

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND DECISIONS
OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CASPIAN SEA**

**30 May 2014
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

The Ministers of Natural Resources and Environment and High-level Officials of the Contracting Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, done at the city of Tehran, on the fourth day of November 2003 (herein after referred to as the Tehran Convention), and entered into force on 12 August 2006:

Recalling their Statement and Decisions adopted at the previous Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, especially the fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 12 December 2012, Moscow, Russian Federation;

Having considered the report by the interim Secretariat on the implementation of the Tehran Convention (TC/COP5/2);

1. Welcome the adoption and signing of the “Decision on the Location and Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)”, as contained in document TC/COP5/10;

2. Welcome the ratification by the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan of the (Aktau) Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents to the Tehran Convention, and invite the Republic of Kazakhstan to finalize its ratification process;

3. Welcome the proposal by the Republic of Kazakhstan to hold a meeting in Aktau and invite the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), other relevant international organizations and the private sector, including the oil and gas industry and the maritime transport companies, to support the implementation of the Aktau Protocol and its follow-up activities;

4. Welcoming the accession by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the ratification by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the signing by the other Contracting Parties of the (Moscow) Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Tehran Convention, urge these Parties to ensure early ratification of the Protocol and request the (interim) Secretariat to undertake the necessary steps to promote its implementation;

5. Welcome the adoption and signing of the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity to the Tehran Convention by the Contracting Parties, confirm the intention of their respective Governments to ensure early ratification of the Protocol and request the (interim) Secretariat to undertake the necessary steps to promote its implementation;

6. Noting the agreement in principle reached on the text of the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context to the Tehran Convention by the Contracting Parties, decide to finalize the arrangements for adoption and signature of the Protocol as soon as possible before the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. Welcome the participation of relevant international organizations and the private sector, including the oil and gas industry and the maritime transport companies, and encourage them to support the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;

8. Welcome the adoption in all Caspian littoral states of Plans, or NCAPs for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols and urge the Contracting Parties to advance their implementation and use the unified reporting format to provide their national reports on a three year basis starting from 2014;

9. Express further support for public participation in the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;

10. Welcome the MoU between the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) and the (interim) Secretariat of the Tehran Convention, contained in document TC/COP5/5;

11. Welcome the proposed Regional Framework and Network for the Tehran Convention and Protocol Compliance Monitoring and Assessment, contained in document TC/COP5/5, and decide to establish a working group on monitoring and information exchange;

12. Convinced of the usefulness of a legal framework for information sharing in support of the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols, invite the (interim) Secretariat to initiate and service intergovernmental consultations related to the development of such a framework, in consultation with the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange;

13. Welcome the progress and initiation of the second phase in ensuring full operation and implementation of the virtual web-based Caspian Environmental Information Centre (CEIC) and express their gratitude to British Petroleum and its Co-venturers for its renewed support to the operation of the CEIC;

14. Underlining the importance of regular Reports on the State of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (SOE), request the (interim) Secretariat, resources permitting, to coordinate and oversee the preparation of a second SOE Report, based on the principles and guidelines contained in document TC/COP5/6;

15. Request the Secretariat to coordinate the continuation of the implementation of the current Program of Work of the Tehran Convention until end 2015;

16. Decide to continue to collectively provide a contribution of US \$ 360,000 (US \$ 72,000 per country) per year to the budget of the Convention and urge the Contracting Parties to make their contributions as early in the year as possible and request the (interim) Secretariat to continue to consult the Contracting Parties on the possibility of increasing their contribution taking into account the decision to locate the Secretariat in the territories of the countries of the Contracting Parties;

17. Welcome the contributions provided by international organizations, in particular GEF, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and IMO, and call upon all donors to consider, continue, renew or increase bilaterally or multilaterally their support to the implementation of the provisions of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;

18. Noting the outcome of the Black Sea – Caspian Sea Inter-regional Ballast Water Management Activities, co-organized by IMO, UNEP/TCIS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC) in Novorossiysk, 9-13 December 2013, request the Secretariat to promote GEF support for a project on ballast water management in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea;

19. Express their appreciation of the initiative of the I.R. of Iran to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Tehran Convention, in Tehran on 4 November 2013, in the presence of High-level officials and representatives of the Contracting Parties;

20. Express gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for the organization of the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention;

21. Decide to hold the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Tehran Convention in 2015 in conjunction with the inauguration of the Convention Secretariat and accept with gratitude the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host COP6.