

**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)**

30 May 2014, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

We, 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 article 23.1 of the Tehran Convention, which provides for the establishment of the Secretariat of the Convention;

Noting that during the Presidential Summits of the Caspian littoral states, meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, as well as other negotiations of the five Caspian littoral countries on Caspian related issues, options for the location and arrangements of the Convention Secretariat were discussed and reviewed;

Expressing gratitude to the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Program in Geneva, for having provided the functions of the Convention Secretariat ad interim at the invitation of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Tehran Convention and of subsequent Meetings of the Conference of Parties, pending agreement on secretariat arrangements;

1. Decide to locate the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention in the territory of the Caspian littoral States on a four year rotation basis, in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language;
2. Request the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Regional Office for Europe to carry out the administration of the Tehran Convention Secretariat and for that purpose to establish a Trust Fund with mutually agreed terms of reference and budget subject to the decisions of the COP;
3. Request the interim Secretariat to coordinate and service consultations with and between the Contracting Parties and UNEP, with a view to reach agreement on the composition of the Convention Secretariat and the terms of reference and budget of the Trust Fund;
4. Appeal to the host country to support the Secretariat, in accordance with the "Standardized List of Host Country Secretariat Support" contained in Annex II of document TC/COP4/6, and to the other Contracting Parties to provide for additional Secretariat support, through the secondment of staff or otherwise;
5. Welcome the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Secretariat in its territory in accordance with paragraph 1 and 4 above, starting from January 2015;
6. Welcome the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be the next country to host the Secretariat in its territory;

7. Request the interim Secretariat to make all efforts to promote and ensure that the Secretariat arrangements at location will be ready for operation by January 2015.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan

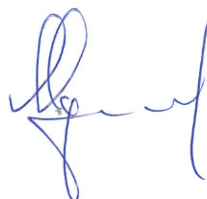


For the Islamic Republic of Iran



- Parvin Farshchi

For the Republic of Kazakhstan



For the Russian Federation



For Turkmenistan

