Terms of Reference for Intersessional Correspondence Group on Regional Priorities within the Bonn Agreement (ICG-RP)

**Background**

1. The EU (and other agencies) invited the Bonn Agreement to engage as regional marine pollution stakeholder in the planning of EC project calls and funding programmes, by identifying and submitting funding priorities (ref. OTSOPA 20/2/4; BONN 20/2/2; BONN 20/2/P01). Two dedicated online OTSOPA meetings were held on September and October 2020 to select actions based on a screening of the BASAP 2019-2025 and to agree on the EU templates for the funding priorities identified.
2. Bonn 2020 agreed to establish an expert consultation mechanism inside the Bonn Agreement to identify priorities for submission and consideration in the preparation process of EU Calls or other funding programmes and that France and Belgium will make a proposal to OTSOPA 2021 including the establishment of an ad hoc ICG.
3. Bonn 2021 agreed to establish an ICG on the identification of funding priorities within the Bonn Agreement (ICG-IFP) under the Terms of Reference as in Annex 5 of BONN 2021 Summary Record.
4. OTSOPA 2023 agreed to refer to Regional Priorities and to link the work of the ICG to the revision of the BASAP[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Objective**

1. To draft and annually review a list of Regional Priorities (RPs) and corresponding templates, by considering the BASAP 2019-25 and its implementation, lessons learnt from incidents and exercises, knowledge gaps, and/or new issues raised by CPs. This includes:
   * Screening and updating of *existing* RPs[[2]](#footnote-2) based on recent developments (e.g. in identification of Lead/coordinator, consortium, contents, and/or priority setting);
   * Identifying *new* RPs as appropriate, based on the above considerations, and completing the template for each new Priority;
   * Indicating the maturity level of a Priority, including identification of a lead and other interested partners;
   * Reflecting the Priorities in the preparation of the next BASAP considering the level of commitment of Contracting Parties and
   * Communicating the regional needs among R&D organisations.

**Participants**

1. The ICG will be co-convened by Ronny Schallier (Belgium) and Anne Le Roux (France), with participants from Denmark, EU, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; and with the support from the Secretariat. A list of participants is at Annex 1.

**Work arrangements**

1. The ICG will work via correspondence and hold online meetings.

**Timetable for the work cycle**

1. The ICG will work to meet the following timetable in line with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Draft a list of identified RPs, based on the previous list. | ICG co-convenors | January |
| Circulate the list to the ICG members, with a request to update existing RPs, propose new RPs, and give feedback on recent developments (consortia, project concepts...) | ICG co-convenors | January |
| Consult nationally and report back to co-convenors | ICG | January |
| Organise an online meeting if appropriate (depending on the feedback received from the ICG members) | ICG co-convenors and ICG | February |
| Update the draft list of identified RPs (feedback from ICG members) | ICG co-convenors |  |
| Share the updated (draft) RP list and templates with the RAs at the annual Inter-Secretariat meeting | ICG co-convenors (could be represented by Chair of OTSOPA / Sec) | Late February |
| Updated (draft) RP list and templates (feedback from RAs) | ICG | February |
| Presentation of the updated (draft) RP list and templates to OTSOPA | ICG co-convenors | May |
| Feedback from OTSOPA | OTSOPA | May |
| Finetune the RP list and templates with OTSOPA’s feedback | ICG | Early September |
| Submit the RP list and templates to BONN for adoption | ICG | Late September |
| Share the (adopted) RP list and templates with the EC/DG ECHO | Secretariat | October |
| Share the (adopted) RP list and templates with CTG MPPR | ICG representative | October |
| Submission of mature project priorities to the EC | As appropriate | December |

**Review of the ToR**

1. If appropriate, the ToR can be adapted to other funding mechanisms.
2. The list of participants in Annex 1 will be updated annually.

Annex 1. List of participants

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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1. Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Last update as in Add.3 of OTSOPA 23/02/02. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)