**Concept Note for the Proposed Task Force on Funding Mechanism for the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE)**

**Introduction**

The Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) was established to address the growing threats posed by environmental hazards to human health. This forum aims to promote collaboration among various sectors to tackle complex and interconnected environmental health issues. Despite its significant achievements, APRFHE has faced considerable challenges, particularly in terms of financial sustainability and governance. To ensure the continuity and effectiveness of its initiatives, there is a pressing need to develop a robust funding mechanism.

**Background**

Since its inception in 2004, APRFHE has played an important role in bringing together the health and environment sectors at regional and country levels. The forum provides a platform for sharing knowledge, advocating for protective measures, and promoting policies that prioritize human health in the context of sustainable development goals and international agreements.

However, the forum’s activities have been hampered by a lack of financial resources. The absence of a sustainable funding mechanism has significantly affected the momentum and effectiveness of APRFHE’s initiatives. Addressing this issue is vital for the forum to continue its essential work in protecting human health and the environment in the Asia Pacific region.

**Potential objectives could include:**

1. To prepare an estimate of budget requirement for APRFHE starting 2025.
2. To develop a sustainable and diversified funding strategy and resource mobilization action plan to support the forum’s activities, including high-level meetings, thematic working groups (TWGs), and capacity-building initiatives.
3. To enhance the visibility and impact of APRFHE activities through effective resource utilization.

**Potential scope of work could include:**

The Task Force will undertake the following key activities:

1. Assessment current resource requirements and mechanisms:
* Prepare estimated budget for the APRHE activities starting 2025
* Conduct a thorough review of existing financial mechanisms supporting APRFHE
* Identify gaps in the current resource requirements
1. Development of funding strategy and resource mobilization action plan:
* Propose various funding options, including voluntary contributions from member countries, international organizations, and private sector partners.
* Explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships and grant applicants.
* Develop a detailed implementation plan for the proposed funding mechanism.
* Outline the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the implementation process.
1. Monitoring and Evaluation:
* Establish monitoring mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the funding strategy.
* Provide recommendations for continuous improvement of the funding mechanism.

**Potential composition of the Task Force could be:**

1. One representative from the current Chair of APRFHE
2. One representative from each organization in the Secretariat: UNEP ROAP, WHO SEARO, and WHO WPRO
3. Two representatives from member countries
4. Resource mobilization and financing experts (from Secretariat or individuals as temporary advisors)

**Potential deliverables could include:**

1. An assessment report of APRFHE financing situation and resource requirements and financial mechanisms.
2. A strategy for predictable and sustainable funding, including proposed funding options and resource mobilization action plan.
3. Periodic progress reports and recommendations for enhancing the funding strategy.

**Timeframe for the operation of the Task Force – potentially aligned with the Chairship.**