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REVIEW AND PLANNING OF THE CORE AND PROJECT-BASED FUND

(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the Secretariat

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I. THE STATUS OF THE CORE FUND

1. As of 31 December 2024, the balance of the NEASPEC Core Funds was \$733,389. China and the Republic of Korea contributed \$45,000 and \$101,969, respectively, bringing the total contributions received in 2024 to US\$146,959.
2. In 2025, China has contributed US\$45,000, while the contribution from the Republic of Korea is expected in the latter part of the year.
3. As of 30 June 2025, the balance of the NEASPEC Core Fund is US\$645,936. A summary of the status of the NEASPEC Core Fund is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. NEASPEC Core Fund - Preliminary Financial Summary

As of 30 June 2025

	2025*	2024	2023
	(as of 30 June)		
Beginning Fund Balance	733,389	810,512	961,942
<u>Income</u>			
Contributions Received*	-	146,969	161,625
Interest Income	-	<u>37,191</u>	<u>38,018</u>
Sub-total	-	184,160	199,643
Expenditures and			
<u>Less: commitments</u>	<u>(87,453)</u>	<u>(261,283)</u>	<u>(351,073)</u>
Ending Fund Balance at the end of period	<u>645,936</u>	<u>733,389</u>	<u>810,512</u>

** Remarks: As the cut-off date for this report is 30 June 2025, the contribution of US\$45,000 from China, received on 10 July 2025, is not included in this preliminary financial summary.*

4. From 1 October 2024 to 30 June 2025, expenses incurred can be categorized into two main components: (1) programme planning and management, and (2) activity implementation under each thematic work programme. The details of the budget expenditures, categorized by thematic work programme, are provided below.

(a) Programme planning and management (US\$101,771)

- US\$83,646 for staff cost to support the secretariat operation, covering 50% of the salary for one international staff member (for 6 months), and the salary for one local staff member (for 9 months)
- US\$8,732 for hiring a contractor to support the secretariat during the temporary vacancy of the international staff position (from March 2025-present)

- US\$70 for NEASPEC website maintenance
- US\$283 for other miscellaneous expenses
- US\$9,040 for organizing the 27th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC in Beijing, China (12-13 December 2024)

(b) Air Pollution (US\$19,197)

- US\$11,197 for organizing the NEACAP Seventh Meeting of the Science and Policy Committee and Technical Centers in Incheon, Republic of Korea (14-15 July 2025)
- US\$8,000 for hiring a contractor to work on the copy editing and layout design of NEACAP Policy Analysis Report (Q3, 2025)

(c) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (US\$8,553)

- US\$7,500 for engaging a contractor to work on a report synthesizing the key findings of the project "*Transboundary Cooperation for Conservation of Amur Tigers, Amur Leopards, and Snow Leopards in North-East Asia*" (Q2-Q3, 2025)
- US\$628 for official travel to participate in a meeting on Black-Faced Spoonbill action plan revision in Hong Kong, China (25 February - 1 March 2025)
- US\$423 for printing the Nature Conservation brochure (big cat species) (Q4, 2024)

(d) Marine Protected Areas (US\$20,933)

- US\$12,207 for organizing the NEAMPAN Workshop: *Advancing Marine Protected Areas for Climate Action, Biodiversity, and Resilience* in Qingdao, China (11-12 November 2024)
- US\$1,274 for organizing a side event, titled "*Harmonizing Oceans: Transboundary Strategies for Climate Resilience in North-East Asia*" on 7 November 2024, and participating as a speaker in invited side events at the East Asia Seas Congress in Xiamen, China (6-8 November 2024)
- US\$2,452 for organizing a side event at the 10th Our Ocean Conference, titled "*Collaborating for Conservation: Protecting the Yellow Sea's Biodiversity and Ecosystems*" on 30 April 2025, and participating as a panelist in the MPA network session for the East Asia Sea in Busan, Republic of Korea (26 - 30 April 2025)
- US\$5,000 for hiring a consultant to prepare a report on the latest challenges and impacts of climate change on MPAs and relevant ocean-based solutions in China (Q1-Q3, 2025)

(e) Low Carbon City Platform (US\$ 20,593)

- US\$20,593 for organizing the 4th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities in Kitakyushu, Japan (8-9 October 2024)

* Remarks: Spending on the 5th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities in August will be reported next year.

(f) Desertification and Land Degradation (US\$0)

** Remarks: Spending on the Desertification and Land Degradation Forum in September will be reported next year.*

5. Over the past few years, the NEASPEC Core Fund balance has significantly decreased – from US\$1,033,420 on 1 January 2022 to US\$645,936 as of 30 June 2025. This decrease is due to expenditure on secretariat operations and the implementation of approved activities exceeding the contributions received. To sustain the current work programme, increased financial contributions are required. Otherwise, the Secretariat will not have sufficient funds to operate beyond 2027.

6. Table 2 presents the financial status of the NEASPEC Core Fund against the approved budget for the 2021-2025 period, categorized by the nature of expenditures. As of 30 June 2025, the Secretariat has spent US\$1,183,978, representing 62.32% of the approved budget. However, as this amount exceeds the actual contributions received from 2021 to 2024 (a total of US\$787,635), the Secretariat has planned its expenditures based on actual funds available rather than the full approved budget.

Table 2. Status of NEASPEC Project Budget (for the period of 2021-2025)

As of 30 June 2025

(In US dollars)

Descriptions	Budget 2021-2025	Commitments and Expense As of 30 June 2025	Budget Balance As of 30 June 2025
Staff and other personnel costs	829,000	650,245	178,755
Contractual services	291,000	120,477	170,523
Operating expenses*	40,000	15,750	24,250
Supplies and materials	2,500	1,478	1,022
Equipment and furniture	4,500	2,648	1,852
Transfers and grants	110,000	88,600	21,400
Travel	404,350	168,570	235,780
Sub-total	1,681,350	1,047,768	633,582
<i>Programme support costs (13%)</i>	218,576	136,210	82,366
TOTAL	1,899,926	1,183,978	715,948

** Operating expenses include courier service fee, rental of meeting facilities and equipment, online meeting facilitation services, bank fees, and other miscellaneous operating costs.*

II. THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT-BASED FUND

7. In addition to the activities funded by the Core Fund, NEASPEC operates project-based funds with contributions from member States for specific activities.

Project on “Connectivity Conservation for Habitats of Flagship Migratory Birds in North-East Asia (Black-Faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-Nape Cranes)”

8. The proposal on connectivity conservation for the habitats of flagship migratory birds in North-East Asia was reviewed and approved by the Russian Federation, with a total project budget of US\$299,789 for the project period from May 2024 to April 2027. The project focuses on: 1) the demographics of the three flagship species and the impacts of environmental, social and economic conditions on the species and their habitats; 2) good practices and recommendations for the subregion based on analytical studies that assess the impacts of agricultural activities on these species and their habitats, examine the effects caused by the construction of energy infrastructures (e.g., solar and wind generation facilities), and address other relevant issues; and 3) capacity building activities among stakeholders, especially empowering youth and women.

9. From 17 May 2024 to 30 June 2025, a total of US\$81,376 was spent. This included US\$26,952 for hiring a consultant to conduct an analytical study on the effects of energy infrastructures (2024–2025) in support of Output 1.2 (US\$15,050), and for hiring trainers to develop training materials and conduct training in support of Output 1.3 (US\$11,902). In addition, the Secretariat organized *the Workshop on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity for Transboundary Cooperation*, held in the Republic of Korea (28–29 August 2024) (US\$7,733), and *the Training for Young Crane Researchers in North-East Asia*, held in Mongolia (6–8 July 2025) (US\$37,329), both in support of Output 1.3. A further US\$9,362 was allocated for programme support costs (Tables 5 and 6).

Table 5: Preliminary Financial Statements

For the period of 17 May 2024 to 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	as of 30 June	
Beginning Fund Balance	300,563	-
<u>Income</u>		
Contributions Received*	-	299,789
Interest Income	-	9,634
Sub-total	300,563	309,423
<u>Less: Expenditures and commitments</u>	<u>(72,515)</u>	<u>(8,861)</u>
Ending Fund Balance at the end of period	<u>228,047</u>	<u>300,563</u>

Table 6: Budget and Preliminary Expenses and Outstanding Commitments

For the period of 17 May 2024 to 30 June 2025

Descriptions	Budget	Outstanding	Budget
	2024-2027	Commitments	Balance
		&Expense	As of 30 June
		30-Jun-25	2025
Staff and other personnel costs	30,300	15,050	15,250
Contractual services	30,000	11,902	18,098
Operating expenses	25,000	144	24,856
Supplies and materials		-	-
Equipment and furniture		-	-
Transfers and grants	90,000	-	90,000
Travel	90,000	44,918	45,082
Sub-total	265,300	72,014	193,286
<i>Programme support costs (13%)</i>	<i>34,489</i>	<i>9,362</i>	<i>25,127</i>
TOTAL*	299,789	81,376	218,413

*Remarks: The balance of the budget US\$218,413 excludes the interest earned of \$9,634

III. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNERS AND OTHERS

10. During the past budget period, the Secretariat obtained additional financial and in-kind support from project partners through joint activities and collaboration. Table 7 details in-kind contributions received by the Secretariat since October 2024.

Table 7. In-kind contributions received from 1 October 2024 to 30 June 2025

Activity	Date and venue	Partner	In-kind contribution
4th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities	8 - 9 October 2024, Kitakyushu, Japan	City of Kitakyushu, Incheon Metropolitan City, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kyushu Center, CityNet, Institute for Global Decarbonization Progress (iGDP), ICLEI East Asia, Climate Change Center, and the Incheon Institute	Venue, staff support, and logistical support
Side event at the East Seas Congress 2024	7 November 2024, Xiamen, China	Korea Maritime Institute	Staff support and expertise
NEAMPAN workshop	11-12 November 2024, Qingdao, China	First Institute of Oceanography of the Ministry of Natural Resources, China, and China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center	Venue and facilities, staff support, expertise, logistical support
Side event at the 10 th Our Ocean Conference	30 April 2025, Busan, Republic of Korea	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat (EAAFP), IUCN Asia Regional Office, Ramsar Regional Center East Asia, and Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea	Staff support, expertise, and media coverage

IV. PROGRAMME PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT:

January 2026 - December 2030

11. The programme planning and management for the period 2026-2030 is proposed to implement the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030. The Plan has the goals (a) contribute to the implementation of national, regional and global goals for sustainable development, in particular, environment-related Sustainable Development Goals, (b) enhance science-based, policy-oriented cooperation to address subregional environmental challenges; (c) mobilize mutual support to manage domestic environmental issues of the member States; (d) strengthen NEASPEC partnerships within subregional, regional and global networks in the five thematic priorities, and

(e) promote inclusive and preparatory approaches, including capacity building and knowledge exchange, to enhance effective implementation of NEASPEC's thematic priorities.

12. The Plan is intended to achieve the goals through

- (a) Focusing on joint actions across thematic priorities to maximize the efficiency and impact of subregional cooperation.
- (b) Identifying and developing new partnerships with subregional, regional and global actors to strengthen NEASPEC role.
- (c) Developing and implementing joint actions promoting science-policy linkages in each thematic priority.
- (d) Integrating digitalization, strategic foresight, and data-driven approaches into NEASPEC activities.
- (e) Supporting knowledge sharing and capacity development among member governments, local communities, women and youth, and other stakeholders.
- (f) Operating effective platforms and networks for member governments and other major stakeholders to enhance subregional environmental cooperation and coordinated actions.
- (g) Identifying and enhancing potential linkages between NEASPEC and subregional programmes and regional and global goals.

13. In line with the above-mentioned goals and approaches, the secretariat proposes the budget plan as shown in Table 8. The budget plan is based on the ESCAP template for project document. This allows the secretariat to keep consistent reporting of the budget execution to ESCAP internally and the NEASPEC member governments. A detailed activity plan for each programmatic area will be prepared through consultations with member governments and other relevant partners in the course of identifying and implementing specific activities.

14. As of 30 June 2025, as shown in Table 1, the available fund for further allocation is US\$ 645,936. With the expected additional spending and contributions by 31 December 2025, the secretariat estimates that the beginning cash balance available for the new budget cycle as of 1 January 2026 will be about US\$625,900 which will be brought forward for the next budget cycle period of 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.

Table 8 Budget Plan for 1 January 2026-31 December 2030

Commitment item class and description	Total (in USD)
FT_CLASS_010 Staff and other personnel costs	
Professional Project Staff	\$ 400,000
National Professional Officer (NPO)	\$ -
Locally recruited staff (General Service)	\$ 375,000
International consultants	\$ 60,000
National consultants	\$ 15,000
Consultant for evaluation	\$ 15,000
UNV allowance	\$ -
JPO (ESCAP portion)	\$ -
Appendix D charges	\$ 750
Class Total	\$ 865,750
FT_CLASS_120 Contractual services	
Individual Contractual Services	\$ 75,000
External Printing Service	\$ 10,000
Catering services by non UNCC service provider	\$ 65,000
Class Total	\$ 150,000
FT_CLASS_125 General operating and other direct costs	
Meeting packages/hotel accomodation/ Catering by UNCC service provider (e.g. CPF)	\$ 22,500
Rent and maintenance of premises	\$ -
Rental of equipment, vehicles and furniture	\$ -
Communication, sundries	\$ 2,500
Stationery and Office supplies	\$ -
Position accomodation costs	\$ -
Class Total	\$ 25,000
FT_CLASS_130 Supplies, Commodities and Materials	
Supplies and materials (eg. toner cartridge, medical supplies, etc.)	\$ 1,200
Library books and subscriptions	\$ -
Class Total	\$ 1,200
FT_CLASS_135 Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	
Equipment and Furniture	\$ -
Vehicles	\$ -
Laptops, USB flash disks, software	\$ 5,000
Class Total	\$ 5,000
FT_CLASS_140 Transfer and grants to implementing partner	
Transfer, grants and direct IPs costs (LoAs)	\$ 100,000
Class Total	\$ 100,000
FT_CLASS_160 Travel	
Travel of staff on official business	\$ 75,000
Travel of consultants and Individual Contractors	\$ 25,000
Travel of Workshop/Seminar participants	\$ 350,000
Class Total	\$ 450,000
Total Programmable Project Costs	\$ 1,596,950
FT_CLASS_155 Programme Support Costs - UN	
Programme Support Costs	\$ 207,604
Less IP-PSC	\$ -
Class Total	\$ 207,604
PROJECT TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,804,554

- **Staff and other personnel costs:**
 - International staff cost: 50% of the salary and benefits of one professional staff member (P-2) dedicated to NEASPEC work.
 - Local staff cost: Salary and benefits of one general service staff member (GS-5) dedicated to NEASPEC work.
 - Consultants: International and national consultants from member countries.
- **Contractual services:** Engagement of contractors for translation/interpretation, catering, printing, and services related to knowledge product or IT.
- **General operating and other direct costs:** Covering meeting packages, hotel accommodation, and other communication or sundry expenses.
- **Equipment cost:** Purchase of laptop computers to replace obsolete units that have reached the end of their usual lifetime.
- **Transfer and grants to implementing partners:** Engagement of partner institutions through Letter of Agreements (LOAs) for implementing project activities.
- **Supplies, Commodities, and Materials:** Covering the cost of office supplies and stationery for meetings and trainings.
- **Travel:**
 - Travel of staff on official business to organize five Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) and programme activities.
 - Travel of consultants recruited under each programme area to participate in respective programme activities.
 - Travel of meeting participants to attend programme meetings, study tours, workshops, forums, and seminars.
- **Programme Support Cost:**
 - Programme support costs for the UN at 13%.

15. In line with the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, the results framework of programme planning and management is proposed as shown in Table 9. The following outputs and activities have been formulated in accordance with the Strategic Plan and the standard format of ESCAP's project document.

Table 9 Results framework of NEASPEC project 2026-2030

<p>Project objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the implementation of national, regional and global goals for sustainable development, in particular, environment-related Sustainable Development Goals • Enhance science-based, policy-oriented cooperation to address subregional environmental challenges; • Mobilize mutual support to manage domestic environmental issues of the member States; • Strengthen NEASPEC partnerships within subregional, regional and global networks in the five thematic priorities; and • Promote inclusive and participatory approaches, including capacity building and knowledge exchange, to enhance effective implementation of NEASPEC's thematic priorities.
<p>Project outcome 1</p> <p>Strengthened knowledge and capacity of policy makers in the ministries of environment and sustainable development to develop and implement subregional agendas for environmental sustainability</p>
<p>Output 1.1:</p> <p>By 2030, the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, supported by the Science and Policy Committee and designated Technical Centers, is developed as a fully-functioning platform facilitating strategic and effective cooperation in addressing air pollution challenges in North-East Asia, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened information exchange through cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation to support member countries improve air quality; • Increased technical collaboration and capacity building assistance through designated Technical Centers; • Strengthened collective and transformative climate actions through joint research focusing on coordinated strategy to improving air quality management and its synergies with climate strategies; and • Strengthened synergies with existing collaborative programmes and mechanisms (multilateral, regional, global) on air pollution through joint projects.
<p>Key activities:</p> <p>1.1.1. Organize meetings of the Science and Policy Committee and designated Technical Centers.</p> <p>1.1.2. Organize stakeholder engagements through policy dialogue and/or symposium on air quality management and air pollution challenges.</p> <p>1.1.3. Undertake collaborations with partner(s) through joint events/activities, including co-delivering / co-implementing capacity-building activities.</p> <p>1.1.4. Undertake thematic analytical work, including on: (i) air quality management and its synergies with climate strategies; and (ii) clean technologies and low-emission policy measures.</p>

Output 1.2:

By 2030, the NEA-LCCP is developed to a fully functional platform to support communications and cooperation among stakeholders and promote awareness and capacity for developing and implementing low carbon city plans through:

- Enhanced exchange of knowledge and best practices on low carbon urban development and its co-benefits with climate mitigation and resilience;
- Enhanced technical cooperation for strengthening capacity to effectively implement low carbon city approach;
- Strengthened capacity of LCCP to provide technical and practical support to address specific conditions and capacities for LCC development through linking, mobilizing and connecting expert networks; and
- Increased knowledge resources on urban climate action.

Key Activities:

- 1.2.1. Organize international forums on low carbon cities and contribute to the Asia Pacific Urban Forums.
- 1.2.2. Organize capacity-building workshops for cities, city networks and other relevant stakeholders in North-East Asia.
- 1.2.3. Carry out a study on low-carbon city policies in North-East Asian countries, culminating in publications such as a policy booklet featuring key approaches, case studies, and actionable recommendations.
- 1.2.4. Develop technical materials and utilize the NEASPEC website as a platform for knowledge sharing and dissemination.

Output 1.3:

By 2030, regional mechanisms for collaboration among NEASPEC member States on DLD are strengthened with enhanced capacity for assessing, monitoring and managing DLD, through:

- Strengthened collaboration in addressing DLD by facilitating dialogue among NEASPEC Member States and other stakeholders, creating synergies with regional cooperation mechanisms such as DLDD-NEAN, and organizing subregional forums, seminars and workshops for relevant policymakers, experts and local communities;
- Improved scientific and policy understanding of DLD drivers, impacts, and their links to climate change and biodiversity loss, through collaborative research and policy-oriented studies;
- Increased visibility and raised awareness about NEASPEC in main international fora; and
- A database of good practices built for future sharing including through global publications.

Key Activities:

- 1.3.1. Organize subregional forums, seminars and workshops for relevant stakeholders in North-East Asia, in collaboration with international organizations, regional institutes and regional cooperation mechanisms.
- 1.3.2. Promote collaborative research and policy-oriented studies on desertification and land degradation.
- 1.3.3. Organize promotional activities, such as side events, at major events on desertification and land degradation.
- 1.3.4. Contribute to major publications on desertification and land degradation and share good practices through the NEASPEC website.

Output 1.4:

By 2030, subregional cooperation among NEASPEC member States on biodiversity conservation is strengthened by enhancing the conservation of flagship species and their habitats, promoting ecological connectivity and supporting the implementation of global and national biodiversity strategies, through:

- Strengthened cross-border ecological connectivity, and landscape-level conservation through bilateral, multilateral, and multistakeholder cooperation;
- Facilitated capacity building and knowledge sharing through collaborative research and monitoring, and the establishment and the development of a knowledge-sharing platform;
- Strengthened monitoring and protection of flagship species and their habitats; and
- Maximized synergies with local, national, (sub-)regional, and global initiatives for capacity-building, technical assistance, and policy alignment through the leverage of existing partnerships and exploration of new opportunities.

Key Activities:

- 1.4.1. Organize meetings and/or forums on cross-border ecological connectivity for relevant stakeholders in North-East Asia.
- 1.4.2. Organize capacity building workshops to strengthen collaboration on cross-border ecological connectivity.
- 1.4.3. Fully operate a knowledge-sharing platform on NEASPEC flagship species.
- 1.4.4. Organize promotional activities, such as side events, at major events on biodiversity and nature conservation.

Output 1.5:

By 2030, NEAMPAN's role is recognized as a key platform for enhancing partnerships among MPAs and stakeholders; through:

- Enhanced capacity to achieve the 30x30 target and other relevant goals under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 in a coordinated and nature-based manner;
- Strengthened MPA management effectiveness through the facilitation of the exchange of knowledge, information, experiences, and best practices and the promotion of nature-based solutions;
- Strengthened cross-border cooperation on the protection of endangered and rare migratory marine species, recognizing their interconnected nature of ecosystem across MPAs;
- Enhanced biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and socio-economic benefits through the integration of nature-based solutions and marine spatial planning into MPA management; and
- Maximized synergies with national, (sub-)regional, and global initiatives for capacity-building, technical assistance, and policy alignment through the leverage of existing partnerships and exploration of new opportunities.

Key Activities:

- 1.5.1. Organize meetings of the NEAMPAN Steering Committee, and capacity building workshops, webinars and seminars for managing marine protected areas.
- 1.5.2. Contribute to the global and regional marine protected areas networks by implementing joint activities and organizing side events in global and regional events on marine protected areas.
- 1.5.3. Prepare promotional materials to raise awareness on MPA and share good practices through the NEASPEC website.
- 1.5.4. Contribute to major publications on marine protected areas.

Output 1.6:

By 2030 NEASPEC's thematic priorities are strongly interlinked, and synergies are optimized; through:

- Strengthened mutual understanding and policy dialogue among the member States, and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, on emerging issues and plan of joint action developed accordingly;
- Enhanced capacities of the member States to identify interlinkages and issues to support policy dialogue and joint action;
- Intensified linkages with regional initiatives, including those facilitated by ESCAP in collaboration with ESCAP's relevant divisions;
- Defined linkages with global commitments (SDGs, MEAs) translated into national/regional policies.
- Increased visibility and contributions of subregional perspectives at global platforms and high-level engagements.
- Strengthened partnerships with international organizations (IOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector (e.g., ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)).

Key Activities:

- 1.6.1. Organize the meetings of Senior Officials and national focal points of NEASPEC.
- 1.6.2. Organize promotional activities, such as side events, at global platforms and high-level engagements.
- 1.6.3. Expand partnerships with international organizations, research institutes, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

16. Based on the approval of this overall plan and further guidance from member States, the project document will be prepared, approved by ESCAP Executive Secretary and submitted to SOM-29 as a reference document. The project document will include the following information: (1) Context and problem analysis (including problem identification, gender analysis, stakeholder analysis, and capacity assessment); (2) Results framework (see Table 9); (3) Project strategy; (4) Sustainability; (5) Gender Marker; (6) Budget; and Annexes (detailed stakeholder analysis and monitoring, reporting, and evaluation).

V. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

17. The Meeting may wish to express its appreciation to the member States for their financial contributions to the NEASPEC Core Fund and project-based funds, as well as to partner organizations for their support and in-kind contributions.

18. Given the significant decrease in the balance of the NEASPEC Core Fund, the Meeting may wish to encourage member States to increase and/or make new contributions in support of the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030. Without increased contributions from member States and other donors, the Core Fund balance will be insufficient to sustain secretariat operations beyond 2027.

19. The Meeting may wish to request member States to announce their intended financial and in-kind contributions toward the implementation of programmes and activities.

20. The Meeting may wish to accept the financial report and approve the proposed programme planning and management, including the budget plan.

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