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<b>Document title</b>	Planners' forum as a long-term mechanism
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<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	5-Intergovernmental cooperation and follow up progress in regional MSP
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Sweden (for Capacity4MSP)
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

The drafting work with a Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Planners' forum in the Baltic Sea Region has continued since the last HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meeting in March this year. The dedicated working group has discussed different formats for the forum to function and agrees that being organised under the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is the most desirable option. The ToR draft has been updated with a section about tasks. The section serves to clarify at what level (technical and expert) the forum will function and provides a first sorting about possible issues to be covered. It also aims to more clearly distinguish the function of the Planning forum from the MSP WG.

The ToR draft and an explanatory note or similar will be discussed and reviewed at the next Planning forum within Capacity4MSP 24<sup>th</sup> November. After that, the ToR working group will compile its final version as an outcome from the project platform Capacity4MSP for future consideration.

The dedicated work group has representatives from BSH, Germany, Ministry of Finance, Estonia, VASAB Secretariat, HELCOM Secretariat, Submariner Network for Blue Growth, Gdynia Maritime University, Poland, Scientific and Research Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak NorthWest, Russia, Ministry of Environment and Regional Development of Latvia, Ministry of the Environment, Finland and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

The latest version of the ToR is available as Annex 1 to this document.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss and consider the latest developments on the possible long-term mechanism of such event in the future.