Concept Note for Side Event at COP29 of the UNFCCC

# Title:

Meet the Caspian Sea: Enhancing Coastal Resilience and Biodiversity Protection through the Tehran Convention under Climate Change impacts

# Event Logistics

• Date: 19 November 09:30-11.00
• Venue: Blue Zone/ Azerbaijan Pavilion/ B Room

# Event Context

The Caspian Sea, the world’s largest inland body of water, plays a pivotal role in regional biodiversity, climate regulation, and economic activities such as fishing, transport, and energy production. However, the region is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation of its resources. The Tehran Convention, the first legally binding regional agreement aimed at protecting the Caspian environment, serves as the primary platform for cooperation among the Caspian littoral states: Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.
As global environmental challenges escalate, the urgency of regional cooperation for the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems has never been greater. The side event will focus on the role of the Tehran Convention in tackling transboundary environmental challenges, building climate resilience, and promoting sustainable development in the Caspian region.

# Objectives

1. Raise Awareness: To inform the international community about the unique environmental challenges faced by the Caspian Sea region, particularly in the context of climate change and sustainable development.

2. Showcase the Tehran Convention’s Role: To highlight the achievements of the Tehran Convention in fostering regional cooperation in context of pollution control measures, biodiversity conservation, and addressing the emerging impacts of climate change on the Caspian ecosystem.

3. Strengthen Collaboration and Facilitate Dialogue: To explore opportunities for synergies between the Tehran Convention and global climate initiatives under the UNFCCC, SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

# Target Audience

• Government representatives from Caspian littoral states
• International environmental organizations and UN agencies
• Policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations
• Private sector stakeholders involved in marine and coastal management