



World Health Organization

Regional Initiative on Environment and Health



United Nations Environment Programme

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English Only

**Fourth Advisory Board Meeting
on Environment and Health
in Southeast and East Asian Countries
16 July 2010, Jeju, Republic of Korea**

DISCUSSION RECORD

Background

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries was held on 16 July 2010 in Jeju, republic of Korea. The Chair of the Regional Forum (Republic of Korea), the Chairs and Co-Chair of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), and the Secretariat (UNEP and WHO), attended the Advisory Board Meeting. The objectives of the Fourth Advisory Board Meeting were: (1) to review the organization and discussions of the Second Ministerial Regional Forum (MF2) and the Fifth High-Level Meeting (HL5); (2) to discuss the role, structure and composition of the Task Force, and (3) to discuss the methodology of rotating chairs of TWGs and renewal of TWG membership.

Review of the MF2 and HL5

2. The modality of the meetings was discussed and it was suggested to have enough time for discussions on issues, particularly new ones, for the next meetings. Organizing group discussions in addition to plenary sessions may be considered.
3. The meeting reiterated the need to revise the Jeju Declaration with the comments from the member countries.
4. There was a suggestion to hold Advisory Board Meetings before HL and MF meetings in future, to discuss particularly new issues, such as creating a Task Force.
5. The meeting raised the issues on TWGs activities, such as the ownership by member countries and support for the implementation of the work plans of TWGs.

Role, structure and composition of Task Force

6. The meeting discussed the need for clarifying the roles of the Advisory Board and Task Force to avoid redundancy, and emphasized that the Task Force would assist the Advisory Board. The Secretariat presented the background on the establishment of a Task Force and its role, which had earlier been presented as part of the Secretariat report at the High-Level Meeting. The Secretariat suggested that the Task Force conduct a survey on the issues and concerns of member countries to improve the governance of the Forum.
7. The meeting discussed the structure of the Task Force in view of the need to share burdens of work and at the same time operate more efficiently. An option suggested was to form subgroups to deal with individual subjects.

8. The meeting discussed the composition of the Task Force. Willingness to participate, cost coverage, balance between environment and health agencies, and balance between high- and low- income countries in the region were considered. The meeting agreed that the criteria for the selection of members of the Task Force should be based on a voluntary principle. The members of the Task Force would consist of those having willingness enough to devote a technical officer and to bear the cost of their own delegate activities, including the travel to attend the physical meetings of the Task Force.

Rotating Chairs of TWGs

9. The meeting discussed the ways of rotating chairs of TWGs. Co-chairing like air TWG, co-chairs by developed and less developed countries, rotation by alphabetical order on voluntary basis, and a chair with a vice chair were discussed.
10. The meeting agreed to have a vice chair to support the chair for a term of three years, corresponding to the term of TWG, and serve as the next chair for the following term. The rotation of chairmanship, and selection of a vice chair will be based on the voluntary nomination within each TWG, where the contributions of different members can be easily assessed.
11. It was agreed to remove the issue of rotation of TWG chairs from the Task Force's terms of reference.

Renewal of TWG membership

12. The meeting discussed the renewal of TWG membership. The meeting had strong consensus on the necessity of replacing some inactive members with new members. It was agreed to have regular membership renewal by reconfirming interests and activities of TWG members every three years.

Closure of the meeting

13. There being no further items to discuss, the Chairman thanks the participants for their participation and closed the meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

16 July 2010, Jeju, Republic of Korea

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