

**Letter of Intent
Between
The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India
And
The Ministry of Climate and Environment, Government of Norway
And
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway
For
Establishing the Framework for India-Norway Integrated Ocean Management & Research
Initiative**

Preamble

On January 8th, 2019 India and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (the MoU) establishing the India - Norway Ocean Dialogue. A Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was also commissioned by the Prime Ministers Modi and Solberg, and was established in January 2019.

In the MoU, the two sides emphasized “the need to move towards integrated and ecosystem-based approaches in the management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources”. The MoU also identified integrated ocean management as an area of mutual interest for future cooperation.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences (the Parties) therefore agree to extend the cooperation under this MoU by establishing the India-Norway Integrated Ocean Management & Research Initiative for a period of five years.

Article 1

The focus of the collaboration will be integrated ocean management, including relevant fields such as marine spatial planning. The Parties will develop the basis and framework for the India-Norway Integrated Ocean Management & Research Initiative. The framework shall define the scope of the collaboration and suggest a governance structure for the partnership in accordance with relevant Indian and Norwegian rules and regulations. The Parties will also develop joint projects, including research, in close collaboration with other relevant Norwegian and Indian stakeholders. Further, relevant Ministries of both Norway and India will be associated with the Initiative as required.

Article 2

Through this Letter of Intent (LoI) the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Ministry of Earth Sciences will develop the draft framework for the Integrated Ocean Management & Research Initiative, in consultation with the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and other Ministries in Govt. of India for a holistic view.

Article 3

The Norwegian Government shall be represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, and the Indian Government shall be represented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, in all matters pertaining to the India-Norway Integrated Ocean Management & Research Initiative.

Article 4

The Parties will each designate a focal point to facilitate implementation of this LoI. The contact information of the focal point will be listed in Annex A of this LoI, which shall be updated periodically and distributed to both Parties.

Each Party's rights, title and interest in its intellectual property and confidential information remain unaffected by the existence of this LoI.

This LoI does not constitute a legally binding arrangement. It serves only as a record of each Party's separate intention of cooperation and undertaking of activities as contemplated by this document.

This LoI shall enter into force from the date of signature by each Party and shall remain in effect for a period of 5 (five) years or until otherwise terminated in writing by either Party. An evaluation of this arrangement will take place 5 (five) years after the date of signature. Either Party may terminate this LoI by giving the other Party at least one month notice. Termination will incur no liability to either Party, and will not affect any agreements or other legally binding arrangements in place between the two Parties.

Article 5

The LoI is drawn up in two identical originals in both Hindi and English language. Both copies are equally authentic.

New Delhi, 18th February 2020

On behalf of
The Ministry of Earth Sciences,
Government of India



Dr. M. Rajeevan
Secretary to the Govt. of India

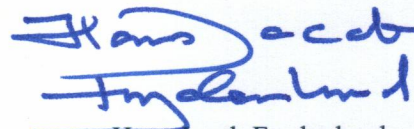
On behalf of
The Ministry of Climate and Environment,
Government of Norway



Nina Christine Rør
Deputy Director General

and

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Norway



Hans Jacob Frydenlund
Ambassador

Annex A

Nodal Point – India

Dr. M.V.Ramanamurthy
Head, National Center for Coastal Research
Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India

Nodal Point – Norway

Kerry Maria Agustsson
Senior Adviser
Norwegian Environment Agency
Government of Norway