



MEETING FOR REFORMING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MEETING REPORT

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Department of Health Philippines*

Convened by:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Secretariat:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC (WPRO), REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
SOUTH-EAST ASIA (SEARO); AND UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME (UN Environment) ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OFFICE

Manila, Philippines
13-14 June 2018

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMR	Anti-Microbial Resistance
APREHIS	Asia-Pacific Regional Environmental Health Information System
APRFHE	Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment
BIHC	Bureau of International Health Cooperation
CCC	Climate Change Commission
CAI	Clean Air Asia
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOH	Department of Health
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DPCB	Disease Prevention and Control Bureau
EH	Environmental Health
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDSO	Geographically-Dispersed Specialized Area
HCWH	Health Care Without Harm
HEMB	Health Emergency Management Bureau
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HLOM	High-Level Officials Meeting
IACEH	Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health
ITDI	Industrial Technology Development Institute
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOH	Ministry of Health
MS	Member-States
NEHAP	National Environmental Health Action Plan
RCCEH	Regional Centre for Climate, Environment and Health
RF	Regional Forum
SDG/s	Sustainable Development Goal/s
SEARO	South-East Asia Regional Office
ToR	Terms of reference
TWG/s	Thematic Working Group/s
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	Western Pacific Regional Office

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Technical Working Group Meeting

The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was held in the Philippines on 06–08 October 2016 that brought together the ministers and key officials from the ministries of health and ministries of environment from 35 countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), Southeast Asian Regional Office (SEARO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) Asia and the Pacific Office. It was the fourth ministerial meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian countries that is currently chaired by the Government of the Philippines. The purpose of the Regional Forum is to serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences, and discussion on how to implement integrated environmental health strategies through inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaboration at the country and regional levels.

One of the major outcomes of the Regional Forum was the establishment of a Task Force to review and make recommendations on the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum and discuss the operationalization of the Implementation Plan 2017–2019 to address health and environment issues in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 13–15 September 2017, the Task Force Meeting to update the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum was convened in Manila and attended by representatives from eight of the 10 volunteer countries as well as chairs of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the Regional Forum, local observers and representatives from the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). One of the agenda and subjects of discussions was the TWGs of the Regional Forum in which a lengthy discussion transpired. The meeting underscored the status and sustainability of the TWGs, as well its relevance to the Regional Forum and countries and several recommendations were put forward.

Specifically, the Task Force recommended that the TWGs should be duly governed by the Regional Forum. In terms of membership, it was recommended that the terms of TWG members should be synchronized with the Chairship while the process of accepting members is subject to due diligence work of the Regional Secretariat to avoid conflicts of interests. It was also agreed that the Regional Secretariat will take the lead in facilitating the preparation of the terms of reference (ToR) for the TWGs including the decision on whether the existing TWGs will be merged, rearranged or expanded.

Given the limited time of the Task Force Meeting, several issues were left unresolved that requires urgent revisiting and necessitate further discussions and review to come up with recommendations on the TWGs for subsequent action by the Regional Forum. In this regard and as a follow through to the Task Force Meeting, the Philippines as Chair of the Regional Forum, jointly with the Regional Secretariat, organized a meeting to align the functions of the TWGs towards the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the Manila Declaration on Health and Environment and the Regional Implementation Plan.

On 13-14 June 2018, the Meeting for Reforming the Functions of the Thematic Working Groups in Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals was held in Manila. A total of 5 out of 7 TWGs were represented during the meeting, namely, *Air Quality TWG* (Chair, Korea/Co-Chair, Thailand); *Health Impact Assessment TWG* (Chair, Thailand); *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene TWG* (Chair, Philippines); and *Contingency Planning, Preparedness and Response in Environmental Health Emergencies* (Chair, Philippines). Aside from TWGs, participants also include a country representative (Ministry of Health, Indonesia), local observers, resource speakers, members of the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH) and representatives from the

Philippine Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), bringing the total number of participants to 53.

The list of participants is attached in [Annex 1](#).

1.2 Objectives of the Meeting

The Meeting for Reforming the Functions of the Thematic Working Groups in Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, thereafter referred as “the TWG Meeting”, was convened to discuss the remaining issues and points for discussion of the TWGs and come up with concrete recommendations on how the TWG will function in adherence to the Manila Declaration and SDG requirements, for subsequent approval by the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) in 2019.

Specifically, it aimed to:

1. Discuss the technical aspects or requirements for implementing the Regional Implementation Plan (2017-2019) anchored to the Manila Declaration and relevant SDG targets; and
2. Discuss the terms of reference (TOR) of the TWGs, including the governance mechanism, functions, funding for activities, and arrangements to align with the Manila Declaration and SDG works.

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1 DAY 1 – OPENING SESSION

Remarks from the Regional Forum Chair, Government of the Philippines

Remarks from the Department of Health of the Philippines

Dr. Herminigildo V. Valle, Undersecretary of Health, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Regional Forum Chair, Secretary of Health, Dr. Francisco T. Duque III. He said that the TWG Meeting was organized jointly with the Regional Secretariat to discuss the unresolved issues from the Task Force Meeting in September 2017 and to come up with concrete recommendations on how the TWGs will function based on the requirements and recommendations of the recent Ministerial Meeting as contained in the Manila Declaration on Health and Environment and the Regional Implementation Plan (2017-2019). He explained that as Chair, the Philippines is inclined in keeping the actions of the Regional Forum as coherent and consistent with global commitments, hence, it is envisioned to align the functions of the TWGs towards the achievement of relevant Goals SDGs at the regional and national levels. He likewise cited the country as an example of becoming more vigilant and conscious in addressing its health and environmental challenges, amid recent reports of worsening pollution-related deaths both in the country and the Asia-Pacific region. In fact, DOH data showed that half of the top 10 leading causes of morbidity or the total reported illnesses (FHSIS, 2016) and 3 out of the 10 leading causes of mortality (PHS, 2013) can be attributed or related to air pollution. Equally alarming also is that acute watery diarrhea has affected almost 140,000 Filipinos in 2016. He hoped that convening the meeting would be another worth-wile opportunity for countries and stakeholders in the region to find the best possible solutions and innovations to address environmental health issues in the long-term, including those pertaining to transboundary and emerging health and environment issues and ultimately keep our citizens safe from the impacts of environmental health

risks. Finally, he expressed optimism that the two-day meeting would be able to significantly discuss the technical aspects and requirements for implementing the Regional Implementation Plan anchored to the Manila Declaration and relevant SDG targets and discuss and come up with the terms of reference (TOR) of the TWGs that are aligned with the Manila Declaration and SDGs.

Remarks from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines

Engr. Vizminda Osorio, Assistant Director of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, representing Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones, welcomed the participants on behalf of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and also delivered the message of the Secretary. He emphasized that the Philippine government fully supports activities and opportunities like this to strengthen ties and bolster efforts towards ensuring a health and safe environment for all and ensure the effective implementation of plans and programs of the Regional Forum. He stressed that the quest for sustainable development has never been more engaging with the integrated collaboration among Member-States in the management of environment to strengthen collaboration on climate change resilience, health issues arising from the impacts of environmental degradation, safe water and sanitation and proper management of chemicals. The Secretary mentioned that the Philippine government as Chair of the Regional Forum has gained headways in the implementation of the Regional Forum activities such as the updating of the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) and the setting of national SDG targets and indicators related to environmental health, including a sound monitoring and evaluation system, through the DOH and DENR and the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health. These pilot initiatives, he said, may serve as models for other countries in the region in developing their respecting SDG targets and indicators. He also cited the local initiative of the Philippines in developing the 20 grassroots project models that highlights the interface of health and environment. He hoped that the two-day meeting will address issues in reforming the functions of the TWGs, with the end-goal of improving the governance mechanisms and integrate efforts among countries to achieve better environments and better health across all the goals of the 2030 SDGs. Finally, he is positive that by exchanging ideas and identifying synergies, cooperation and in the regional can be further strengthened in pursuit of concrete and meaningful ways to maintain a clean environment, promote healthier lifestyle choices, and ensure a liveable planet.

Session 1: Overview of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment

The meeting was officially called to order by Dr. Myrna C. Cabotaje, Director of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), DOH Philippines, as presiding officer, jointly with Assistant Director Vizminda Osorio of the Environmental Management Bureau, DENR Philippines. Following the Meeting Chair's opening remarks, representatives from TWGs and participants were introduced and acknowledged. The Chair then went on to provide the overall objectives and expected outputs of the meeting as well as the program flow of the two-day meeting.

To set the context of the Meeting and related sessions, three presentations were made containing the highlights and salient action points of previous events leading to this Meeting. The main points from the presentations were summarized as follows:

Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment and Task Force Meeting Recommendations

In this session, a presentation was given by Director Maylene Beltran of the Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC), DOH Philippines.

1. Director Beltran provided a brief background of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, which is a platform for countries to discuss health and environment issues altogether and the 4th Ministerial Regional Forum held on in October 2017 in Manila and attended by 35 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific. She mentioned that one of the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting was the creation of a task force to review the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum, including the title of the forum and expansion of membership.
2. The Task Force met on 13-15 September 2017 in Manila, attended by 8 out of the 10 volunteer countries, TWG Chairs, and local observers. Among key recommendations of the Task Force on the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum were:
 - a. Re-name the Forum to *Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment*
 - b. Revised Goal: *Create a platform for national and regional policy and action to enhance and safeguard health and environment towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*
 - c. Revised Objective: *Identify and promote to implement priority health and environment issues that require regional action*
 - d. On expansion of membership, the overall preference was for the inclusive process of membership, but letter of interests (or intent) both from prospective countries' Ministry in-charge of Health and Ministry in-charge of Environment are still needed. It was also recommended to discuss the expansion at governing bodies of the Secretariat, i.e. WHO Regional Committees and UN Environment Assembly, to encourage membership.
 - e. On the frequency of meetings, the next High-Level Officials Meeting is scheduled in 2019 while the next Ministerial Meeting is set in 2020, which will follow a 5 year interval thereafter to synchronize with the newly proposed Regional Forum Chairship term.
 - f. On the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair, it was agreed to establish a roster of countries willing to Chair or Vice Chair. Once selected, the Chair will host the Ministerial Meeting and the HLOM linked to the Ministerial Meeting. The Chair may also ask other countries from the roster to host meetings. It was also clarified that the Vice-Chair cannot automatically ascend the Chairship.
 - g. For the Scientific Panel, there was a consensus that the Regional Forum should be based on best scientific evidence and that the purpose of the Scientific Panel is to advise the Secretariat. A roster of advisers from Members-States may be tapped or pooled to convene and comprise this panel.
3. Specific to the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), the following were the key recommendations of the Task Force:
 - a. The Regional Forum should govern the TWGs instead of being a loose grouping.
 - b. The TWG Chair will now have a 5-years fixed term
 - c. Ensure that the TWGs are aligned with the Regional Forum priorities based on the Manila Declaration and the Regional Implementation Plan, and there must be

intersection or interface between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment interests

- d. As part of TWG revision/reforming, it was agreed that there will *merging, rearrangement* or *expansion* of TWGs. It was also proposed to consider conducting regular review of the Regional Forum in between chairmanship and to consider development of projects or programs that countries or TWGs can implement.
 - e. On membership to the TWG, it was agreed that the TWG Chairs will accept membership subject to due diligence work of the Secretariat.
4. Director Beltran also presented the five regional project concepts developed during the resource generation workshop as part of the Task Force Meeting, namely:
- a. Capacity building for Conducting Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Air Quality (Air Quality)
 - b. Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in Asia-Pacific Region (Climate Change)
 - c. Better WASH for Better Life (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
 - d. Sound Management of Hazardous Waste from Healthcare (Hazardous Chemicals and Pollutants)
 - e. Ensuring Healthy Food, Water, Air and Settings for Sustainable Cities in Asia-Pacific (Sustainable Cities)

Overview of the Manila Declaration on Health and Environment and Regional Implementation Plan

Dr. Rokho Kim, Coordinator, Health and Environment, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO) presented an overview of the Regional Forum's key outcomes, namely, the Manila Declaration and the Regional Implementation Plan. The main points of the presentation were as follows:

1. Dr Kim recalled that during the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment hosted by the Philippines in 2016, the Ministerial Meeting has adopted the following salient outcomes:
 - Endorsement of the report of the Ninth High Level Officials Meeting
 - Expanded membership of the Forum
 - The establishment of the taskforce to review the Regional Forum and the Framework for Cooperation of the Regional Forum
 - Synthesis Report of Environmental Health Country Profiles
 - Endorsement of the Implementation Plan of the Regional Forum (2017–2019)
 - Endorsement of the Manila Declaration on Health and Environment
5. The Manila Declaration basically called upon “governments, the international development community, civil society organizations and other key players including the private sector to enhance the way we work to realize tangible progress on realistic and measurable targets in environment and health areas towards achieving SDGs and consistent with other agreements including WHO and UN Environment Programme recommendations and commitments.”
6. The SDG thematic areas in the Manila Declaration that are relevant to the work and priorities of the Regional Forum are: Combating climate change (SDG 13), Improving air quality and reducing deaths and illnesses from air pollution (SDG 15), Ensuring availability and

sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 5), Reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution (SDG 3.9), Reducing the adverse per capital environmental impact of cities (SDG 11.6), Protecting the health of the working population (SDG 8.8)

7. Emerging priorities relevant to SDGs in the Region were also identified: Transboundary air pollution, including short-lived climate pollutants (SDGs 3,11, 12), Illegal transboundary shipment and dumping of waste (SDGs 3, 11, 12), Destruction of coral reefs and marine pollutions (SDG 14), Anti-microbial resistance (SDGs 3 and 6), Promotion of environment and health impact assessment (SDG 3), and Enhancing access to the global Environmental Facility and Green Climate Fund (SDG 13)
8. Finally, Dr Kim shared that under the Regional Implementation Plan, the key activities expected under the Chairship of the Philippines are mainly on reviewing the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum and setting and implementing priority SDG targets both at the national and regional levels.

An open forum followed the two presentations, in which Dr. Montira Pongsiri, an independent expert who is affiliated to UN Environment, remarked that the Regional Forum is a great venue where countries are able to line-up the best available indicators that can be used for planning and putting in place a mechanism where science or results of evidence-based policy can be shared across the region. She added that this is the Forum's unique contribution to science and policy making and a model of how countries work together towards a desired action. Dr. Cabotaje, meanwhile, emphasized the importance of setting baselines and indicators saying that "we cannot measure, we cannot manage".

Technical Aspects and Deliverables of the Manila Declaration and Regional Implementation Plan

Engr. Bonifacio B. Magtibay, Technical Officer, WHO Philippines, presented the technical requirements and deliverables contained in the Manila Declaration and Regional Implementation Plan, which are pertinent in revisiting the roles and functions and revisions of existing TWGs. The key points of his presentation are as follows:

1. Engr. Magtibay culled out the technical aspects and requirements from the Manila Declaration which was summarized into a matrix showing the alignment of pertinent environmental health issues, SDGs and expected deliverables with the relevant TWGs concerned of its implementation;
2. For Climate Change (SDG 13), it is a prominent issue cited in the Manila Declaration, particularly on establishing climate-resilient public health systems. It is a very challenging to connect climate change with public health. The TWG on Climate Change is in-charge of this thematic area;
3. On Air Quality, WHO data showed that globally 7 million annually is dying from pollution. In the Philippines, there are 120,000 deaths and said that the magnitude of indoor air pollution problem (80,000) is heavier than the outdoor pollution (40,000) but these two issues should be addressed equally. Moreover, air pollution is a major issue in the Manila Declaration including transboundary haze citing the forest fires and haze issue from Indonesia. Part of the

cooperation is how to address this issue which is related to SDG 3, 11, 12 in pursuit of clean air for health under TWG Air Quality;

4. Under the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is an emerging concern considering that pharmaceutical wastes are being disposed in the environment but not treated, which makes some microbes and pathogenic bacteria resistant to antibiotics in wastewater and drinking-water. He also raised the issue of readiness of countries on AMR.
5. In the Philippines, this is not yet covered in the national standards on drinking-water and there is a need for testing and research on AMR related to WASH so technology/mitigating actions will be identified. He also expounded on the vision of the Manila Declaration for a sustainable WASH and integrated water resources management (IWRM) and how they will relate to land and air and use of water resources through an integrated approach (SDG 3, 6). The TWG for WASH is currently in-charge;
6. On the sound management of chemical wastes and hazardous wastes, there are two TWGs: Solid and hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals and hazardous substances (SDG 3, 12). He cited the wastes transported to the Philippines from Canada as an example for transboundary wastes saying that there should cooperation on dumping of wastes;
7. For Health Impact Assessment (HIA)/Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), this is related and cross-cutting to all SDGs and this tool provides information on economic valuation/impacts of health due to environmental pollution to support policy development. Currently, the Forum has a strong and active TWG HIA;
8. The Manila Declaration also outlined additional deliverables and themes that are not covered by the current TWGs:
 - a. Environmental impact of cities (SDG 11) to cover sustainable cities that can address all types of wastes and does not affect health of population. Will this be merged to existing TWGs.
 - b. Workers health (SDG 8) to protect health of workers and whether there are guidelines to do this and who will support this TWG.
 - c. Land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG 15) to attain sustainable forest management and maintain ecosystem service such as food, medicine, if lost, services. A new TWG may be needed.
 - d. Marine pollution and biodiversity loss (SDG 14) to conserve life under water and ensure good marine pollution control since plastic is still an issue. This may require strengthening implementation of the law and regional cooperation.
9. Engr Magtibay expounded on the work and possible support of the TWGs relevant to the requirements of the Manila Declaration and Regional Implementation Plan. Accordingly, he floated possible gaps in the present TWG composition and work relative to the deliverables expected from the two pertinent Regional Forum documents. These gaps can serve as basis for assessing and making the necessary corrective actions o adjustments of the TWGs, thereby making this Regional Forum mechanism s responsive, relevant and meaningful to member-states;

10. Specific to the TWG gaps, no particular TWGs is in-charge of the following thematic areas in current arrangement: Environmental impact of cities, Workers' health, Land degradation and biodiversity loss, and marine pollution; and
11. As a guidance to the subsequent sessions, the following issues and concerns to the body for further discussion:
 - What TWGs shall handle emerging environmental health issues (gaps), relevant SDGs, and expected deliverables? Integrate with existing TWGs or Create new TWGs?
 - What to do with dormant TWGs (no activities or meeting in the past years)? Dissolve or activate?
 - What specific support should be provided by each TWG to the deliverables of the Manila Declaration and Regional Implementation Plan; Detailed that generic TOR of TWGs

Plenary Discussion

The Chair invited comments to set some perspectives in the next session which is a plenary discussion on the Revisions of the TWGs. The following are the summary of comments and statements from the participants:

- Mr. Albert Magalang, DENR-EMB observed that the inter-connectedness of various thematic areas is apparent and should not be set aside. To ensure that the TWGs are not creating silos, there must be linkages and interactions between and among TWGs. In monitoring and evaluation, he stressed the need to set the indicators and baseline data, while for dormant and new TWGs, respectively, key stakeholders that may take the lead and new countries that may be involved should be identified.
- Ms. Rosemarie Del Rosario, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) supported the observation and suggested the need to revisit the goals and objectives of each TWG and delineate their baseline data to avoid overlapping of themes.
- Mr. Jose Hueb, WHO/WPRO Consultant aired possible concerns and challenge on how to stimulate other institutions and organization to form additional TWGs that would look at these emerging issues.
- Ms Gene Peralta, ADB Consultant recalled the history of the Regional Forum and was interested on how the TWGs were sustained throughout the years, including sources of funding. She also pointed out that good work plans and proposals on relevant topics or themes can entice donors like ADB to continue to support and sustain work of the TWGs. interesting topics and themes. Specifically, she mentioned of the Workers' Health as a possible priority theme for ADB's work on social safeguards and strengthening occupational safety/OSHS through HIA.
- Dr. Rokho Kim, WHO/WPRO related that there was no formal way of financing and it is one of the problems that the HLOM needs to address. He noted that the TWG Chairs and members are very creative to deliver their services and mobilize resources. He then cited the TWG Air Quality as a good case that consistently held annual meetings and produced good outputs and trainings, with support of the government like Korea and donors like ADB in supporting the TWG HIA. He also noted that other TWGs did not get that kind of support and were left out.

- Ms. Peralta supported the view and proposed that TWGs need to have clear and concrete steps to get funding for activities in the TWG work plans; otherwise, there is no point for countries to participate.
- Engr. Magtibay raised the need for TWGs to identify concrete outputs that donors are willing to fund instead of doing meetings. The challenge, he added, is to come up with critical outputs of TWGs that will benefit countries and donors to justify funding.
- Mr. Masato Motoki, UN Environment suggested to invite more stakeholders to support TWGs saying that each donor or organizations like UN Environment has specific mandates on which areas to support. Although not all can be supported, other areas or priorities maybe funded provided that they are aligned with their priorities and the TWGs have concrete plans.
- Mr. Admer Dablio, Department of Science and Technology - Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) also shared that the Forum can learn from other agencies like the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) where Member-States prepare project proposals on focused areas with a corresponding financing window.
- Director Maylene Beltran, DOH-BIHC stated that one of the key issues is financing activities for the Forum and a resource mobilization plan can be developed by the Chair but remarked that the challenge for Member-States is to make available country funding to support activities that were set. In the case of the Philippines, the government viewed this as commitment and concerned agencies are banking on that commitment to support activities such as these meetings as part of their regular work plans. She then challenged Regional Forum partners to consider committing funding for the activities.
- Engr. Magtibay, meanwhile, cited the Philippine DOH support to WHO in the development of 20 grassroots projects on environmental health. He added that the Manila Declaration mentioned about tapping the Green Climate Fund/Global Environment Facility (GCF/GEF) as potential funding sources where. He shared that WHO/WPRO is currently supporting project development hopefully with support from ADB and DENR, parts of project funds can be linked to TWG activities such as M&E components.
- Relatedly, Dr. Cabotaje pointed out that a sustaining mechanism is for countries to provide support and or do their own parallel activities like the grassroots project.
- Dr. Kim related that there might be some solution to the funding problem with Member-States supporting a center for environmental health that will solve chronic issue of lack of funding and regular meetings of TWGs and with full time technical officers
- Dr. Montira Pongsiri stated that when it comes to funding, donors are eager to hear what the intended outcomes are. She explained that this is an opportunity to define criteria for project development on how research and policy can work together. By linking evidence to policy use and capacity building, you can tie science to policy practice to come up with data sets that can be monitored to track progress.
- Dr. Cabotaje then wrapped-up the discussions and moved to proceed to the next session. She also acknowledged the Government of Thailand for their continued support in sourcing for funds and sustaining the TWGs, proof of which is their strong attendance in the meeting.

Session 2: Discussion on the Reforms of the Thematic Working Groups

Updating of Thematic Working Group Activities

In this session, the current and active TWGs, namely, TWG Air Quality, TWG Health Impact Assessment, and TWG Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, through their respective Chairs, presented their past and present initiatives and plan of work. The highlights of the presentations were summarized below:

TWG Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1. Ms Panita Charoensuk, representing the TWG Chair from the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, presented the activities of the TWG. The TWG HIA is comprised of the following member-countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.
2. The TWG HIA was first chaired by the Republic of Korea from 2010 to 2013, during which a workplan was developed and active member for each activity was identified. In 2014, Thailand assumed the Chairship, and a new workplan was developed with key activities and outputs such as capacity building need assessment, HIA resource materials and Regional short-course training for member countries were undertaken with support of Secretariat, development partners and academic institutions.
3. A TWG-HIA meeting was held on 15-16 September 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. She apprised the body that the TWG is facilitating a HIA demonstration project on transboundary, including the HIA monitoring framework for coal-fired power plant (Sayabouri, Lao PDR; Nan, Thailand) and the development of HIA guideline on energy sector led by Lao PDR Ministry of Health and Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the HIA guidelines for economic zones and energy sector.
4. Thailand hosted another meeting on 1 December 2017 with support from UN Environment and attended by 5 member-countries, during which the TWG-HIA work plan (2017-2019) was revised and there was exchange of experience on HIA development and application among member countries.
5. An open forum transpired after the presentation. The discussions were summarized as follows:
 - Ms Gene Peralta of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) reiterated that ADB is working with this TWG and Thailand in areas of capacity building, integrating HIA in universities, and developing HIA guidelines and informed the body that the regional framework for special economic zones has been uploaded in the ADB/Asia-Pacific Regional HIA Network website and is already accessible. She hoped that in the future, outputs and knowledge products from TWGs and countries can be uploaded in the platform which can be accessed by the public.
 - Dr. Yun-Chul Hong, TWG Air Quality, pointed out that there is a sort of cross linking among TWGs, particular between air pollution and HIA, and therefore collaboration between TWGs have to established in the future. Mr. Masato Motoki, UN Environment, meanwhile, mentioned that these linkages also cover cross-border concerns in terms of impacts.
 - Dr. Maridith Afuang, DOH-Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB), clarified on the status of HIA in the Philippines being subsumed under the EIA

system and informed the group that there is now ongoing work on HIA led by the DOH related to urban health systems development.

- Ms. Peralta reiterated that climate change as a greater overarching issue should be in every TWG and should not be a separate TWG, to which Engr. Maria Sonabel Anarna of DOH related that in the updating of the NEHAP of the Philippines, climate change and HIA were not considered as stand along sectors since they cut across all sectors. Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios of DOH mentioned that emergency is also a cross-cutting concern.
- Dr Cabotaje raised that if climate change is incorporated in all TWGs, it might get lost in the process. Mr Magalang, meanwhile, asked if a dedicated TWG to address cross-cutting issues as sub-theme to emphasize climate change and HIA.
- Engr. Magtibay then raised the question on who will lead if no TWG will be made to focus on these specific concerns and to develop guidelines on how to embed these in every group.
- Finally, Dr Hong supported the observation and remarked that a TWG on cross-cutting issues may be in order.

TWG Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

1. Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios, representing the TWG Chair from the Philippines presented the status updates of the activities of the WASH TWG. He initially acknowledged the member-countries of the TWGs, namely: Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. He related the TWG goals which are: 1) Serve as an effective platform to facilitate national and regional actions towards achieving the SDG 6 WSH targets and 2) Ensure resilient quality of WSH services that can adapt to climate change impacts and reduce vulnerability to disasters.
2. He shared that the bulk of the TWG activities are regular meeting, which are held annually and consistently from 2009 through 2013 and a recent one in 2015. Key outputs of the TWG include a policy brief on the functions of health authorities on water, sanitation and hygiene (2009) and a regional situation analysis on sanitation and hygiene for the East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN 2 and EASAN 3). He also recalled that the TWG has developed at least three action plans for the following periods: 2006-2009, 2010-2013 and 2016-2018.
3. An open forum followed the presentation, in which the discussions were summarized as follows:
 - Mr. Jose Hueb recognized the group's commitment to WASH issues, but cautioned on the huge challenge that it may face in light of the new SDGs saying that baselines and targets were affected due to the new definition on WASH, which is universal coverage with safely managed WASH services. For example, for the Western Pacific, 95% of population has access of basic water, but in the new definitions and calculation which is safely managed water services, it is down to 50%. Given this situation, he pressed on discussing this and pursuing the work as the challenge is enormous.

- Engr. Riego Dios also shared that for the Philippines, a recent survey by the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that only about 25% (Unofficial data) from 98% have access to safely managed water and therefore pose a bigger challenge for attaining the country targets.
- Mr Motoki mentioned that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is also keen in AMR in monitoring of animal sector related to water and the environment aspect of AMR and encouraged for regional planning to support AMR and maintain good connection for TWG for future cooperation. For the Philippines, Engr, Riego de Dios said that DOH is working with WHO on monitoring treated wastewater. Dr. Kim also noted that AMR is one of the top priorities of the new Director General.
- Mr Magalang acknowledged the initiative to integrate climate change in the WASH sector, particularly on building resilience of facilities. He stressed however that in terms of mitigation, it also important to look at the carbon footprint/emissions from septage, wastewater treatment, and health care facilities.
- Engr. Magtibay reminded the group that SDG 6 does not only pertain to drinking water but it also involves water resources or the IWRM and whether this is included under WASH or other TWGs.

Thematic Working Group - Air Quality

1. Dr. Yun-Chul Hong, Seoul National University who is the Chair of the TWG Air Quality, explained that, in 2006, countries discussed about creating a TWG on air pollution. The TWG on Air Quality, as later named, gathers representatives of member countries who are responsible for air quality and/or health issues of their own countries gather together to discuss ways to reduce health burden imposed by deteriorating air quality; strengthen the cooperation at the national and regional levels; and to strengthen capacity building of researches and scientists focusing on air quality and health effects.
2. He also underscored that the TWG has already completed two workplan cycles, from 2010-2012, respectively in which, a research article and a policy brief were published. In 2016, a TWG meeting was conducted in Seoul to bring together newly selected TWG-AQ members and relevant international partners to share information about their work on air pollution and health. Specifically, they developed the Terms of Reference and Agenda of the TWG-AQ Agenda; discussed and drafted the Workplan of TWG-AQ, and reviewed air quality part of the latest draft Environmental Health Country Profile.
3. In 2017, a meeting took place in Sydney where the results of the TWG-AQ's health impact assessment study was shared. During the same meeting, they also discussed specific actions to improve capacity to conduct future health impact assessment study in Asia-Pacific region; exchanged information regarding current AQI systems of Asia-Pacific countries; and drafted a policy brief to support policy makers of Asia-Pacific region regarding air quality management through improved understanding of health impacts of air pollution.
4. Another TWG meeting was hosted in Bangkok to select key indicators of air quality to address and monitor air pollution in the region; address the membership issue for 'Future TWG-AQ activities'; focus more attention on transboundary health impacts of air pollution

since air pollution does not stop at national borders; and share update of country profile of Asia-Pacific countries;

Plenary Discussion on the Recommendations on the Revision of the Thematic Working Groups

Dr. Rokho Kim of WHO/WPRO facilitated this session in which he provided with a brief summary of the initial inputs from the previous session to start the plenary discussion. This session, he stressed, is not about deciding anything yet since the TWG is not delegated and authorized by governments, but recommendations that will be generated will be discussed in the HLOM for subsequent approval in during the Ministerial Conference in 2020.

The main points from the discussions and consensus are summarized as follows:

- Dr Hong expressed sadness on the state of some TWGs, particularly the Climate Change, since it is very important and overarching issue, not to mention that climate change and air quality has many linkages. In the meantime, that Climate Change TWG is not yet active, and he suggested that capacity on climate change be conducted in other TWGs.
- Dr Kim reiterated the suggestion of Dr Hong that all TWGs will handle climate change until a future TWG will become functional. He then asked the Secretariat to update on the status and feedback of TWG Chair from Indonesia.
- Mr Magalang stated that as stakeholders of climate change, they would like to be engaged but the entry point is not yet clear with the current setup of the Regional Forum. He said that a dedicated body that focus on developing guidelines related to climate change are present at the global level but it is not clear on how CCC, EMB and other stakeholders will be engaged since these are important initiatives linking health to climate change and working on guidelines to generate data from WASH, air quality and other sectors.
- To address cross-cutting issues, Ms Consolacion Crisostomo, DENR-EMB suggested that existing TWGs may integrate in their groups those issues/cross cutting issues and decide on what priority issues to be addressed for efficiency of time and resources.
- Mr Magalang added that specific to climate change, it might be limiting if the focus is only on health systems resilience and there might be a need to expand the coverage of resilience.
- Ms Peralta reiterated the need for sector-specific guidelines on how to conduct HIA across sectors (e.g. Air Quality, WASH) in case there are projects that are useful to us and to countries. TWGs can also have harmonized system on how to collect data, whenever EIA and HIA are conducted to use data and sectors to be more efficient without going through data collections from countries, since they already supported by the Forum and TWGs. She also stressed that prominence may be necessary for climate change initiative since there are lots of funding with anything for climate change.
- Mr Raphael Lopez, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) raised that issues in sustainable cities may be associated mainly on infra so it would be to misleading to name sustainable and healthy cities since it will look into a lot of issues not just waste. He proposed to reconsider naming it to something closer to wastes.
- Mr Motoki remarked that from the UN Environment side, it is proper to move forward and seek opportunity of any other TWG to meet goals of Manila Declaration. Instead of dwelling on past Chairs, new and enthusiastic partners may be invited to work on these TWGs.
- Dr Kim supported this forward-looking view. He also summed up some of the proposals floated and issues raised saying that most agree on rearranging the TWGs based on the Task

Force recommendations; some topics are overarching like the climate change; and to let TWGs evolve rather than interfere in that process.

- Finally, the Chair proposed if the Forum Secretariat can facilitate the interlinking of inter-connected TWGs while the revisions and enhancement of TWGs are being worked out.

Session 3: Discussion and Workshop on the Roles and Functions of TWGs

Engr. Maria Sonabel Anarna, DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB) presented the proposed Roles and Functions of the TWGs in the proposed revised Terms of Reference. The roles and functions are divided into these topics: Technical Support and Knowledge Management; Programme Support and Progress Reporting; Coordination and Advocacy; and Resource Mobilization. The draft Terms of Reference can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Workshop 1: General Roles and Functions of Thematic Working Groups

Mr Masato Motoki, UN Environment, facilitated this session and started with a presentation of the Workshop Mechanics, including the groupings. The groups were divided into 4 groups and presentation per group was conducted after the workshop. Each group was asked to select a group Chair, Rapporteur and Presenter. A copy of the grouping is in [Annex 3](#).

Following the workshops, each group presented their proposed revisions on the TOR. The following is the summary of the discussions during the open forum:

- Mr. Magalang stressed that the formulation of technical project proposals entail coordination with other TWGs, particularly Resource Mobilization and Knowledge Management saying that the Knowledge Management function can initiate or assist in the development of these proposals which can be endorsed to the Resource Mobilization group for funding.
- Ms Mendoza suggested moving the function to *promote the integration of priority thematic actions into the national environmental health action plans or equivalent plans* to the Technical Support function.
- Engr Magtibay clarified if funding from private sector were considered in the function. The Resource Mobilization group confirmed that it falls under *c) including organizations and institutions from government and non-government, including the private sector*.
- Engr. Riego de Dios proposed to use agreement instead of recommendations in *advocate actions based on the recommendations of the Regional Forum* based on recommendations of TWGs to advocate to other partners.
- On the frequency of the work plan, Mr Motoki mentioned to make it a 4-5 year plan to coincide with the Regional Forum timeline. Dr. Kim on the hand proposed that rather than fixing the intervals maybe make it regular reporting depending on the request of the Secretariat.
- On the M&E part, Engr. Magtibay suggested to reword and emphasize updating of baseline.
- Dr Cabotaje thanked and congratulated everyone for their inputs. We have unresolved issues regarding the final discussion on the inclusion of overarching issues like CC; two proposals, for the Secretariat to write the agreements and comment tomorrow during recap and address it; we can write your proposals and you better react to it.

The workshop outputs and recommendations on the revised Roles and Functions of TWGs are attached as [Annex 4](#).

Closing and Welcome Reception

Dr. Cabotaje provided a brief summary of the discussions before adjourning the meeting until the next day. The DENR later hosted a Welcome Reception led by Assistant Director Vizmindia Osorio, Environmental Management Bureau.

2.2 DAY 2 – CLOSING SESSION

Recapitulation

Dr. Myrna C. Cabotaje formally opened the last session day of the TWG meeting and requested the Philippine Secretariat to provide a brief recap of the previous discussions and agreements. Mr. Eduardo A. Genciagan Jr., WHO/Philippines presented a recap of Day 1 discussions and agreements.

Discussion on the Agreements for the Revision of TWGs

The Chair then explained the next session, which is a continuation of the previous discussion to firm-up the recommendation of the body on the revisions of the TWGs. The summary of the agreements and further discussions were the following:

1. Thematic Working Group on Climate Change

- Dr. Cabotaje related that there is a political consideration given that there were changes in the climate change authority in Indonesia and there is now a new director. Accordingly, she noted that Chairship of the TWGs of the Forum is by country and not by person, hence, the new director should takeover since Chairship still belongs to Indonesia.
- She then proposed and was agreed by the body to explore the possibility of linking with the new director from the Indonesia side, care of the Secretariat, in the next three months to discuss the revival of the TWG, taking into consideration the willingness the Philippines to co-Chair or assist the TWG. She also requested the Secretariat to make available the member-countries of the TWGs.
- Finally, she stressed that this way enables the TWG to continue to evolve without the Secretariat interfering or deciding for the TWG and its membership. She also moved for the other TWGs to proceed with their plans and activities while the TWG Climate Change TWG is still being worked out.
- Dr Maridith Afuang, DOH Philippines meanwhile clarified on whether the suggestion to merge health emergencies to Climate Change is still on, to which, it was agreed that health emergencies can be integrated under the re-titled Climate Change and

Health TWG and to focus on health systems resilience, that includes health emergencies.

2. New Thematic Working Groups

- Dr. Cabotaje stressed that as far as the proposed new TWGs, we need not wait for 2019 HLOM to mobilize or establish these TWGs since nothing can be done. She then proposed for the Secretariat to work and explore on who are interested to become chairs and members.
- Engr. Magtibay supported the Chair's view and suggested if the Secretariat can initially take over first the TWGs and initiate activities supportive of the Manila Declaration while preparatory works are being carried out and by 2019, the TWGs can be formalized. Mr. Magalang, meanwhile agreed, and suggested that these TWGs can operate with an Ad hoc type of capacity while waiting for while waiting for HLOM approval.
- Dr. Yun-Chul Hong (TWG Air Quality/Korea) mentioned that prior to preparatory works, there has be to some form of communication from the Secretariat with concerned Focal Points from each countries, both MOE/MOH to survey if they want to join the new TWGs, then each country will have one membership.
- Dr. Kim (WHO/WPRO) again underlined that the Ministerial Forum is the decisive factor and it is a political process, while the TWGs is more technical and might need some flexibility. In the meantime, he raised that the TWGs can use a different name like task force or working group for certain pending official HLOM approval.
- Mr. Jose Hueb added that the new working groups require promotion from Secretariat to attract countries to joint. An important document to prepare is the concept noted to farm out to member-states explaining what the groups and benefits and encourage countries to join.
- Mr. Motoki supported the proposed step to meet the goals of the Manila Declaration but noted that for the merging of Chemicals and Solid, further consultation maybe needed. He also requested the representative of the Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substance TWG to express their position.

3. Toxic Chemical and Hazardous Substances

- Ms. Natchanok Buaphiban, Ministry of Public Health Thailand (Chair, TWG Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances) noted that chemical safety is interrelated with worker's health and proposed to merge them with the new TWG Worker's Health and rename to *Chemical and Waste Management and Occupational Safety* instead of integrating them to Sustainable Cities. She added that Sustainable Cities TWG can be stand alone.
- Ms Emmanuelita Mendoza, DENR-EMB pointed out that Chemicals TWG has been there from start and the Forum should be careful in changing these TWGs for consistency.
- Dr Pongsiri supported the development of concept note to make a case for the benefits of other joining the Forum being a unique enabling platform from research to policy. From an academic viewpoint, she mentioned that it is critical to outline the coordinating support from the Secretariat and sharing arrangements of reports and

guidelines. She added the need to emphasize in the regional platform that it enables science to policy attentions and share activities to raise the profile of what the Regional Forum and TWGs are doing; reaching out to different stakeholders, for science community.

- Ms. Rosemarie Del Rosario, DPWH stressed that Sustainable Cities is supposedly the outcome of what these TWGs are working on adding that sustainable cities involve urban planning, renewable energy, and clean transport which are not addressed by other TWGs. She then proposed that climate change is more fitting for Sustainable Cities.
 - Dr. Cabotaje then stated that further discussion on the integration of Chemicals TWGs to Sustainable Cities may be needed.
4. Director Beltran clarified on the final agreements or final actions based on the discussions and summarized the proposed agreements as follows:
 - There will be 3 TWGs retained: Air Quality, HIA and WASH (include AMR, agriculture waste)
 - Climate Change TWG - Write current chair Indonesia and propose PHL; CC to include EH emergency;
 - Create new TWGs: Workers Health & Ecosystem & Health - prepare Concept note, preparatory work and call in another name c/o Secretariat
 - Sustainable Cities - impasse, further discuss to those that will be involved
 - For Chemicals –continue as *Chemical Waste and Hazardous Waste TWG*
 5. Dr. Kessinee Unapumnuk, Pollution Control Department, Thailand manifested that changing or revising TWG names may entail consulting again with their government and would go through another process of approval saying that revising *Air Quality* to *Air Quality and Health* for example, the lead agency might not be the Pollution Control Department anymore but the Department of Health. She then asked to consider the complication and political implications in the revisions.
 6. Engr. Magtibay also raised if Solid Waste and Chemicals TWG will be merged. On membership, he clarified if there is only one (1) TWG member per country coming from either MoE or MoH. Dr. Cabotaje recalled that there is usually only 1 member per country.
 7. Ms Buaphiban (Thailand) said that they are confused on the proposed revisions. Citing the suggestions to rename Toxic Chemical to Chemicals and Health and incorporate it to Sustainable Cities, she mentioned that agriculture waste or hazardous wastes from industries are also chemicals.
 8. Mr Motoki meanwhile raised to also look at cross border issues and inter-linkages of TWGs, and not just on the name since this might create barriers.
 9. Dr. Kim suggested that this can be discussed further in Workshop 2, particularly on membership.

Session 4: Regional Environmental Health Information System and SDG Targets

This session covers regional-level actions and initiatives under the implementation of the Regional Forum deliverables relevant to the SDGs. Dr. Rokho Kim, WHO/WPRO, Mr Jose Hueb, WHO/WPRO and Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay, WHO/PHL provided updates and presentation on the Asia-Pacific Regional Environment and Health Information System (APREHIS), SDG 6 – WASH, and Philippine Experience on Setting Environmental Health-related SDG Targets and Indicators.

- **Asia-Pacific Regional Environment and Health Information System (APREHIS)**

1. Dr. Rokho Kim provided a presentation on the proposed regional environment and health information system that would be known as APREHIS, which is envisioned to be a web-based, secure information system that exists at the local, state, national and regional level; consisting of distributed information systems and a network of TWGs and WHO collaborating centres; and use and re-use of existing data for reporting and communicating at the HLOMs and Ministerial Conferences.
2. He underscored the direction of the WHO Headquarters under its 13th General Program of Work (2019-2023) and Triple Billion Goals which putting countries at the center of the agency's work and ensuring meaningful impacts. He then shared the GPW's approach and implications to the Regional Forum, which he said may involve the TWG members in the country planning process and the outputs of which can be included in the TWG plans of action. He added that country outputs will define the scope of the WHO's support to country priorities.
3. Specific to the EH information system, he explained that there is a need for MS to improve national capacities for EH risk assessment, management and communication. Relevant to the Regional Forum, a regional EHIS (APREHIS) is essential for M&E of regional implementation plan. WPRO has engaged a consultant to conduct a scoping work to identify essential, priority and optional EH indicators under this proposed system.
4. He then cited a similar and established system in Europe, the European Environment and Health Information System (ENHIS) which can serve as reference for the region. The scope and main references of EH indicators for the proposed system was also shared. The result of scoping exercise has so far identified 103 EH indicators categorized into essential (24), Priority (51) and Optional (28).
5. For discussion purposes, he raised the following points were raised:
 - a. Can TWGs support the development of APREHIS?
 - b. How can countries be interested and involved in APREHIS?
 - c. Shall we present a prototype APREHIs at HLOM in 2019?
 - d. Can APREHIS be endorsed by the Ministers in 2020?
 - e. Can we get funds for developing APREHIS in 2018-2019?
6. Following the presentation, a brief discussion transpired the summary of which can be found below:
 - Dr Hong noted that this is an important new milestone for the Regional Forum but stressed that indicators should reflect the situation in the country and not top

down approach. It should encourage countries to join the Regional Forum on EH, otherwise there is no mechanism to make indicators and it can be done thru TWGs. He related that in AQ, the TWG decided on 5 indicators – for reporting from members, in coordination with academe and organizations like Clean Air Asia. They started we start with small indicators and then gather indicators among TWGs, then to HLOM and Regional forum.

- Dr Pongsiri said that this is country contribution to the region and an opportunity to work with the scientific community saying that there are geo-collaborative projects with UNICEF or ADB where they are trying to link information systems or geo-referencing of EH data with health outcomes.
- Mr Hueb also cautioned to be careful of what comes out from the system saying that there might be other data out there, for instance the UN Statistics Division that look at SDGs. HE added to also be careful in dealing with info or measurements that are conflicting with other data and not replicate are already there. Coordination with other agencies is essential
- Mr Magalang said that the need for these information should be country-driven. He said that there are nationally-determined data that support climate change actions. He also observed that there are some issues in establishing info system for climate data saying that countries don't have activity data/meta data to satisfy the criteria, especially for countries that only starting to enhance their systems. Countries have to adjust or rearrange the process to be able to access data.
- Dr. Cabotaje related the discussion to the draft Terms of Reference and function of TWG which is to identify core national and regional EH indicators and targets. She said that this can be adopted in the 5 steps to define the criteria and to come up with measurable, feasible, and country driven indicators. Unless a team can do a study and generate this output.
- Dr Kim agreed with the suggestion but noted that there are many players in the academe but TWGs are formally delegated by MS to contribute to the Forum. TWGs may invite other people, but they are the starting point.
- Director Beltran then clarified whether the proposed APREHIS is within the context of Regional Forum, when it will be developed and how will it be institutionalized and who will maintain. She also mentioned to take note of the existing SDG indicators.
- Dr Kim stated that the proposal for the web-based information system will be used for reporting to HLOM and Ministerial Meetings to provide a system to monitor achievement or non-achievement of the Regional Forum targets. Given its necessity, details of its operationalization can be discussed by the TWGs and the EH Centre, including finding donors and mobilizing resources.

- **Sustainable Development Goals: Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

1. Mr Jose Hueb, WHO Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Consultant presented quick overview of the requirements and points for action in the WASH targets and indicators of the SDGs for the region, particularly, SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) targets which is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

2. For drinking-water, the new requirement is for the population to be using safely managed drinking water services, which basically means that the population is using an improved drinking-water source which is accessible, available when needed and free of faecal and priority chemical contamination. He also expounded on the classification of drinking-water technologies and the definitions of drinking-water access.
 3. On the sanitation, the target is for the proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services or using an improved sanitation facility, which is characterized with the facility is not shared with other households and having the excreta are safely disposed in situ or transported and treated off-site. He also emphasized that this target also covers access to hygiene which involves the availability of handwashing facility on site with or without soap and water and applies to several settings, WASH in health-care facilities and WASH in schools.
 4. Finally, for wastewater, it covers the proportion of wastewater safely treated, both for household/institutional and industrial (hazardous), and wastewater safely reused. Mr Hueb remarked that while this development is quite dramatic, it is the reality that countries must face in terms of water and sanitation services. Much can be done if priority is given to where priority should rest, and water he said is a priority.
- **Philippine Experience on Setting Environmental Health-related SDG Targets and Indicators**
 1. Engr. Bonifacio B. Magtibay, WHO/Philippines shared the Philippine experience on setting its environmental health-related SDG targets and indicators in line with the requirements of the Regional Implementation Plan. He stressed that as chair of the Forum, the DOH and DENR have initiated this effort to set a pilot case for the national-level SDG targets and indicators setting.
 2. He related the key activities conducted in the country led by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) relative to the SDG setting efforts over the course of three years from 2016 to 2018 which culminated in the SDG target setting workshop on environmental health-related targets in early 2018. He also mentioned the parallel work of the DOH and DENR in reviving the Interagency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH) and updating of the National Environmental Health Action Plan (2017-2022) to align with the SDGs.
 3. He also cited the collaboration of the DOH, WHO Philippines and PSA on the conduct of training and survey for SDG 6.1 and SDG 6.2, the results of which served as baseline for SDG 6 target setting.
 4. In March 2018, the workshop for environmental health-related SDG target setting, including the appropriate monitoring and evaluation system was organized in Tagaytay City and attended by at least 10 government and IACEH-member agencies, development partners, academe, NGOs and professional organizations. It was during this workshop that EH stakeholders levelled-off on the gaps as well as next steps for the existing NEHAP sectors relative to targets and requirements under the SDGs and Manila Declaration. The results he said showed that most of the targets in the NEHAP and

Manila Declaration are aligned however, gaps and limitations were noted in determining the national baselines for some of the sectors (Solid Waste, Food Safety, Planetary Health)

5. Finally, he also related the pending activities of the Philippines which include finalizing the NEHAP activities, baselines and M&E system; Updating the EH country profile; and launching of the updated NEHAP during the 2018 World Environmental Health day celebration.

Session 5: Governance Mechanisms of the TWGs

Engr. Maria Sonabel Anarna, DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), presented the proposed Roles and Functions of the TWGs in the proposed revised governance mechanism of the TWGs divided into the following topics:

1. Formation, Governance and Structure of TWGs
 - a. Membership and Chairship
 - b. Membership Procedures (Application and Withdrawal)
 - c. Approval for Membership
 - d. Number of Members
 - e. Length of Membership
 - f. Chairship of TWGs
2. TWG Meetings
 - a. Frequency and Conduct of Meetings
 - b. Attendance in Regional Forum Meetings and Other Activities
3. Resource Mobilization and Funding for Activities
 - a. Sources of Funding
 - b. Funding Restrictions

The draft Terms of Reference can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Workshop 3: Governance Mechanisms of the Reformed TWG

Dr Montira Pongsiri, UN Environment facilitated this session which started with a presentation of the Workshop Mechanics. Each group was again asked to select a group Chair, Rapporteur and Presenter. Following the workshops, each group presented their proposed revisions on the governance mechanisms of the reformed TWG.

The workshop outputs and recommendations the Governance Mechanisms of TWGs are summarized in [Annex 5](#).

Session 6: Planning of 2018-2019 Activities of Thematic Working Groups

In this session, the TWG Chairs presented their respective work plans and future activities line-up for the Regional Forum. The summary of the presentations and discussions are as follows:

TWG Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios, DOH-DPCB shared that the TWG WASH work plan from 2016-2018 mainly focused on the following expected results and corresponding activities:

- Availability of skills for the development of national inter-sectoral coordination strategies and frameworks, to report progress towards the SDG 6 WSH target indicators, including a shared vision on definitions, methodology for data management and approaches on data use for policy-making (2016-2018)
 - Organize regional and country-level workshops on how to achieve SDG targets on WSH, including establishment of baselines
 - Conduct training activities on Water Safety Plans, Sanitation Safety Plans, CLTS, hygiene promotion, sanitation marketing, WSH and Climate Change and management of WSH emergencies
- Promotion of knowledge exchange on successful approaches to secure drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene development (2016-2018)
 - Update and provide information in the TWG WSH portal on the Regional Forum website
 - Share best practices on WSH through TWG WSH meetings
- Availability of harmonized national WSH-related data information systems to be compatible with existing regional and global monitoring systems (2016)
 - Coordinate with the national WSH partners and the statistics offices to clarify indicators and survey methodologies
 - Participate in regional exchanges to harmonize definitions and approaches to data management.
- Advocacy for sustainable resource mobilization through implementing community empowerment, commitments at the national, regional, global levels, knowledge sharing, via linkages with existing WSH-related networks, international organizations and PPP 16-18
 - Conduct awareness campaigns and joint local initiatives facilitating community participation and enabling the allocation of resources from local/national government agencies, private sector and NGOs
 - Look into the feasibility of organizing the next East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN4)
- Addressing existing and emerging threats to global health such as water crisis, global warming, emergency preparedness and response, and the need for effective resilience capacity in all healthcare facilities, with WSH-related approaches
 - Promote the inclusion of new emerging threats into national drinking-water quality standards
 - Liaise with national emergency preparedness and response/climate change committees to identify and implement appropriate WSH interventions, promoting adaptation measures that benefit health
 - Addressing emergencies in national water quality surveillance programs

TWG Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Ms Panita Charoensuk of Department of Health, Thailand shared the TWG HIA for future activities that rely on availability of budget and rely mainly on support by ADB in developing HIA guidelines of special economic zones, both national guidelines (Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam) and regional guidelines. Related to this, a Bilateral Meeting on HIA Guidelines for SEZ Development and Cross-Border Health Surveillance in Lao PDR and Thailand is scheduled on 19-20 June 2018. This year, they are also preparing for a HIA Forum at the end of the year to be led by National Health Commission Office, Thailand to sharing knowledge and experience on HIA practice at all level.

TWG Air Quality

Dr. Hong, TWG AQ Chair presented the TWG AQ workplan for 2017-2019 highlighting their grand goal by the year 2030 and subsequent strategic actions which is geared towards the achievement of the SDG goals relevant to air quality:

- Enhance air quality monitoring capacity of member countries and support adaption of effective strategies to reduce air pollution levels
 - Assess national level monitoring and early warning system, for air pollution
 - Development of policy papers on common air quality index
- Strengthen national and international level cooperation to decrease air pollution levels;
 - Assess the current cooperation among member countries including related international organizations and partners to reduce air pollution
 - Inform existing national and international level cooperation on the health risk of air pollution
 - Develop policy briefs on health risk of air pollution exposure and suggest effective evidence-based policy briefs for the 5th MM RF in 2019
- Reduce morbidity and mortality due to air pollution exposure
 - Conduct of joint studies on health risk of air pollution
 - Develop guidelines for adaptation and response to air pollution
 - Build capacity for air pollution health risk assessment

Finally, he related the future direction of the activities of the TWG and a research consortium will dwell on the following key activities: Develop policy brief and guidelines; Enhance cooperation in country level; Conduct of air quality-related research and capacity building.

Before closing the session, Dr Cabotaje stated that the work plans of the TWGs will be shared to the participants.

Session 7: Current Developments

Proposed WHO/WPRO Environmental Health Centre

1. Dr Rokho Kim, WHO/WPRO presented a brief orientation on the proposed WHO/WPRO geographically-dispersed specialized office (GDSO) to be called The Western Pacific

Regional Centre for Climate, Environment and Health (CEH), which is a center dedicated for planetary and environmental health and will be based in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

2. The Centre was envisioned as a facility similar to the EU Centre in Bonn and supported by German government.
3. The WHO/WPRO Regional Director during RCM last year announced the bid for hosting the GDSO that covers key areas namely, environment and health, urban and health, and ageing and health. In December, WPRO sent letter to Member-States and two countries indicated their intent of hosting, one from China (Urban Health) and another from Republic of Korea (Environmental Health).
4. For the Environmental Health Centre in Seoul, the Korea government committed USD 2 million for the first year. Initially, the Centre is expected to be operationalized in 2019 and its structure will be comprised of a Director, Technical Advisory Group, Program Management and its specialized units on climate change, air pollution, energy and health and living environment (water, waste, chemicals, noise, etc).
5. In its expansion phase (2020-2021), additional units (communications, WASH and waste water) will be activated. Fund-raising by management is critical at this point to sustain growth of the Centre. It is expected that by 2023, the GDSO would be a fully-developed Centre.
6. Finally, relative to the Regional Forum, follow-up activities of the Forum maybe hosted by the Center.
7. A summary of the discussions were summarized as follows:
 - Dr. Hong pointed out that since the Regional Forum is composed of WHO/WPRO and WHO/SEARO, how the Centre will extend its work to cover the rest of Asia. He also proposed for a strategy to be in place to address this and to avoid potential issues.
 - Dr Kim said that having this Centre is both a challenge and opportunity but this will definitely contribute to the Regional Forum, although there are potential issues in terms of jurisdiction. Hence, there is a need to build supporting relationship with both SEARO and UNEP as part of the transition. He stressed the need to keep the Regional Forum and TWGs as main driver so it can generate benefits for countries. He also agreed for a long-term strategy on this such that if the Centre becomes successful, other Members-States may consider setting up a similar center in SEARO.
 - Dr. Cabotaje mentioned that this is a challenge for those that will be continuing the Regional Forum but the Centre is a welcome development. She noted that given the need for funding, TWGs may also be competing for projects.
 - Dr Kim replied that they are looking forward for governments to work or partner with TWGs and in the process support the work of TWGs.
 - Dr. Hong then clarified if the Center will provide financial support, to which Dr Kim responded that they can but the Center will have to find other resources. TWG should use centre to develop projects for Member-States and this is a mechanism for Members-States to plan and set the future direction.

Status of Preparation of High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) in 2019

1. Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay, WHO/PHL provided updates on the preparation of the next High-Level Officials Meeting on behalf of the Regional Forum Chair.
2. Initially, the plan of the Philippines is to provide funding support for the conduct for the HLOM to be conducted in 2018, but this was moved to 2019. The new schedule will be

between September and October 2019 to coincide with celebration of World Environmental Health Day on September 26 or the WHO Regional Committee Meeting in October.

3. The date will be discussed with the Secretariat but the venue will still be in Manila. Philippine DOH and DENR will discuss the sharing of resources or the hosting.
4. Concept Note will be prepared within the year and will be farmed to Members-States and stakeholders to allow early preparations for their budget, particularly for self-funded countries.
5. Target participants are about 100 from countries that attended the HLOM in 2016 and local participants. Additional funds for international participants will be discussed by the Secretariat.
6. Finally, considering the newly-established regional centre, plans for the HLOM may consider relevant initiatives of the GDSO.
7. Dr Kim then raised that there should be preparatory meeting similar to convening a task force meeting to consolidate the recommendations for action of the HLOM. This will allow time for the Secretariat and the Chair to have clear issues and agenda in the HLOM by June 2019.
8. He also expressed appreciation to the strong Chairship and commitment of the Philippine government in setting new standards for how country will perform and for the next Chair country to understand the full meaning of leading the Regional Forum.

Session 8: Concluding Session

Overall Synthesis

Mr. Eduardo A. Genciagan Jr., WHO/Philippines provided the overall synthesis of the two-day Meeting, highlighting the important discussions, key agreements/actions points, tasks, and next steps of the TWGs.

The following are the summary of the final agreements:

a. Revision of Thematic Working Groups

- Retain the four (4) existing Thematic Working Groups
 1. Air Quality TWG
 2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene TWG
 3. Health Impact Assessment TWG
 4. Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances TWG
 - Inquire with UNEP on status of Solid Waste and Hazardous Wastes; merger with Toxic Chemicals
- Revive the Climate Change Climate TWG
 - Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) to communicate and consult with Indonesia (on status of Chairship) within the next three (3) months
 - Note that the Philippine government is willing to Co-Chair the TWG
 - Indonesia participant promised to talk to the new Chair of the CC Office and give feedback immediately.
- Create new Thematic Working Groups

- Ecosystems and Health TWG – to cover biodiversity (SDG 14 and 15)
- Workers’ Health TWG – to cover occupational safety and health
- Sustainable and Healthy Cities – For further discussion; concerns on health indicators
- Regional Secretariat to:
 - Consolidate all recommendations
 - Facilitate the linking of the TWGs (Air Quality and Climate Change)
 - Facilitate reactivation process of dormant TWGs and explore interested stakeholders
 - Facilitate the preparatory works of the new TWGs, including preparation of concept notes and reach out to potential stakeholders
- b. Roles and Function of TWGs
 - Recommendations on the Roles and Functions of TWGs are in [Annex 4](#).
 - Secretariat to consolidate and finalize the revisions of the roles and functions of TWGs in the reformed terms of reference
- c. Governance Mechanisms of TWGs
 - Recommendations on the Governance Mechanisms of TWGs are in [Annex 5](#).
 - Ensure that it is not so prescriptive and allow TWGs some flexibility of its conduct
 - Secretariat to capture and consolidate all inputs to finalize the governance mechanisms and enhance the draft terms of reference

Next Steps

1. Selection of Next Chair
 - The Philippine Secretariat has already sent out communication to the 14 original member-states for possible volunteers to become the next Chair of the Regional Forum.
2. Membership Expansion
 - Communications for membership were also sent to non-member countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. Preparatory Meeting – April 2019
 - As suggested by Dr Rokho Kim, WHO/WPRO, a follow-up meeting of the Task Force to review the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum will be convened sometime in April 2019 to review and finalize the Task Force recommendations and discuss the preparations for the 10th High-Level Officials Meeting in October 2019.
4. High-Level Officials Meeting – October 2019
 - The Regional Forum Chair (Philippines) proposed the conduct of the next High-Level Officials Meeting in October 2019 here in Manila with the initial agenda of taking up the recommendations of the Task Force to review the governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum; expanded membership; new Regional Forum Chair; and reporting on progress of the Regional Implementation Plan and Manila Declaration.

5. TWG Meeting Report – July 2018

- The full documentation will be prepared by the Secretariat for circulation to and review of the TWG Chairs.

Closing Remarks

Before the formal adjournment, Dr. Cabotaje thanked all the participants and the Secretariat for the successful holding of the TWG Meeting. On behalf of the Regional Forum Chair, DOH and DENR, closing remarks were delivered by Assistant Director Vizmindia Osorio, representing DENR Undersecretary Leones and Director Maylene Beltran, representing DOH Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, respectively.

Remarks from DENR-EMB Assistant Director Vizmindia Osorio

Assistant Director Osorio expressed DENR's delight in hosting the meeting which is already an accomplishment in itself. She expressed that it is a welcome development that we put our acts together for a better and synergized implementation of the programs and activities of the Regional Forum. She also noted that this gathering is a proof of the desire of united countries to achieve common goals and solutions that can be shared and replicated for better health and environmental governance. In pushing for these reforms, much is expected of us and necessitates more collaboration and actions as we are confronted with prevailing and emerging challenges. For its part, the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau will continue to explore ways to actively engage all its stakeholders particularly the civil society to boost our efforts in promoting better transparency and accountability in all our environment and health efforts. Finally, she expressed her appreciation to the TWG Chairs, resource persons, the secretariat and everyone who has made the meeting a success.

Remarks from DOH Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire

Director Maylene M. Beltran, on behalf of DOH Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, extended her deepest gratitude to all delegates for taking part in the TWG meeting. She also acknowledged Dr Myrna Cabotaje for chairing the meeting. She stressed that this meeting signals our continued support and interest and reflects the collective commitment of RF members to remain it as relevant platform for meaningful engagement among and between Health and environment advocates. She added that the meeting was a productive exercise where participants were able to engage in meaningful discussions on the terms of drafts, resource mobilization and governance mechanisms of the Regional Forum and how projects can be implemented to bring about action in addressing health and environmental issues in the region. With the able support of the regional and national secretariat, the outputs of the TWG will be consolidated for favourable consideration of the HLOM in 2019. She noted the overall send of the body to be to be less prescriptive and to make simpler the processes. Likewise, referring to the action points and next steps, she pointed out that as national secretariat, end of meetings are not end of work, rather it's only the start of the work and ensure that meetings shall translate to actions and ultimately will redound to outcomes and impacts.

3. ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of Participants

Annex 2. Proposed TWG Terms of Reference

Annex 3. Workshop Groupings

Annex 4. Recommendations on the Roles and Functions of the TWGs

Annex 5. Recommendations on the Governance Mechanisms of the TWGs

Annex 1. List of Participants

A. Thematic Working Groups (TWG) and Country Representative

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dr. Yun-Chul Hong, Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Director, Institute of Environmental Medicine Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

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Ms. Aurus Kongphanich, Professional Level Pharmacist, Chemical Safety Group, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

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Dr. Maridith Afuang, Medical Specialist III, Preparedness Health Emergency Management Bureau, Department of Health

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Ms. Mara Cervania, Nurse III, Preparedness, Health Emergency Management Bureau, Department of Health

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Mr. Iwan Nefawan, Technical Officer, Environmental Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Indonesia

B. Regional Forum Chair and National Secretariat

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HEALTHCARE WITHOUT HARM

Mr. Raphael Lopez, Healthy Energy Initiative Campaigner,
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CLEAN AIR ASIA

Ms. Precious Benjamin, Environment Researcher, Clean
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**UNITED NATIONS
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Ms. Anna Blesilda Meneses, National Consultant – Health
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Annex 2. Proposed TWG Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment

I. Background and Objectives

The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was held in the Philippines on 06–08 October 2016 that brought together the ministers and key officials from the ministries of health and ministries of environment from 36 countries of the WHO Western Pacific Region, WHO Southeast Asian Region and UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office. This is the fourth ministerial forum of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries currently chaired by the Government of the Philippines from 2017-2019. The purpose of the Forum is to serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences, and discussion on how to implement integrated environmental health strategies through inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaboration at the country and regional levels.

One of the major outputs of the Fourth Ministerial Forum was the Regional Implementation Plan for 2017 to 2019, which mandates the review of the Regional Forum Charter and the establishment of a Task Force, comprised of 10 volunteer countries, to review and make recommendations on the Forum's governance mechanisms. Last 13–15 September 2017, the Task Force Meeting to was convened in Manila and attended by representatives from eight volunteer countries, as well as chairs of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), observers and representatives from the Philippines' Department of Health and Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

One of the agenda discussed was the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the Regional Forum. The meeting underscored the status and sustainability of the TWGs and its relevance to the Regional Forum and several discussions points and recommendations were identified: 1) Roles and Functions (Terms of Reference) of TWGs; 2) Membership Qualifications and Procedures; 3) Chairship Term of TWGs; 4) Funding Mechanism of TWG Activities; 5) Title of TWGs; 6) Status of TWGs (Active/Inactive); and 7) Preparation of Terms of Reference.

Due to limited time, several critical issues were left unresolved necessitating further discussion and recommendations on the TWGs for subsequent action by the Regional Forum, including the decision on whether the existing TWGs will be merged; rearranged, expanded or inactive TWGs will be dissolved. The Task Force also agreed that the Regional Secretariat will prepare the draft TOR of the TWGs by June 2018.

This proposed TOR of the TWGs intends to serve as a working document and guidance of the Regional Secretariat and the existing TWGs Chair and members in the process of coming up with recommendations on the review of the TWGs. This will form part of the Task Force recommendations for the TWGs for subsequent approval by the HLOM. It will also serve as a key working document during the TWG Meeting scheduled in June 2018.

II. Terms of Reference

A. Governance Mechanisms

1. Formation, Governance and Structure of TWGs

- a. There shall be regional working groups composed of agencies, institutions and organizations from Member States (MS) to address specific priority issues and technical area of work of the Regional Forum, which will be called Thematic Working Group/s or TWG/s.
- b. The TWGs shall be comprised of members from both the health and environment authorities and/or other relevant sectors of MS and shall consider the interface of health and environment interests.
- c. The Regional Forum, through the Regional Secretariat and Regional Forum Chair, shall govern the establishment and operation of TWGs including the exercise of oversight functions.
- d. Member States may propose new TWGs on specific priority issues, which shall be activated by the Regional Forum Chair after consultation with the Secretariat, provided that at least one MS commits to host meetings and support other relevant TWG activities.
- e. Each TWG may develop its own guidance document on operations (e.g. setting up of TWG Secretariat, selection of Chairs/Co-Chairs) of the TWG in consultation with the Secretariat.
- f. All TWG priorities and activities shall be aligned with the Regional Forum plans and targets (e.g. Regional Implementation Plan, Manila Declaration, UNEA Resolution on Environment and Health), relevant global and regional health and environmental indicators and development targets (e.g. EH indicators, Sustainable Development Goals).
- g. All TWGs shall maintain close coordination with the Regional Secretariat in matters of membership, funding, representation, monitoring and reporting, among others.
- h. The Regional Secretariat shall provide technical and financial support to the TWGs.

2. Roles and Functions

To support the achievement of the objectives of the Regional Forum, the Thematic Working Groups shall be responsible for:

Technical Support and Knowledge Management

- a. Provide scientific and evidence-based information and policy recommendations to inform, advise and guide the decision-making process of the Regional Forum and Member States;
- b. Develop timely technical reports and policy briefs on specific and existing or emerging health and environment issues and risks;
- c. Provide technical support to the Regional Forum and Member States through access to specific experts and facilities;
- d. Generate relevant outputs and contribute to the attainment of the Regional Forum plans and targets (e.g. Regional Implementation Plan, Manila Declaration);
- e. Represent the Regional Forum in knowledge networking with other similar initiatives or working groups, in coordination with the Secretariat; and
- f. Facilitate the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices across Member States and among TWGs.

Programme Support and Progress Reporting

- a. Prepare a work plan for their activities, including monitoring and evaluation systems, or submission to the Secretariat to be part of the Regional Forum's work plan;
- b. Agree on core environmental health indicators and targets specific to the theme covered by the TWG;
- c. Document current status as baseline to benchmark progress;
- d. Consolidate/synthesize environmental health progress and impact at the regional level; and
- e. Assist in analyzing environmental health data in the Region gathered by the Secretariat from the updating of country environmental health profiles.

Coordination and Advocacy

- a. Advocate actions based on the recommendations of the Regional Forum;
- b. Promote the integration of priority thematic actions into the national environmental health action plans or equivalent plans;
- c. Provide guidance on how existing activities can contribute to the general goals of national environmental health action plan or equivalent plans and the Regional Forum;
- d. Promote the coordination of various (issue-specific) national and donor-supported activities within the country and the region;
- e. Disseminate information on activities being undertaken and their impacts;
- f. Communicate to the Secretariat the activation of the TWG and the different activities that it conducts;
- g. Promote collaboration with other TWGs and relevant global and regional initiatives and institutions (e.g. WHO Collaborating Centers, ASEAN, Geographically Dispersed Specialized Office) to strengthen the capacities and knowledge base of the programme areas of the TWGs and promote synergy and complementation; and
- h. Create platform (e.g. webpage, social media) to communicate and disseminate information of the TWG linked to the webpage of the Regional Forum. The Regional Secretariat will manage and maintain the Regional Forum's website and responsible for linking the TWG websites for effective and closer collaboration.

Resource Mobilization

- a. Identify possible funding sources, including partner organizations or institutions that could support the implementation of TWG priority activities, in coordination with the Regional Secretariat;
- b. Contribute to the development of project proposals for funding; and
- c. Prioritize activities for which funding and other additional support is required.

3. Membership and Chairship

1) Membership Requirements

- a. The membership to the TWGs is open to all Member States and their designated national authorities on health and environment and other relevant government and non-government organizations, formations and institutions related to health or environment;
- b. There shall be two types of membership:
 1. *Full-Membership*—Members comprised of government institutions instead of individuals and have policy-making functions.
 2. *Associate Membership*—Members from academe, non-government research institutes, NGOs, civil society, media and private sector and perform advisory/consultative functions.

- c. Members of each TWG shall come from Member States concerned with a specific issue or have expertise on a specific subject on health and environment, which can be shared to benefit other members;
- d. Member institutions or agencies shall designate a duly authorized focal point or representative as member of the TWGs; and
- e. Membership of government institutions shall be duly endorsed by their respective head of ministries or agencies.

2) Membership Procedures (*Application and Withdrawal*)

- a. Governmental members nominated by their respective ministries or agencies must submit a letter of intent to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair;
- b. Non-governmental members of all types (academe, media, private sector, etc.) must signify their interest to become TWG members by submitting a letter of intent to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair, subject to due diligence by the Regional Secretariat to determine conflicts of interests and other existing restrictions;
- c. The TWGs, through their respective TWG Chairs and duly endorsed by the TWG members, may invite prospective members, including the academe, civil society, occupational groups, regional centres, institutions, private sector, and other regional and global initiatives tackling a particular priority issue and/or area, may also be invited to become part of a TWG subject to the usual membership procedures;
- d. A member of a TWG may withdraw from the TWG at any time by giving a written notice of withdrawal to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair; and
- e. When there is a change in the Focal Point of a TWG member, the member should immediately notify the Regional Secretariat.

3) Approval for Membership

- a. Application for TWG membership received by the Regional Secretariat shall be transmitted to the Regional Forum Chair for approval in the case of governmental members; and
- b. For non-government members, application received by the Regional Secretariat shall be subject to due diligence prior to approval by the Regional Forum Chair.

4) Number of Members

- a. Each TWG shall determine the appropriate number of TWG members while ensuring that both the health and environment ministries/agencies or sectors are adequately represented and interested Member States are accommodated.

5) Length of Membership

- a. The TWG members, including Chairs and Co-Chairs shall have a five-year term to coincide with the Regional Forum Chairship.

6) Chairship of TWGs

- a. The Chair of each TWG shall be selected from *Full Members* or governmental members on voluntary basis. In case where more than one country is willing to Chair, interested member countries will then serve as Co-Chairs of the TWG.

- b. In coordination with the Secretariat, the Chair or Co-Chair(s) shall call and preside over TWG meetings, coordinate the implementation of agreed activities, and present progress of TWG plans at the Regional Forum.

2. TWG Meetings

1) Frequency and Conduct of Meetings

- a. The TWG shall hold face-to-face meetings at least once (1) a year within the five (5)-year programme of work, in coordination with the Regional Secretariat;
- b. The TWG Chairs may also convene other consultative and extraordinary meetings among its members;
- c. The TWG Chair shall notify the TWG members to participate in the TWG meetings;
- d. The TWG Chair, in consultation with the members, may allow non-members to participate in the meetings as observers; and
- e. The TWG Chair, in consultation with the members, may also invite or tap relevant national, regional or international institutions, individuals or group of experts/resource persons (e.g. TWG-specific Scientific Panel) to provide expert advice and/or contribute to deliberations on a specific issue or subject matter.

2) Attendance in Regional Forum Meetings and Other Activities

- a. The TWG Chairs, Co-Chairs and Members may attend the meetings (Ministerial and High-Level Officials Meetings) or activities of the Regional Forum upon invitation or official communication from the Secretariat, Regional Forum Chair or other Member States; and
- b. The TWG Chairs, Co-Chairs or Members in their current capacities may attend other activities provided that these activities are relevant to their respective TWGs and are duly reported to the Regional Secretariat.

B. Resource Mobilization and Funding for Activities

1. Sources of Funding

- a. Funding for activities and other operation-related expenses (e.g. airfare and travel allowance) maybe sourced out or mobilized from the Regional Forum Secretariat, Members States and other stakeholders subject to existing restrictions and guidance on use of funds (*Refer to Funding Restrictions and Use of Funds*);
- b. The main source of funds to support the operation of the TWGs (local costs of meetings and activities) shall come from the Member States of the Chair or Co-Chairs; and
- c. The Regional Secretariat is encouraged to support or share the costs of activities of the Regional Forum and facilitate linkages of TWGs to possible funding sources and financial mechanisms.

2. Funding Restrictions

- a. No funding channelled for the TWGs should come from tobacco, alcohol, arms or associated industries or industry associations that may result to any conflicts of interest; and
- b. Other non-government sources of funds can be accepted, provided that they are:
 - 1. *Approved by TWG members;*
 - 2. *Use of funds is unrestricted;*
 - 3. *TWG Chair seeks prior approval from the Regional Forum Chair; and*

4. *Regional Forum Chair approves after consultation with and due diligence by the Regional Secretariat.*

3. Use of Funds

- a. Use of funds is unrestricted provided that it should be based on the work plan duly approved by the Regional Forum Chair after consultation with the Regional Secretariat.

C. Revised Thematic Working Groups

1. Based on the evaluation of the status and performance of the TWGs under the past and present governance frameworks, the following revisions are proposed for the working groups per thematic area:

Current TWGs	Proposed TWGs
Air Quality	Re-title as <i>Air Quality and Health</i> Focus on urban AQ, indoor AQ, transboundary air pollution, and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP)
WASH	Re-title as <i>Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health</i> Include agriculture waste
Solid and Hazardous Waste	Discontinue. To merge with <i>TWG Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances</i> (proposed re-title: <i>Chemical, Waste and Health</i>), or to shift its work area to <i>Sustainable and Healthy Cities TWG</i>
Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances	Re-title as <i>Chemical, Waste and Health</i> Include life cycle management, chemical waste management, 3Rs, illegal transboundary waste
Climate Change, Ozone depletion and Ecosystems Changes	Re-title as <i>Climate Change and Health</i> Focus on health system resilience
Environmental Health Emergencies	Merge with <i>Climate Change and Health TWG</i>. Make this a cross-cutting component for each TWG
Health Impact Assessment (HIA)	No Change.

2. To address the health and environment priorities under the Manila Declaration, the following new TWGs are proposed to be formed:

Proposed New TWGs	Focus
Ecosystem and Health	Include marine/ freshwater pollution, deforestation, marine/ freshwater/ forest/ terrestrial biodiversity
Sustainable Healthy Cities	Include AQ, urban design, waste management and vector-borne diseases

	Include climate resiliency
Worker's Health	Occupational health and safety

3. Considering the proposed revisions and additions, the following will be the **new sets of TWGs of the Regional Forum**:

Revised List of TWGs	Remarks
1. Air Quality and Health	• Re-titled from <i>Air Quality TWG</i> • Focus on urban AQ, indoor AQ, transboundary air pollution, and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP)
2. Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health	• Re-titled: <i>Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health</i> • Include agriculture waste • Include WASH in HHs, health care facilities and schools • Include AMR • Include wastewater, septage, sewage treatment • Include household water treatment (HWTs) • Include Water safety planning, sanitation safety planning
3. Chemicals, Waste and Health	• Re-titled from <i>Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances TWG</i> • Absorb hazardous waste work areas of the discontinued <i>Solid and Hazardous Waste TWG</i> • Include life cycle management, chemical waste management, 3Rs, illegal transboundary waste
4. Climate Change and Health	• Re-titled from <i>Climate Change, Ozone depletion and Ecosystems Changes TWG</i> • <i>Environmental Health Emergencies TWG</i> is integrated • Focus on health system resilience • Include greening of health care facilities • Include safe hospitals
5. Health Impact Assessment / HIA	• Retained.
6. Ecosystem and Health	• Include freshwater/marine pollution and freshwater/marine biodiversity • Include forest / terrestrial biodiversity
8. Sustainable and Healthy Cities	• Absorb non-hazardous waste work areas of the discontinued <i>Solid and Hazardous Waste TWG</i> • Include AQ, urban design, waste management and vector-borne diseases • Include climate resiliency
9. Worker's Health	• Occupational health and safety

References:

1. Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries (2007)
2. Framework for Cooperation of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries (2013)
3. Guidance Document on the Mechanisms for Conducting Meetings
4. Regional Forum Communication Guidelines
5. Regional Forum Implementation Plan 2017-2019
6. Manila Declaration on Health and Environment
7. Review of Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries (*Terrence Thompson and Sharon Manuel*)
8. Supplemental Report on Review of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries (*Terrence Thompson and Sharon Manuel*)
9. Meeting Report on the Task Force Meeting to Update the Governance Mechanisms of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries
10. Meeting Report on the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment
11. WHO Collaborating Centres
12. WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Annex 3: Workshop Groupings

Technical Support & Knowledge Management	Programme Support and Progress Reporting
TWG AQ – Dr Yung Chul Hong MOH – Mr Islafam Nefawan WHO/PHL – Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay UNEP – Mr. Masato Motoki WHO/WPRO – Mr. Jose Hueb DOH-HEMB – Dr. Maridith Afuang DENR-EMB – Engr. Eligio Ildefonso DENR-EMB – Ms. Elizabeth Carino DENR-EMB – Mr. Albert Magalang DENR-EMB – Mr. Jose Capulong DPWH – Ms. Rosemarie Del Rosario DOST – Mr. Admer Dablio Clean Air Asia – Ms Glynda Bateria WHO/WPRO – Dr Rokho Kim	TWG Chemicals – Ms Aurus Kongphanich TWG AQ – Dr. Kessinee Unapumnuk DOH-DPCB – Dr. Myrna Cabotaje DOH-DPCB – Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios DOH-DPCB – Engr. Maria Sonabel Anarna DOH-HEMB – Ms Mara Cervania DENR-EMB – Mr Geri Geronimo Sanez DENR-EMB – Ms Emmanuelita Mendoza DENR-EMB – Mr Marcelino Rivera DA – Ms Anne Gilica Santos DILG – Engr. Rene Beringel DOLE – Dr Marco Valeros CCC – Ms Gelen Turano
Coordination and Advocacy	Resource Mobilization
TWG Chemicals – Ms. Natchanok Buaphiban TWG HIA – Ms. Panita Charoensuk DOH-BIHC – Ms Maylene Beltran WHO/WPRO – Mr. Minchan Kim DOH-HEMB – Ms. Aida Barcelona DENR-EMB – Engr. Vizmina Osorio DENR-EMB – Ms. Lorizel Montealegre DENR-EMB – Ms Raquel Reyes DENR-EMB – Ms. Eva Ocfemia PIA – Ms Marites Paneda CCC – Ms Cressette Pidoc HCWH – Mr Paeng Lopez Clean Air Asia – Mr Precious Benjamin	Dr. Montira Pongsiri WHO/WPRO – Ms Heejin Lee DENR-EMB – Ms Consolacion Crisostomo DENR-EMB – Ms Regina Paula Eugenio DENR-EMB – Mr Renato Cruz DENR-EMB – Ms Jean Borromeo NEDA – Mr Kevin Godoy NEDA – Ms Dorothy Camille Detabali ADB – Dr Gene Peralta UNIDO – Ms Anna Meneses

Annex 4: Recommendations on the Roles and Functions of the TWGs

Proposed Roles and Functions	TWG Comments and Revisions
1. Technical Support and Knowledge Management g. Provide scientific and evidence-based information and policy recommendations to inform, advise and guide the decision-making process of the Regional Forum and Member States; h. Develop timely technical reports and policy briefs on specific and existing or emerging health and environment issues and risks; i. Provide technical support to the Regional Forum and Member States through access to specific experts and facilities; j. Generate relevant outputs and contribute to the attainment of the Regional Forum plans and targets (e.g. Regional Implementation Plan, Manila Declaration); k. Represent the Regional Forum in knowledge networking with other similar initiatives or working groups, in coordination with the Secretariat; and l. Facilitate the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices across Member States and among TWGs.	a. Provide scientific and evidence-based information and policy recommendations to inform, advise and guide the decision-making process of the Regional Forum and Member States [Recommendation: actively involve the academe]; b. Develop timely technical reports and policy briefs on specific and existing or emerging health and environment issues and risks [to be disseminated to the Regional Forum]; c. Provide technical support to the Regional Forum and Member States through access to [specific expertise, facilities, and knowledge management products]; d. Generate relevant outputs and contribute to the attainment of the Regional Forum plans and targets (e.g. Regional Implementation Plan, Manila Declaration); e. Represent the Regional Forum in knowledge networking with other similar initiatives or working groups, in coordination with the Secretariat; and f. Facilitate the exchange of information, lessons learned, [best practices, and linkages among Member States and TWGs]. ADD: Develop capacities and competences among Member States.
2. Programme Support and Progress Reporting f. Prepare a work plan for their activities, including monitoring and evaluation systems, for submission to the Secretariat to be part of the Regional Forum's work plan; g. Agree on core environmental health indicators and targets specific to the theme covered by the TWG; h. Document current status as baseline to benchmark progress; i. Consolidate/synthesize environmental health progress and impact at the regional level; and j. Assist in analyzing environmental health data in the Region gathered by the Secretariat from the	a. [Identify core national and regional environmental health indicators and targets] b. Prepare [and submit]a [3- to 5-year]work plan for their activities, including monitoring and evaluation systems, to the Secretariat to be included as part of the Regional Forum's work plan; c. [Implement, monitor, and evaluate the 3- to 5-year work plan]; d. Agree on core environmental health indicators and targets specific to the theme covered by the TWG; e. Document current status as baseline to

updating of country environmental health profiles.	benchmark monitor progress [Recommendation: include updating of the baseline]; f. Consolidateand synthesize environmental health progress and impact at the regional level; and g. Assist in analyzing environmental health data in the Region gathered by the Secretariat from the updating of country environmental health profiles. h. [Provide recommendations to the Regional Secretariat based on the analysed data]
3. Coordination and Advocacy i. Advocate actions based on the recommendations of the Regional Forum; j. Promote the integration of priority thematic actions into the national environmental health action plans or equivalent plans; k. Provide guidance on how existing activities can contribute to the general goals of national environmental health action plan or equivalent plans and the Regional Forum; l. Promote the coordination of various (issue-specific) national and donor-supported activities within the country and the region [OMIT]; m. Disseminate information on activities being undertaken and their impacts; n. Communicate to the Secretariat the activation of the TWG and the different activities that it conducts; o. Promote collaboration with other TWGs and relevant global and regional initiatives and institutions (e.g. WHO Collaborating Centers, ASEAN, Geographically Dispersed Specialized Office) to strengthen the capacities and knowledge base of the programme areas of the TWGs and promote synergy and complementation; and p. Create platform (e.g. webpage, social media) to communicate and disseminate information of the TWG linked to the webpage of the Regional Forum. The Regional Secretariat will manage and maintain the Regional Forum's website and responsible for linking the TWG websites for effective and closer collaboration.	a. Advocate actions based on the recommendations of the Regional Forum; b. Promote the integration of priority thematic actions into the national environmental health action plans or equivalent plans; c. [Recommendation: Move item to PPS or TS - OMIT] Provide guidance on how existing activities can contribute to the general goals of national environmental health action plan or equivalent plans and the Regional Forum; d. Disseminate information on activities being undertaken and their impacts; e. [Encourage] collaboration with other TWGs and relevant global and regional initiatives and institutions (e.g. WHO Collaborating Centers, ASEAN, Geographically Dispersed Specialized Office) to strengthen the capacities and knowledge base of the programme areas of the TWGs and promote synergy and complementation; and f. [Development of strategies] (e.g. webpage, social media) to communicate and disseminate information of the TWG linked to the webpage of the Regional Forum. The Regional Secretariat will <u>manage and maintain the Regional Forum's website</u> and responsible for linking the TWG websites for effective and closer collaboration.
4. Resource Mobilization a. Identify possible funding sources, including partner organizations or institutions that could support the implementation of TWG priority activities, in coordination with the Regional Secretariat; b. Contribute to the development of project proposals for funding; and c. Prioritize activities for which funding and other additional support is required.	a. Prioritize activities for which funding and other additional support is required. b. [Develop] project proposals for funding; c. Identify possible funding sources, including partner organizations or institutions [from government and non-government sectors] that could support the implementation of TWG priority activities, in coordination with the

	Regional Secretariat; and d. Coordinate joint proposals with other TWGs as appropriate.
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Annex 5. Recommendations on the Governance Mechanisms of the TWGs

Proposed Governance Mechanisms	TWG Comments/Recommendations
1. Formation, Governance and Structure of TWGs a. There shall be regional working groups composed of agencies, institutions and organizations from Member States (MS) to address specific priority issues and technical area of work of the Regional Forum, which will be called Thematic Working Group/s or TWG/s. b. The TWGs shall be comprised of members from both the health and environment authorities and/or other relevant sectors of MS and shall consider the interface of health and environment interests. c. The Regional Forum, through the Regional Secretariat and Regional Forum Chair, shall govern the establishment and operation of TWGs including the exercise of oversight functions. d. Member States may propose new TWGs on specific priority issues, which shall be activated by the Regional Forum Chair after consultation with the Secretariat, provided that at least one MS commits to host meetings and support other relevant TWG activities. e. Each TWG may develop its own guidance document on operations (e.g. setting up of TWG Secretariat, selection of Chairs/Co-Chairs) of the TWG in consultation with the Secretariat. f. All TWG priorities and activities shall be aligned with the Regional Forum plans and targets (e.g. Regional Implementation Plan, Manila Declaration, UNEA Resolution on Environment and Health), relevant global and regional health and environmental indicators and development targets (e.g. EH indicators, Sustainable Development Goals).	• Retain a, c, e, f, g without modification (All TWGs shall communicate and coordinate) • Retain but to be rephrased: ○ b: “The TWGs shall be comprised of members, preferable from...” ○ d: Member states may proposed new TWG on specific priority issues, which shall be approved by Regional Forum chair • Delete h. The TWG may seek technical and financial support from the Regional Secretariat and other interested partners

g. All TWGs shall maintain close coordination with the Regional Secretariat in matters of membership, funding, representation, monitoring and reporting, among others. h. The Regional Secretariat shall provide technical and financial support to the TWGs.	
2. Membership and Chairship <u>1. Membership Requirements</u> a. The membership to the TWGs is open to all Member States and their designated national authorities on health and environment and other relevant government and non-government organizations and academic institutions related to health or environment. b. There shall be two types of membership: 1. Full-Membership—Members comprised of government institutions instead of individuals and have policy-making functions. 2. Associate Membership—Members from academic institution, non-government organizations and media and perform advisory/consultative functions. c. Members of each TWG shall come from Member States concerned with a specific issue or have expertise on a specific subject on health and environment, which can be shared to benefit other members. d. Member institutions or agencies shall designate a duly authorized focal point or representative as member of the TWGs. e. Membership of government institutions shall be duly endorsed by their respective head of ministries or agencies. <u>2. Membership Procedures(Application and Withdrawal)</u> a. Governmental members nominated by their respective ministries or agencies must submit a letter of intent to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair. b. Non-governmental members of all types (academe, media, private sector, etc.) must signify their interest to become TWG members by submitting a letter of intent to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair, subject to due diligence by the Regional Secretariat to determine conflicts of interests and other existing restrictions.	ADD: Academic institutions RETAIN ADD: Academic institutions DELETE d. Member institutions shall designate a duly authorized representative as member of the TWG e. Membership of government institutions shall be duly endorsed by their respective head of institution a. Governmental members nominated by their respective institutions must submit a letter of intent, through the country’s focal point, to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair b. Non-governmental members of all types (academe, media, private sector, etc.) must signify their interest to become TWG members by submitting a letter of intent specifying which TWG they would want to take part in, through the country’s focal point, to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair, subject to due diligence by the Regional

c. The TWGs, through their respective TWG Chairs and duly endorsed by the TWG members, may invite prospective members, including the academe, civil society, occupational groups, regional centres, institutions, private sector, and other regional and global initiatives tackling a particular priority issue and/or area, may also be invited to become part of a TWG subject to the usual membership procedures. d. A member of a TWG may withdraw from the TWG at any time by giving a written notice of withdrawal to the Regional Secretariat for approval by the Regional Forum Chair. e. When there is a change in the Focal Point of a TWG member, the member should immediately notify the Regional Secretariat. <u>3. Approval for Membership</u> a. Application for TWG membership received by the Regional Secretariat shall be transmitted to the Regional Forum Chair for approval in the case of governmental members. b. For non-government members, application received by the Regional Secretariat shall be subject to due diligence prior to approval by the Regional Forum Chair. <u>4. Number of Members</u> a. Each TWG shall determine the appropriate number of TWG members while ensuring that both the health and environment ministries/agencies or sectors are adequately represented and interested Member States are accommodated. <u>5. Length of Membership</u> a. The TWG members, including Chairs and Co-Chairs shall have a five-year term to coincide with the Regional Forum Chairship. <u>6. Chairship of TWGs</u> a. The Chair of each TWG shall be selected from Full Members or governmental members on voluntary basis. In case where more than one country is willing to Chair, interested member countries will then serve as Co-Chairs of the TWG.	Secretariat to determine conflicts of interests and other existing restrictions c. The TWGs, through their respective TWG Chairs and duly endorsed by the TWG members, may recommend prospective members... RETAIN e. When there is a change in the TWG member, the member should immediately notify the Regional Secretariat. The Regional Secretariat should then inform the TWG Chair. a. Application for TWG membership received by the Regional Secretariat from the country's focal point shall be transmitted to the Regional Forum Chair for approval in the case of governmental members DELETE
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b. In coordination with the Secretariat, the Chair or Co-Chair(s) shall call and preside over TWG meetings, coordinate the implementation of agreed activities, and present progress of TWG plans at the Regional Forum.	
3. TWG Meetings <u>1. Frequency and Conduct of Meetings</u> a. The TWG shall hold face-to-face meetings at least once (1) a year within the five (5)-year programme of work, in coordination with the Regional Secretariat; b. The TWG Chairs may also convene other consultative and extraordinary meetings among its members; c. The TWG Chair shall notify the TWG members to participate in the TWG meetings; d. The TWG Chair, in consultation with the members, may allow non-members to participate in the meetings as observers; and e. The TWG Chair, in consultation with the members, may also invite or tap relevant national, regional or international institutions, individuals or group of experts/resource persons (e.g. TWG-specific Scientific Panel) to provide expert advice and/or contribute to deliberations on a specific issue or subject matter. <u>2. Attendance in Regional Forum Meetings and Other Activities</u> a. The TWG Chairs, Co-Chairs and Members may attend the meetings (Ministerial and High-Level Officials Meetings) or activities of the Regional Forum upon invitation or official communication from the Secretariat, Regional Forum Chair or other Member States; and b. The TWG Chairs, Co-Chairs or Members in their current capacities may attend other activities provided that these activities are relevant to their respective TWGs and are duly reported to the Regional Secretariat.	1. Frequency a. Rephrase: TWG ---. Each TWG b. RETAINED c. Rephrase: TWG, in coordination with the Secretariat, notify... d. Retained e. Retained 2. Attendance a. Concern with ‘optional vs. mandatory’ b. Retained Full & Associate c. ADD: Members are advised to have a secondary representative to attend the meetings in case of absence of authorized focal point
4. Resource Mobilization and Funding for Activities <u>1. Sources of Funding</u> a. Funding for activities and other operation-related expenses (e.g. airfare and travel allowance) maybe sourced out or mobilized from the Regional Forum Secretariat, Members States and other stakeholders subject to existing restrictions and guidance on use of funds (Refer to Funding Restrictions and Use of Funds). b. The main source of funds to support the operation of	c. The Regional Secretariat...Regional Forum and of TWGs d. 1) Self financing e. Regional secretariat – list of possible funding source f. MS – co chair

the TWGs (local costs of meetings and activities) shall come from the Member States of the Chair or Co-Chairs. c. The Regional Secretariat is encouraged to support or share the costs of activities of the Regional Forum and facilitate linkages of TWGs to possible funding sources and financial mechanisms. <u>2. Funding Restrictions</u> a. No funding channelled for the TWGs should come from tobacco, alcohol, arms or associated industries or industry associations that may result to any conflicts of interest. b. Other non-government sources of funds can be accepted, provided that they are: 1. Approved by TWG members; 2. Use of funds is unrestricted; 3. TWG Chair seeks prior approval from the Regional Forum Chair; and 4. Regional Forum Chair approves after consultation with and due diligence by the Regional Secretariat. <u>3. Use of Funds</u> a. Use of funds is unrestricted provided that it should be based on the work plan duly approved by the Regional Forum Chair after consultation with the Regional Secretariat.	g. Support other sectors
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