



**YSLME**  
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea  
Large Marine Ecosystem

# 5<sup>th</sup> Interim Commission Council Meeting

19 OCTOBER 2020

Summary Report of  
the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Interim YSLME  
Commission Council (ICC)  
of the UNDP/GEF YSLME  
Phase II Project

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The Fifth Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC) was conducted virtually via zoom video conference call from 16:00-19:00 (Seoul time) on the 19 October 2020. The meeting was participated by more than 60 representatives from governments of the PR China and RO Korea, UNDP, UNOPS, members of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs) from the two countries and observers from UN agencies, regional organizations, academia, business associations and NGOs. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Danhong CHEN of PR China Mr. Jae-Ryoung OH of RO Korea. The YSLME Project Management Office (PMO) served as Secretariat.

### **Opening Remarks**

UNDP commended the YSLME Phase II Project for overcoming the hurdles during the Phase II start-up years and congratulated all the project members, collaborators and partners for their effort and support all throughout the project's 20-year journey. PR China highlighted that the YSLME Phase II Project provides a good starting point and signals a new beginning for the Yellow Sea region. RO Korea highlighted the importance of collaboration of participating countries with strong support from the PMO, UNDP and UNOPS, as well as by various partners as key to the 20-year success of the project. UNDP China encouraged the adoption of the project's Terminal Evaluation report to ensure the smooth closure of the project, while UNOPS encouraged partners to make full use of the project's milestones of YSLME SAP as the basis for future collaborative actions in the region.

### **Conclusions and Decisions of the Meeting**

#### Agenda 3.0: Accomplishments of the Project – View Project Video

Through a 20-minute Project Video, the key achievements of the YSLME project were showcased, highlighting on how ecosystem-based management through large marine ecosystem approach has been practically implemented on the ground. The Chair congratulated all the members for the accomplishments made from Phase I to Phase II, and encouraged further dissemination of the different knowledge and information products developed by the project over the years in the Yellow Sea region and beyond.

#### Agenda 4.0: Terminal Evaluation Findings & Recommendations and Management Responses

With appreciation to the Terminal Evaluation (TE) team for delivering a quality TE report in time, the meeting requested the TE team to amend the draft TE report taking into consideration of the additional comments provided at the meeting which include 1) consistency in the use of terms throughout the report; 2) consideration of the sensitivity of project interventions on gender in making recommendations; and 3) general reflection on the progress with regional governance mechanism. The partners were requested to submit their comments and management responses to UNDP in writing by October 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Agenda 5.0: YSLME SAP 2020-2030

Through a pre-recorded presentation, the Ocean Adviser presented the processes and findings of the YSLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2020-2030 agreed by the two countries. The Meeting commended the efforts of PR China and RO Korea for completing the update of the TDA and the technical clearance of SAP 2020-2030. The two countries reconfirmed the commitments to finalizing the Annex I (indicators) and use

it as the roadmap for the Yellow Sea region in the next decade. The meeting adopted the updated YSLME TDA, and agreed to the timeframe and process to finalize the SAP 2020-2030.

Agenda 6.0: Post-Project Regional Coordination mechanism for Implementation of the YSLME SAP 2020-2030

The Chair appreciated the efforts of RO Korea in drafting of the MOU on future regional governance mechanism. All partners were pleased to know that PR China and RO Korea have reached an agreement on the final text which entails objectives, scope, cooperative activities, partnership, and governance mechanism. The meeting warmly welcomed the efforts of the two countries to proceed with necessary internal processes for the signing of the MOU. Further details of the YSLME regional governance mechanism will be discussed and finalized through bilateral negotiations.

Agenda 7.0: Project Closure Plan and Implementation

The meeting was briefed on the project's financial disbursement status, remaining documents to be prepared at project operational and financial closure, and a proposed work plan to complete the remaining documents, and budget arrangement. The meeting adopted the closure plan and requested UNOPS to ensure full compliance with closure requirements and, within available project budget, to facilitate the finalization and adoption of the SAP 2020-2030 and preparation of the sustainability plan as a TE management response at the request of the partners.

**Agenda item 8.0. Reflections of Stakeholders to the YSLME Project Phase II**

PEMSEA, Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP congratulated to YSLME Phase II Project for delivering significant results and assured the partners of their continued collaboration with YSLME community in advancing the implementation of mutual strategic programs and action plans in the years to come.

**Agenda 9.0. Wrap-up and Closure of the Meeting**

The Chair expressed her appreciation to the members of the ICC as well as to the stakeholder partners for their participation and contribution in making the YSLME ICC-5 meeting a success. In particular, she expressed gratitude to UNDP and GEF for making the resources available, which was catalytic to the enhancement of the regional governance of the YSLME. She also recognized UNOPS and the PMO for efficiently and effectively delivering project services and resources in line with international fiduciary standards. Special appreciation was extended to PR China and RO Korea, including the Regional Working Groups and National Working Groups, for the strong commitment on the project's implementation and the establishment of a post-project YSLME governance mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the SAP 2020-2030. Lastly, she called on all members and partners to sustain the momentum through continued cooperation in the implementation of the YSLME SAP 2020-2030 for the prosperity of its people.

The Co-Chair further expressed his appreciation to the experts and members of the different working groups who have worked tirelessly to complete the YSLME SAP 2020-2030. With positive confirmation by both PR China and RO Korea and commitments to sign the MOU on post-project YSLME arrangements and governance mechanism, the Co-Chair expressed confidence on a better future for the YSLME region.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00PM on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

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