

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 20
16 June 2017
Harlingen, Netherlands**



Agenda Item: 7.1
Subject: Ministerial Council Declaration Leeuwarden (1st Draft)
Document No. WSB 20/7.1/2
Date: 29 May 2017
Submitted by: Ministerial Declaration Drafting Group

Proposal: The meeting is requested to consider the document.

WSB 20.

16 June 2017, Harlingen.

(version to WSB-24 May 2017)

Subject: Ministerial Council Declaration Leeuwarden (1st Draft)

WSB is requested to give guidance and input to the ad-hoc Drafting Group MCD, in particular to:

- 1) *Decide on the necessity to have a Policy Assessment Report (PAR) prepared on the period 2014-2018 and to be submitted before WSB 21,*
- 2) *Give general recommendations on the set-up, the desired length of the MCD and its Annexes.*
- 3) *Discuss the list of topics presented here as a 1st draft and to add and/or to dismiss any topics.*
- 4) *Suggestions for international organisations to be invited (see in the Annex a list of organisations invited at previous Conferences)*
- 5) *Agree on the timeline presented.*

1) Policy Assessment Report.

In a PAR the progress on all the items listed in the Tønder Declaration are assessed and the progress achieved is reported. The advantage of producing a separate PAR can be regarded as having a transparent process on how the next MCD is being drafted. Following this line, a decision is needed on the positioning of the PAR.

It is obvious that the policy assessment process is also taking place, but then more implicitly, in the drafting process without generating a separate PAR.

Advice of the Drafting Group: to produce a PAR being positioned as a working document only. 1st Draft to be produced by the CWSS before 15 sept. 2017

2) General set-up of the MCD.

Advice of the drafting group: to aim for a concised document with only a few and focussed Annexes.

3) Outline of the MCD Leeuwarden 2018.

Preamble

General items to recognise/reaffirm/acknowledge: Joint Declaration 2010, Guiding Principle, Inscription on UNESCO, international cooperation/Implementation of Tønder Declaration

Wadden Sea World Heritage

Single Integrated Management Plan. Agree in implementing this UNESCO's recommendation. Outline of SIMP see Annex I. (PM timeline specifications)

World Heritage Strategy 2014-2020. To appreciate and to aim at efficient implementation

Sustainable Tourism Strategy: instruct WSB to oversee implementation

Flyway Cooperation: instruct WSB to oversee implementation Action Plan Breeding Birds, agree to continue Flyway cooperation with relevant Governmental and non-governmental organisations

Common conclusion/prospect: to use the benefits of the World Heritage as a catalyst for transboundary protection and sustainable development of the Wadden Sea

Extending Trilateral Cooperation

Partnership Center: welcoming, instruct WSB to PC starts 2021
Foundation: agree to establish. Annex II details on charter etc.

Nature Conservation and Integrated Management

Operational management: Agree to further intensify cooperation at operational management level and support implementation of trilateral strategies and plans on the ground

Seal management: reconfirmation guidelines on taking and releasing of seals; continuation of cooperation acc. To the Seal Agreement and agree on Seal Management Plan 2018-2022

Sustainable Fisheries: urging WSB to further implement the framework in Sustainable Fisheries (annex Tønder declaration) on a harmonised trilateral level.

Fish: welcome reformulated Fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan. Appreciate signing of the Swimway Vision by all stakeholders involved. (PM. Waiting for concrete proposal; Annex?) Instruct (PM, depending on content of the proposal) WSB to further implement a trilateral fish monitoring as part of the TMAP as well as essential management parts of Swimway Vision in coming period.

Alien Species: Welcome Alien Species Management and Action Plan (PM: waiting for proposal - Annex III). Agree on installing proposed monitoring program as part of TMAP and installation of proposed network platform at the CWSS. Instruct WSB to further implement next steps of the Action Plan.

N2000 roof report (PM; progress to be reported)

Breeding Birds Action Plan (PM; progress to be reported)

Landscape and Cultural Heritage.

Cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea area is a part of stakeholders' daily life - it is a theme very suitable for engagement and involvement of stakeholders.

Monitoring, mapping and the establishment of a knowledge base on cultural heritage demands development of a common language/definitions on the matter.

Energy.

Developments to be reflected. (PM. Progress and possible next steps to be discussed)

Climate.

CO2 neutral Wadden Sea Region: welcome progress (inventory) reported and (PM decide on) to continue and support these efforts with relevant local/regional levels and WSF.

Climate Change Adaptation: PM. Trilateral sediment study, monitoring and exchanging results of climate change adaptation projects. (PM; input from implementation report of Task Groupe Climate)

Maritime Safety and Pollution Preventing of Shipping

Acknowledging implementation Green Port concept along the Wadden Sea coast. (PM; results of DENGERNETH-MARAD Group and recommendations stakeholder workshop autumn 2017)

TMAP

Appreciate QSR 2017 and instruct WSB to oversee further development of TMAP taking into account (PM: results ISWSS14 and evaluation QSR2017 and input TG-M&M)

Science Cooperation

Welcoming findings ISWSS14, appreciate Trilateral Research Agenda and bring forward to responsible research ministries and instruct WSB to further most prominent management related research questions.

Wadden Sea Forum

Appreciation. Continue to support the WSF. (PM input from WSF)

International Cooperation

Appreciation one Ramsar Site listing. Agree to continue MOU-work

Communication and Education

Appreciation of IWSS. Agree to continue with the IWSS and financially support

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation 2018-2022

Welcome chair of Germany etc. Next ISWSS on the chairmanship of Germany.

*Delegates are invited to submit (additional) input until 15 August 2017 to the DG-MCD,
By e-mail to the CWSS:*

4) Invitation to International organisations.

Reference is made to existing list. (see Annex)

5) Timeline:

Reference is made to WSB-19, Draft Roadmap, see next page.

Draft Roadmap for the 2018 TRILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

Date/Timeline	Activity/Lead
WSB 19 , 24 March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decide upon procedure - Establish Drafting Group chaired by the Netherlands to prepare first draft Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD)
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netherlands fix final date, prepare 1st draft program and draft list of invitees
2 June 2017	1 st draft send to WSB members by CWSS
WSB 20 , 16 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First discussion of draft MCD. - First discussion of draft program and adoption of list of invitees
July-August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netherlands send out invitations
July-October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting Group prepares 2nd draft MCD - Netherlands further develop program
27 October 2017	2 nd draft send to the WSB members by CWSS
WSB 21 , 17 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of 2nd draft MCD. This 2nd draft should ideally contain the deliverables from all TGs. - Discussion of draft program
December 2017 – March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National consultations of draft MCD
WSB 22 , 2 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of final draft Programme
February – March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting Group amends draft MCD on the basis of the outcome of the national consultations
9 March 2018	1 st final draft MCD send to the WSB members by CWSS
WSB 23 , 23 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss 1st final draft MCD - Adopt final programme
WSB 24 , April 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt final draft MCD