

**Framework Convention
for the Protection of the Marine
Environment of the Caspian Sea**

Distr.: General
12 December 2012

Original: English

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Fourth Meeting

Moscow, 10-12 December 2012

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

**Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for
the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea**

Final Act

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) met pursuant to the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention in Aktau, 10-12 August 2011, and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
2. The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention took place in Moscow from 10 to 12 December 2012, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation.
3. The following States participated in the Conference:

The Republic of Azerbaijan,
The Islamic Republic of Iran,
The Republic of Kazakhstan,
The Russian Federation,
Turkmenistan.
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations also participated:

United Nations Environment Programme;
European Union;
United Nations Development Programme;
International Maritime Organization;
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations;

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5. In the course of the inaugural ceremony, the Meeting heard a welcoming address by His Excellency Mr. Sergey Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

6. The following representatives of the Contracting Parties also addressed the meeting:

His Excellency Mr. Rauf Hajiev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh, Vice-President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

His Excellency Mr. Marlen Iskakov, Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabairamov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

7. On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNEP Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner, addressed the Conference.

8. The Conference was also addressed by the following representatives of international and national, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies:

Mr. Vladimir Mamaev, United Nations Development Programme;

Mr. Jose Matheickal, International Maritime Organization;

Mr. Shamil Magomedov, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Dagestan;

Mr. Thomas Moth-Poulsen, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations;

Mr. Sergey Monakhov, CASPCOM;

Mr. Amir Sayad Shirazi, Safir-e-Tabiat;

Mr. Igor Krasnov, Government of the Astrakhan Oblast;

Mr. Peter Prokosch, GRID-Arendal;

Mr. Arkadiy Sokolskiy, All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation (Astrakhan Branch).

9. The Conference elected by acclamation the following officers to serve as its Bureau:

Chairperson: His Excellency Mr. Sergey Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation;

Vice-Chairperson: His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabairamov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan;

Rapporteur: Mr. Frederik Schlingemann, Senior Advisor to the interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention.

10. The Conference decided that its Bureau serves also as the Credentials Committee.

11. The Conference adopted its Agenda, attached as Annex 1. The list of documents is contained in Annex 2.

12. The Conference approved the recommendation of the Credentials Committee to recognize the credentials of the representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Tehran Convention.

13. The Conference adopted on 12 December 2012 the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. The Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based

Sources and Activities was opened for signature by the Caspian littoral States on 12 December 2012. It will remain open for signature at the office of the Depositary in Tehran for six months and afterwards will be open for accession by the Caspian littoral States. The text of the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Tehran Convention appears in Annex 3 to this Final Act.

14. The Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea was signed by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh, Vice-President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabairamov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. His Excellency Mr. Rauf Hajiev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Mr. Marlen Iskakov, Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan and His Excellency Mr. Sergey Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation announced that they will sign the Protocol soon.
15. The Conference adopted the Ministerial Statement and Decisions as contained in Annex 4.
16. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
17. The Conference accepted with gratitude the offer of Turkmenistan to host in 2014 the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
18. The Conference was closed by Mr. Nuritdin Inamov, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

12 December 2012, Moscow