



## **Draft Terms of Reference of Delta (ToR) Coalition**

### **1. Background of Delta Coalition**

The Delta Coalition (DC) is the world's first international coalition of governments that have formed a partnership to deal with integrated management and sustainable development of the Deltas. It is the outcome of the event on 'Building an International Coalition for Integrated Delta Management and Resilience' which was co-hosted by the Netherlands, Colombia and Japan during the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

In May 2016, the Delta Coalition was officially launched at a Ministerial Conference in Rotterdam. The Netherlands served as the first Chair of the DC. The Coalition comprises currently 12 countries including Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique, Myanmar, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Republic of Korea and Vietnam.

The Coalition is a platform for discussion, exchange, innovation and creativity between the participating members and observers contributing as much as possible to the agreed objectives. Basis for the cooperation is the shared willingness to cooperate on urbanizing as well as rural delta issues and there is no need for developing a special legal status.

This ToR delineates the functionalities of the Chair and Secretariat, and other issues thereof.

### **2. Objectives**

Definition of geographical scope: River Deltas connected to the sea including urban and rural areas in the catchment

Overall context: Contribution to the implementation/realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets directly related to water (SDG6, SDG 11.5, 11. b) or closely interlinked to water (Food, Health, Energy, Cities)

Delta environments – while rich in ecosystem diversity and a centre point of economic activities of the populations - are posed with increasing challenges interlaid coastal flooding, wetland loss, shoreline retreat and loss of infrastructure etc. owing to growing pace of human development activities and the impacts of climate change. Hence, the Delta Coalition is aimed at addressing climate change adaptation in the Deltas taking into account disaster

risk reduction, food and water security, urban as well as rural development, spatial planning, integrated river basin and coastal zone management etc. in international policy discourse and decision making processes. The Coalition will exhaust all-out efforts in the pursuit of resilience as well as sustained lives and livelihood activities of the people of the Deltas. The three key objectives of the Coalition are as follows:

- 1) Work together on the worldwide agenda;
- 2) Facilitate developing and exchanging knowledge and information on deltas, resilience and inclusive sustainable delta development and increasing availability of it;
- 3) Promote practical implementation and cooperation to increase the resilience of the deltas and enhance the investments in sustainable urban as well as rural delta management.

### **3. Membership**

Delta Coalition is composed of three categories of membership, such as Core Member, Additional Member and Observers. Each member country may designate one or two national focal points for the delta Coalition to facilitate quick coordination and information dissemination by the Chair and Secretariat. Geographical distribution and combination of developing developed countries are encouraged.

Core Membership is open to national governments that express their willingness to agree and support the objectives and ToR, and that fit in the geographic scope of the Delta Coalition.

Additional(to be replaced by Regional/Local)Membership is open to Delta Cities or Regions within the Coalition Countries in agreement with their national governments. The criteria for admission as Additional Member resemble to those of the national governments.

Intergovernmental organizations, knowledge networks including Delta Alliance Wings of the member countries and NGOs may be admitted as observers at their request and with consensus of the Core Members. All minutes and decisions of the Delta Coalition may be made available to the Observers on request basis.

Upon receipt of 'Letter of interest' from are questing party, its admission may be decided during the Ministerial Conference on the basis of consensus of incumbent members. The 'Letter of Interest' addressed to the Chair should be signed by a high representative of the concerned party at Minister level for Core Members, Minister level or head of local government for Additional members and Chairman/Head of an NGO for observers.

Members and observers may withdraw their membership by notifying the Secretariat in writing if they are not willing to continue, or do not adhere to the agreed objectives.

#### **4. Chairmanship**

Chairmanship will rotate among the Core Members on voluntary basis for a term of one year. A Troika will be functioning consisting of the incoming chair, incumbent chair (or Chair-in office) and outgoing chair for a period of three years for assisting the Chair in fulfilling the vision and mission of as well as in formulating policy guidelines for the Coalition, in consultation with the member states.

The responsibilities of the Chair-in-Office (CiO) include the following:

1. Organize the Ministerial Conference and the Working Group Meetings;
2. Co-ordinate among the members of Delta Coalition;
3. Represent the Delta Coalition in various international conferences and pursue multilateral policy advocacy;
4. Supervise the Action Plan for Next Five Years and joint activities of the Coalition.
5. Supervise the work of the Secretariat and its activities.

#### **5. Delta Coalition Secretariat**

The Delta Coalition Secretariat will be rotating every year along with the Chairmanship among the Core Members until any permanent Secretariat is set up.

Principal tasks of the Secretariat under the supervision and guidance of the Chair are as follows:

- 1) Establish, administer and maintain the network of national focal points and key institutes in member countries;
- 2) Support and assist the Chair in organizing the Working Group sessions and the Ministerial Conference and realizing other joint activities;
- 3) Support and assist the Troika in maintaining the governance structure and membership of the Coalition and organizing meetings;
- 4) Act as interface between policy and science, practice, and as interface between member countries with respect to sharing delta management policies, practices and strategies;

- 5) Provide advisory services to member governments, knowledge institutions, multilateral organizations, NGOs and other interested stakeholders on DC issues as requested by members of the Coalition;
- 6) Coordinate, collaborate, communicate, catalyze and develop joint activities between member countries of the Coalition;
- 7) Follow-up and coordinate implementation of joint activities including the development of formats, Delta related research and studies, publications, ToRs, etc., sending out newsletters, and updating and maintaining the website of the DC;
- 8) Assist the member countries and the Troika to review and consolidate long-term strategy of the Coalition;
- 9) Support and initiate active networking/lobby for the position of the delta countries and delta issues in multilateral fora or during key international events;
- 10) Deliver speeches and develop documentation for bilateral meetings, working sessions and ministerial conferences through email-exchange, video conference and working session with national focal points and staff of member countries and selected partners as agreed and guided by members of the Coalition;
- 11) Support and facilitate the Delta Coalition as a platform for exchange of best practices, including the collection of country and delta information;

## **6. Ministerial Conference and Working Group Meeting**

Ministerial Conference and Working Group Meeting will be held once in a year. The decision regarding the policy, perspective and future course of action of the Coalition will be taken during the Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conference will also adopt the report of the Working Group meeting. The review of status of various activities, initiatives, organizational matters etc. will be discussed and adopted in the Working Group Meetings which will be reported to the Ministerial Conference.

Delta Coalition meetings may be organized back-to-back with existing international conferences for saving travel costs and maximizing participants, therefore, the meeting schedule is flexible and only indicative. The focus of these meetings is on formulation, implementation and review of specific activities. Delta Coalition Ministerial Conference will be held annually at a time depending on the planning and focus of the responsible Chair.

## **7. Financing**

The financing in connection with hosting the rotating Secretariat and executing its function will be made by the Chair-in-Office until any permanent Secretariat is set up. However, other members may like to contribute voluntarily for any of the activities/programme. The financing for the

operational functions of the Secretariat includes the expenditure to be incurred for the following on voluntary basis:

- Travel/accommodation for Ministerial and yearly Working Group sessions, meetings and conferences;
- Hosting and organizing networking or side-events;
- Representation and communication of materials including printing cost of folders/ flyers and, posters; and
- Hosting and managing the official website of the DC.

Once the permanent Secretariat comes into being, the financing mechanism thereof will be decided through discussion among the Core Members.

#### **8. Amendment/Modification of the TOR**

This TOR may be amended/modified subject to the consensus of the Core Members during the Ministerial Conference.

#### **9. Adoption of the TOR**

This Terms of Reference is adopted in the Second Delta Coalition Ministerial Conference held in Dhaka, on 29 July, 2017.