6 Programme Assistant had been almost completed, he informed the meeting that the entry on duty (EOD) was

expected in early January 2016. For the P3 and G4 posts, job openings were initiated and expected EOD would be mid January 2016. As the contract with current P5 incumbent had been extended till 31 August 2016, the job opening was being prepared and replacement would be expected in mid July 2016. He also presented the projection of substantial surplus by 2020 of QNL accounts for Toyama and Busan staffing costs (US\$ 1.4 million and US\$ 0.6 million, respectively). He reported to the meeting that the working capital reserve had been established with US\$ 67,500 for the PNL account, US\$ 90,000 and US\$ 67,500 for the two QNL accounts (contributions from Japan and Korea, respectively). Member states took note that the restructuring of RCU is ongoing, and encouraged UNEP to make further efforts to promptly accomplish the necessary procedures.

46. On the recruiting of new RCU staff members, Korea expressed concerns over the timing especially on the process of recruiting the new P5 staff member, and indicated that they would raise the issue under Agenda item 11 (“other business”).

47. Answering an inquiries of Russia and Korea on the purpose of the MoU, the UNEP representative explained that it was suggested by UN OIOS audit and it was up to the Member States to consider if it would be needed. UNEP then would report the decision of the Member States to UN OIOS accordingly. After a brief discussion, all Member States decided that such MOU is premature at this stage or not necessary at all.

48. On the outstanding pledges (unpaid pledges by Japan and Russia), the UNEP representative informed the meeting that although from the accounting point of view the fair value of the unpaid pledges should be reduced to zero after 3 years, there would be still a need for a decision from the Member States to formally write it off. Russia was in favor of such decision to write-off in order to comply with the IPSAS standards and wished that there would be no mentioning of the unpaid ledges at the future IGMs. Korea did not want a formal write-off in order to keep “institutional memory”. As no consensus was reached among the Member States, no decision to write-off the unpaid pledges was made at the meeting and UNEP was asked to report to UN OIOS accordingly. Russia requested to reflect their position in the meeting report: suggested not to discuss this issue in the future.

49. On RCU performance indicators suggested by UN OIOS audit report, the UNEP representative explained that after the restructuring of RCU with abolished and downgraded posts, there would be a need of reconsidering the RCU Terms of Reference (TOR) as a step to develop possible performance indicators for the new RCU. After discussion, all the Member States agreed to revise the RCU TOR and consider the draft revised TOR at the next IGM in 2016. As it was not clear what the performance indicators would imply, the meeting agreed to consider it in the future after completion of the revision of RCU TOR.

Agenda Item 7: Status of implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017, including further involvement of POMRAC and MERRAC

50. The NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/7/1) stressing that the MTS was prepared by RCU in close consultation with all RACs and the Member States. The MTS contains 9 thematic areas including 5 substantial and 4 operational themes where objectives, suggested activities and expected accomplishments were identified. He reported to the meeting that the overall implementation rate for the suggested activities was 76% and the rate of accomplishments was about 90%. However there were problems with RACs to translate some MTS elements into projects or project proposals, such as POMRAC inability to process payments to foreign experts and MERRAC reluctance to initiate activities on ballast water management and climate change. In this regard, the NOWPAP Coordinator

introduced the document on further involving POMRAC and MERRAC in the implementation of the MTS (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/2).

51. He explained that due to domestic regulations, POMRAC had difficulties to conduct the POMRAC financial transactions in Russia (such as hiring foreign experts and paying them). Therefore the POMRAC transactions in recent years had been carried out by another RAC or RCU on behalf of POMRAC. However, since June 2015, with the new UN financial management system Umoja in place, such practice is no longer an option because the system prevents the offset of a receivable raised against one party by a payable submitted by a different party. Under such situation, he introduced three options for the meeting to consider and make a certain decision.

52. He also explained the situation with MERRAC where the suggested projects on ballast water management and climate change failed to be initiated due to the resistance from the MERRAC Focal Points. As requested by the MERRAC Focal Points, the NOWPAP Coordinator reported to the meeting their decision reached at the 18th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting: that MERRAC would not submit to the 20th IGM any proposals regarding ballast water management and climate change. Under such situation, the NOWPAP Coordinator also introduced three options described for the meeting to make a decision.

53. On the POMRAC issue, as there were some confusion and misunderstanding, the NOWPAP Coordinator and UNEP representative clarified that the key point was that the POMRAC was not able to process payments within Russia once the budgeted money was received from Nairobi, so the meeting should find the way out helping POMRAC to recruit foreign experts (consultants) and make financial transactions possible. While recognizing the need of helping POMRAC to address the issue, Russia considered the issue was not because of certain Russian domestic regulations (which had not been changed in recent years), but due to new financial system Umoja employed by the UN. Russia also asked UNEP to make efforts preventing the same situation from happening in the future. After lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed that DINRAC would help POMRAC through assigning the responsibility with implementing two POMRAC specific activities to DINRAC but under overall supervision of POMRAC. In this regards, additional US\$ 60,000 would be allocated to DINRAC for the 2016-2017 biennium budget.

54. On the MERRAC issue, the MERRAC Director introduced a document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/7/3) presenting the results of the discussions at the 18th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in 2015. Mentioning briefly the background of development of NOWPAP MTS, he said the activities relevant to ballast water management and climate change were expected to be implemented using external funds by RACs and RCU. Stressing the traditional practice where MERRAC activities had been focused on oil and NHS spill preparedness and response, he reported to the meeting that although two proposals were prepared and presented to the 18th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, both were rejected by the meeting.

55. Commenting on the MERRAC issue, Korea mentioned that ballast water management and climate change are important issues and therefore they should be reflected in the NOWPAP MTS. He mentioned that member states, RACs and RCU could be blamed for not implementing activities on these two elements in the MTS, not only MERRAC. MERRAC Focal Points arguments are also reasonable and it is understandable that MERRAC would not initiate activities on ballast water management and climate change in 2016-2017. As China, Japan and Russia also agreed, the meeting decided that MERRAC would not deal with issues related to ballast water management and climate change in 2016-2017. However, these issues might be reconsidered when developing the new MTS in the near future.

56. On development of a new MTS, Korea introduced the document with possible suggestions on way forward (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/7/4). Referring to the development of

the current MTS and lessons learned, Korea suggested ways of improvement while developing a new MTS for 2018-2023 addressing the issues of strategic direction, roles of RACs and RCU, monitoring and evaluation, and financial resources. In this regard, Korea suggested establishing a working group to develop the new MTS and present it to the 21st IGM for discussion aiming at final approval at the 22nd IGM.

57. Japan expressed gratitude for the document prepared by Korea and stressed the need of prioritizing the elements while considering the capacity of RACs for implementation. Japan agreed to set up the working group.

58. China also thanked Korea for the document prepared and mentioned that the lessons learned should be taken into account when developing the new MTS: such as issues related to ballast water management and climate change. China suggested having a third party review of the implementation of the current MTS as most of the activities suggested had been carried out already and outcome of the independent review would be a good input and useful for the development of the new MTS. China also suggested that the situation with the RCU restructuring should be considered when developing the new MTS.

59. Russia agreed with the development of the new MTS and the schedule suggested by Korea but didn't see the need of establishing a working group, worrying about the financial implications and about the membership. Instead, Russia suggested using the existing framework consisting of RCU and RACs for developing the MTS. For the independent review, Russia considered it could be done only after the current MTS is completed in 2017.

60. Responding to the suggestions by China, Korea expressed that it was still too early to discuss the contents such as ballast water management and climate change, the document presented was focused rather on the procedure of the MTS development. Korea considered the independent review reasonable but was concerned about limited time to do so. Korea also suggested to use the human resources in RCU efficiently when developing the new MTS.

61. As Russia and Korea stressed the importance for RCU to work closely with RACs and to consult with the Member States for developing the new MTS, the NOWPAP Coordinator responded by mentioning that it was exactly the same practice which was employed when the current MTS was developed and RCU would continue such practice for the development of the new MTS. Knowing the importance of the contents of the new MTS, the NOWPAP Coordinator stressed the need of bringing knowledgeable people into the process.

62. After an exchange of views among the Member States, the meeting decided that the draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 should be prepared for the next IGM to be held in late 2016.

Agenda Item 8: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2014-2015 and RAP MALI workplan and budget for 2016-2017

63. The NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/8) summarizing the status of implementation of RAP MALI in 2014-2015 and presenting the workplan for 2016-2017. Emphasizing the three elements in the RAP MALI of preventing, monitoring and removing marine litter, he mentioned briefly the activities carried out by the Member States, RACs and RCU. Mentioning also that marine litter issues were reflected in the UNEA resolution, G7 Summit statement, GPA and GESAMP activities, the NOWPAP Coordinator reminded the meeting of the global attention to the issue of marine litter. He

introduced briefly the efforts of NGOs in promoting awareness of marine litter. He pointed out that although activities suggested in RAP MALI were for Member States to implement, NOWPAP Marine Litter Focal Points, RACs and RCU were involved in executing the activities using the NOWPAP budget. For 2016-2017, he presented the suggested activities with a total budget of US\$ 70,000 for approval.

64. Having difficulty with understanding the meaning of the suggested MERRAC activity, Japan asked clarification from MERRAC. After rephrasing the activity title as “review and analysis of existing floating marine litter prediction models in the NOWPAP region”, the meeting adopted the RAP MALI workplan and budget for 2016-2017.

Agenda Item 9: NOWPAP Programme of Work (PoW)

65. The NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/9) presenting the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2014-2015. Mentioning that about 71% of the planned activities had been completed, he gave the reasons for the partially completed activities (14%) and uncompleted activities (14%). For the partially completed activities, he explained that since the responsible staff members left the RCU, resource mobilization was affected and only limited amount of external funds was secured. Another reason was that RACs projects were not executed on time and sometimes not with good quality outcomes. For the uncompleted activities, it was because most POMRAC activities were suspended since May 2015 due to the financial transactions problems and because RCU and RACs did not prepare project proposal on regional overview of climate change as planned. He mentioned the change of MERRAC activities from the originally planned and approved by the IGM but still rated them as completed.

66. MERRAC Director explained again how the changes happened due to MERRAC Focal Points decisions.

67. Commenting on resource mobilization, Korea stressed that it was important for any organization and there were various possible approaches to do so. Indicating different ways of getting possible funding in the East Asia region, he pointed out that maintaining good relationships with governments was a key factor even without high quality project proposals. He suggested that RCU should approach governments in this regard.

68. For the PoW 2016-2017, the NOWPAP Coordinator introduced the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.20/10) suggesting the total budget of US\$ 950,000 which was higher than the 2014-2015 biennium budget by US\$ 50,000 but equal to the contributions from the Member States during 2014-2015 biennium.

69. Japan explained that, although there was substantial accumulated surplus in the PNL account, they still would like to keep the budget for 2016-2017 at the same level as in the 2014-2015 biennium (US\$ 900,000) which was justifiable according to the implementation rate of the 2014-2015 PoW. Japan requested to reflect in the meeting report their concern about the low expenditure rate in 2014-2015 shown on page 15 of the ED report presented to the meeting.

70. Russia considered that the budget of US\$ 950,000 was reasonable and suggested to include the MERRAC undecided activities (indicated in the MERRAC report as “others”, but actually related to possible oil spills from offshore units) into the PoW,.

71. China responded saying that it was not appropriate to have the activity in the PoW which was not agreed upon by the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting. China also considered that the budget of US\$ 950,000 was reasonable. Indicating that there was only small increase in

budget comparing with 2014-2015, China suggested to consider some budget for the development of the new MTS.

72. Korea agreed with the budget of US\$ 950,000 and suggested to increase budget allocations for RACs as well as for public awareness and resource mobilization.

73. Japan insisted on the budget of US\$ 900,000 but could be flexible accepting US\$ 950,000 if there would be a written assurance (most desirably a renewed resolution, or alternatively a description in the meeting report) of the RCU reform to be ongoing along with the decisions taken by Member States at the 2nd EO IGM. Japan also stated that such written language is needed to convince its government that the country should continue its financial commitments to NOWPAP.

74. Russia responded saying that the RCU restructuring was not on the agenda of the meeting and linking it to the budget approval was not appropriate as there was no connection between these two issues.

75. China also expressed their view that that 2nd EO IGM had concluded the discussion with the decision made on RCU restructuring and it should not be linked to the budget issue.

76. After lengthy discussion and exchange of views among the Member States, the meeting agreed on the budget of US\$ 950,000 for the NOWPAP PoW 2016-2017

77. After another lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed on the issue of adding new activities for MERRAC to the PoW: to have an activity on oiled wildlife as a specific project depending on consultation with MERRAC Focal Points within a month and to add consideration of the minimum response requirements for oil spills at the offshore units as a MERRAC routine task.

78. As previously agreed that the DINRAC would help POMRAC to implement part of its activities, the PoW had been modified to reflect it.

79. The meeting approved the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 with these modifications (Resolution 1 shown in Annex I)..

Agenda Item 10: Preparation of the Twenty-first Intergovernmental Meeting

80. The meeting agreed that the 21st NOWPAP IGM would be organized in Korea in 2016 and venue and date would be decided later on through correspondence.

Agenda Item 11: Other Business

81. Realizing that the incumbent P5 Coordinator's contract was extended to 31 August 2016, Korea questioned the recruiting process of the new Coordinator saying that it was not conducted in compliance with the decisions of the 2nd EO IGM. Korea asked a clarification from UNEP on several issues in this regard such as when the contract was extended, what were the reasons for extension, why it was extended to August 2016, what efforts had been made to recruit the new Coordinator, what the cost would be if cancelling the extended contract and what options would UNEP recommend to resolve the issue.

82. In response the UNEP representative tried to answer the questions. He explained that what had been extended was the contract between the incumbent staff member of the P5 post and UN but not the assignment as the NOWPAP Coordinator. The incumbent staff

member could continue to perform the duty as Coordinator until the new Coordinator would be in place. Given the fact that the new Coordinator could not be recruited by mid December 2015 when the current Coordinator contract expired and the incumbent P5 staff member expressed his intention for earlier retirement, the contract was extended by UNEP till 31 August 2016. The UNEP representative also explained that in order to keep the institutional memory of NOWPAP and hand it over to the new Coordinator, such extension was needed. He informed the meeting that if the Member States reached a consensus to leave a vacuum at the Coordinator post, the incumbent would be moved elsewhere within UNEP at no cost to NOWPAP.

83. Expressing again the concern over the recruitment of P5 post, Korea wanted UNEP to assure the Member States in its compliance with IGM decisions and to inform the Member States if UNEP cannot proceed in line with IGM decisions. Korea requested to reflect in the meeting report their concern and questions raised, UNEP explanations and assurances that IGM decisions will be followed and Member States kept informed on the progress. Such assurances were given.

84. Russia was surprised to hear the questions asked by Korean delegate mentioning that the decisions on restructuring the RCU made at the previous IGM and EO IGMs had already affected negatively the RCU efficiency. Russia supported the contract extension made by UNEP to make RCU more accountable and to have sufficient overlap for handover between the incoming and outgoing P5 staff members. As the contract had extended only for 8 months, Russia didn't see any risk and wanted to avoid any vacuum of the P5 post. Russia also didn't see any wording in the IGM resolution about replacement of specific person but only a scheme of RCU restructuring so it was afraid that there was something personal against the incumbent P5 staff otherwise such questions should not have been asked and the meeting should not spent so much time on the issue.

85. Korea responded that it was not trying to point a finger at a certain person, but to encourage the implementation of the RCU restructuring plan, which was drawn out after long and tough discussions among the member states. Korea also reminded that the decision made at the 2nd EO IGM was intended to newly recruit all the staff members of RCU as shown in the meeting report of the 2nd EO IGM.

86. China also supported the contract extension citing the importance of keeping the institutional memory and smooth operation of the RCU. As the RCU restructuring is already affecting NOWPAP, China did see the need of such contract extension if the Member States would like to see a bright future for NOWPAP.

87. China voiced also its concern over the submission of RAC activities which were not agreed upon by the RAC Focal Points Meeting, which led to the meeting spending quite a lot of time for unnecessary discussions. Russia shared the same concern.

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of Resolutions of the Meeting

88. Four resolutions were prepared by the RCU, taking into account discussions at the meeting and Member States positions on different issues discussed, and presented for adoption.

89. Regarding Resolution 3 on NOWPAP Evolution, Russia questioned the necessity of such resolution and pointed out that the text was not properly consulted with the Member States. Russia further pointed out that some "negative" elements should not be in the resolution, such as no MOU between UNEP and Member States, no write-off of unpaid pledges, no

activities on ballast water management and climate change for MERRAC and no RCU performance indicators. Instead they should be kept in the meeting report.

90. Korea wanted to reflect those elements in the resolution, in particular the element of no write-off of unpaid pledges.

91. China reiterated that RACs should not submit activities which were not agreed by their Focal Points Meetings in the future and wanted that reflected in certain resolutions.

92. In order to reach consensus, the Member States spent considerable time on exact wording in the text and went through each resolution paragraph by paragraph. Finally they adopted the four resolutions as attached in Annex I.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting

93. Russia expressed thanks to China for hosting the meeting, to the Chairperson for her guidance while conducting the meeting, and to other Member States for their cooperation and compromise during the meeting. Wishing a success for the new RCU, Russia asked the Member States to be patient and looked forward to the next IGM in Korea.

94. China thanked RCU for its hard work for preparing the meeting. China would remain active supporter of NOWPAP and wished NOWPAP, as a happy family, to continue growing.

95. Korea expressed the gratitude to China and the Chairperson and said it attached great importance to NOWPAP and wished to have a healthy NOWPAP while addressing the challenges in the common sea area. Korea was grateful for the cooperative spirit shown by the Member States during the meeting and hoped the same would be shown in the next IGM to identify practical way of further cooperation.

96. Japan shared the gratitude to China and the Chairperson and was ready to work continuously with other Member States to overcome the challenges which NOWPAP is facing.

97. UNEP representative expressed thanks to the host for its hospitality and accommodation provided and to the Chairperson for guiding through the meeting. He wished NOWPAP from now on to go through revitalization and to have the NOWPAP family stronger.

98. In closing, the Chairperson gave her special thanks to RCU, the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for their contribution to NOWPAP in the past and for working hard under pressure during the process of RCU restructuring.

99. The meeting was closed at 12:00 on 30 October 2015.

Annex I: Resolutions**Resolution 1****PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2016-2017 BIENNIUM**

Acknowledging RACs and RCU efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2014-2015 Programme of Work (PoW),

Recognizing the importance of the regional approach to protecting the shared marine environment and sustainable management of natural resources by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific regional actions,

Recognizing also the need to initiate new activities in line with the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 approved by NOWPAP Member States,

Taking note that 71% of the projects included in the 2014-2015 NOWPAP PoW were implemented on time (comparing with 52% in 2012-2013 biennium) and taking into account the challenges that NOWPAP RACs are facing,

The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/3) on the progress for the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2014-2015 biennium.
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) on the progress for the implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work during the 2014-2015 biennium.
3. Decides, in order to simplify the administrative process of recruitment of and payment to foreign experts (consultants), to assign the responsibility of implementation of two activities on the development of Ecological Quality Objectives and on the training course on ICARM with a total 2016-2017 biennium budget of US\$ 60,000 to DINRAC, while these two activities will be overseen by POMRAC.
4. Approves the NOWPAP Programme of Work (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/10) with the total budget of US\$ 950,000 as presented in Table 1.
5. Requests 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.
6. Requests also RAC Directors when reporting to the NOWPAP IGM to provide summary of their Focal Point Meetings and clearly indicate relevance of their activities to the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2012-2017.
7. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the implementation of work by providing coordination, support and assistance to the RACs and to circulate updated work plans of each RAC (with quarterly milestones) for Member States consideration by correspondence within two months after this Intergovernmental Meeting.
8. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to develop and maintain partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects.

Table 1. NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2016-2017 biennium

Activity	Responsibility for implementation	2014-2015 budget (US\$ 1,000)	2016-2017 budget (US\$ 1,000)
CEARAC	CEARAC	125	140
DINRAC	DINRAC	125	200
MERRAC	MERRAC	125	140
POMRAC	POMRAC	125	80
RAP MALI	RCU and RACs	70	70
Public Awareness	RCU and RACs	29	19
Coordination of RACs	RCU	16	16
Implementation of NOWPAP	RCU	83	83
RCU Operation	RCU	78	78
Resource Mobilization	RCU and RACs	20	15
Sub-total		796	841
Programme Support Cost (13% of the sub-total)		104	109
TOTAL		900	950

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Recognizing the need to initiate new activities while implementing current NOWPAP projects,

Also recognizing the necessity to increase the total amount of contributions of Member States to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$ 500,000, as agreed at the 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting,

The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2016, as presented in Table 2.
2. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to make their utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions to meet the target amount of US\$ 500,000.
3. Encourages the NOWPAP Member States, NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue seeking additional funding to support NOWPAP activities, particularly in line with NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017.

Table 2. Scale of contributions for 2016

Member States	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	100,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	475,000

Resolution 3

NOWPAP EVOLUTION

Taking note of the discussion related to the recommendations of the UN OIOS audit of NOWPAP RCU carried out in 2014,

Acknowledging that the working capital reserve of 15% has been established for PNL account and two QNL accounts of the NOWPAP Trust Fund,

Taking note also of the discussion on the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2012-2017 and preparation of the MTS 2018-2023,

The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Decides that the Terms of Reference for the restructured NOWPAP RCU will be discussed at the next Intergovernmental Meeting and the issue of RCU performance indicators might be considered after that.
2. Decides that the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 should be prepared in close collaboration between Member States, NOWPAP RACs and RCU.

Resolution 4

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

Acknowledging the negative impacts of marine litter in the NOWPAP region,

Acknowledging also the efforts of Member States to address marine litter problem,

Taking into account that the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) is in line with national and regional priorities identified by the 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 authorities as well as private sector, research institutions, NGOs and 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 and its sources,

The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/8) and budget for the 2016-2017 biennium as presented in Table 3.
2. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to carry out activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at a national and local level through the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.
3. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan as scheduled in close consultation with UNEP GPA office and other international organizations, projects and programmes involved.

Table 3. NOWPAP RAP MALI budget allocations for the 2016-2017 biennium

RAP MALI activities	Budget, US\$
2016 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in Russia	20,000
2017 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in Japan	20,000
CEARAC: Enhancing NW Pacific regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	6,000
DINRAC: Updating and visualizing database on marine litter	6,000
MERRAC: Review and analysis of existing floating marine litter prediction models in the NOWPAP region	6,000
POMRAC: Research on micro-plastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf	6,000
RCU: Travel support and development of public awareness materials	6,000
Total:	70,000

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Annex III: List of Documents**Working documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2014 and 2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/4/1	CEARAC report of activities in 2014 and 2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/4/2	DINRAC report of activities in 2014 and 2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/4/3	MERRAC report of activities in 2014 and 2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/4/4	POMRAC report of activities in 2014 and 2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/5/1	Statement of PEMSEA
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/5/2	Statement of IOC WESTPAC
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/5/3	Statement of PICES
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/6	Suggestions based on recommendations of the UN OIOS audit of the NOWPAP RCU conducted in 2014
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/1	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 (prepared by the NOWPAP RCU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/2	Further involvement of POMRAC and MERRAC in the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/3	Results of the discussions made during the 18 th MERRAC FPM regarding new MERRAC activities to be carried out under the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2012-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/7/4	Possible suggestions to develop NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (prepared by the Republic of Korea)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/8	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI in 2014-2015 and RAP MALI work plan for 2016-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/9	Status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2014-2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/10	NOWPAP Programme of Work 2016-2017

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 20/INF/3	Provisional timetable
UN/OIOS 2014/133	UN OIOS report on NOWPAP RCU audit (2014)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 18/12	Report of the 18 th NOWPAP IGM

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 19/12/Rev. 1 Report of the 19th NOWPAP IGM
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO2/2 Report of the Second Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM
