



**Second Preparatory Committee Meeting  
for the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Tehran Convention  
31 May – 3 June 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
(Annotated)**

<b>Sunday, 31 May 2015</b>
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**10:00 - 10:15 - Registration and opening of the meeting**

Welcoming words by the host party, country delegations and TCIS

**- Adoption of the agenda**

**10:15 - 11:30 - Update and review on Secretariat relocation and arrangements: Host country arrangements**

TCIS and Azerbaijan will update and the Meeting is invited to discuss/review/comment/agree on:

- The host country agreement between UNEP and Azerbaijan
- The support by Azerbaijan to the Convention Secretariat in accordance with the Standardized List of Host Country Secretariat Support agreed to at COP4
- The draft of the terms of reference for the Trust Fund for the administration of the Convention and its Secretariat
- The status of the recruitment process for the Executive Secretary of the Tehran Convention, including the letter which the Parties suggested the President of the COP should send to the Executive Director of UNEP
- The status of and potential for staff support (secondments) by the Parties, based on the Secretariat letter of 22 January 2015
- The status and perspective of UNEP support to the Secretariat and the Convention process, in cash and in kind
- The future status and terms of reference of the NCLOs
- The financial situation and status of contributions to the budget of the Convention
- The status and perspectives for fundraising in support of the Tehran Convention process
- The dates and venues of the third and last PrepCom to COP6 and of COP6

**11:30– 12:00 - Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:00 - Update on signing, ratification and implementation of Aktau, Moscow and Ashgabat Protocols; review Turkmen proposals on EIA Protocol**

Aktau Protocol

- Kazakhstan is invited to update the Meeting on the ratification process of the Aktau Protocol in Kazakhstan; Turkmenistan may inform when to expect its no objection statement, the last one needed for Kazakhstan's ratification to take place
- Kazakhstan is invited to propose and the Meeting is expected to decide on the dates of the Aktau Protocol meeting
- Turkmenistan is invited to inform the Meeting when its annex to the Aktau Protocol implementation plan will be submitted, and TCIS will outline and seek approval for the procedure for the finalization, circulation and adoption of the Plan, as well as on the role of and contribution by IMO
- TCIS will outline and seek comments/approval of the Meeting for the procedure for inviting the oil and gas industry to the Aktau meeting, as well as on the finalization of the strategy paper and recommendations for engaging the private sector in the implementation of the Protocol and the Convention as a whole
- TCIS will inform and seek approval of the Meeting for linking the ENVSEC project "Enhancing regional cooperation in support of marine oil spills preparedness in the Caspian region" to the preparations for and follow up of the Aktau meeting
- The Meeting may review and recommend how the Aktau Protocol and its implementation can be linked to the follow up of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations in the Caspian Sea, signed at the Caspian Summit in Astrakhan on 29 September 2014
- Kazakhstan is invited to inform the Meeting about the organization and Kazakh financial and other support to the Aktau meeting.

#### Moscow Protocol

- Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan are invited to inform the Meeting as to when their ratification of the Moscow Protocol can be expected
- TCIS will inform the Meeting if, how and when a training/information exchange workshop to review the priorities for implementation of the Protocol can be held in cooperation with and supported by UNEP GPA.

#### Ashgabat Protocol

- Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are invited to inform the Meeting about how and when they expect to accede to, i.e. in one procedure sign and ratify, the Ashgabat Protocol now that the deadline for signing – 30 May 2015 – has expired. IR Iran, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan may inform about the status of ratification;
- The Meeting will be informed and invited to decide on the procedure for involving the Contracting Parties in the preparation and organization of the CBD Workshop on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, scheduled to take place in Istanbul, 18/19 – 23 October 2015.

#### EIA protocol

- Turkmenistan is invited to inform the Meeting on the status of the remaining Turkmen proposals for amendments to the draft EIA Protocol;
- Consequently, the Meeting may review and decide on ways and means to submit an agreed protocol text to COP6 for consideration and approval.

**13:00 – 14:30 - Lunch break**

**14:30 – 16:00 - Composition, terms of reference and work programme Working Group on Assessment, Monitoring and Information Exchange**

By letter of 27 February 2015, the Contracting Parties were requested to nominate up to 2

members of the Working Group on Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting and Information Exchange and review its proposed terms of reference. The Meeting:

- Will be informed and is invited to complete the list of WG members;
- Is invited to review and agree on the proposed terms of reference;
- Is invited to review and agree on the priority program of work of the WG as proposed in the Terms of Reference and based on the “Regional Framework and Network for Tehran Convention and Protocol Compliance Monitoring and Assessment” welcomed by COP5 (Annex 2 of TC/COP5/5);
- Is invited to agree on the dates of the first meeting of the Working Group, which should be after its establishment by COP6, and the procedures for its preparation.

**16:00 - 16:30 - Coffee break**

**16:30 - 18:00 - Continued: Composition, terms of reference and work programme Working Group on Assessment, Monitoring and Information Exchange**

<b>Monday, 1 June 2015</b>
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**10:00 – 11:30 - Preparation water quality standards and objectives**

The first PrepCom in Baku, Azerbaijan, 24-27 November 2014, discussed and agreed that a legal instrument on data and information sharing should include a set of water quality objectives and standards. An introduction to the European Union approach towards EQS (Environmental Quality Standards) had been distributed before the meeting (email of 10 October 2014). At the meeting Alexander Korshenko of the Russian State Oceanographic Institute presented a paper entitled “An Expert View towards Caspian regional Water Quality standards/Water Quality Objectives”.

Based on the options in the paper on how to approach the development and integration of water quality standards and objectives in a legal instrument on data and information sharing, the designated members of the Working Group on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange may advise and the Meeting may agree on a procedure for preparing the basic set of water quality standards and objectives.

**11:30 – 12:00 - Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:00 - Update on the status of CEIC and review of the outline of the next State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report**

The web-based CEIC, launched at COP4, is an information hub providing access to information for policy and decision makers and, where appropriate, to the public at large. It functions under the auspices of TCIS and is linked to the Convention website. The portal has been created and is fed by the designated Environmental Information Officers, trained and supported by GRID Arendal. The information provided by the CEIC is aligned with the structure of the Unified Reporting Format of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols, and the Caspian Environmental Monitoring Program, feeding into and allowing sound state of the Caspian Sea environment reporting.

Recognizing that more work is needed to make the CEIC function properly and secure its institutional setting, through the development and adoption of terms of reference, a project was developed and submitted to British Petroleum for funding. TCIS and GRID Arendal will

inform the meeting on the status of the proposal and the likelihood of obtaining the funding at short notice.

By email of 28 April 2015 TCIS circulated a proposal for the preparation of the second State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report (SOE2). The Meeting is invited to review the proposal and reach agreement on the proposed procedure, timeline and budget for SOE2.

By email of 5 May 2015 TCIS circulated a joint concept paper by the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan regarding the establishment of a regional cooperation under the auspices of the Tehran Convention for the development of the Atlas of the Caspian Sea. Delegates from the initiative group have been invited to attend the Meeting and present the concept. The Meeting is invited to review the proposal and agree on further action in its regard.

**13:00 - 14:30 - Lunch break**

**14:30 - 15:30 - Continued: Update on the status of CEIC and review of the outline of the next State of the Caspian Environment reporting**

**15:30 – 16:00 - Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

The draft Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting and Information Exchange, was circulated by letter of 27 February 2015. Reference material in support of the discussion on the draft is contained in four brief notes circulated by emails of 10 and 29 October 2014 in advance of PrepCom1 in Baku, as follows:

- Environmental quality standards (EQS) in the EU
- Tehran Convention: Compilation of articles on monitoring, information exchange and public participation
- Access to information as provided for in the Aarhus Convention
- Caspian Environmental Information Centre (CEIC) – Phase 2

The Meeting is invited to discuss and provide comments on the first draft of the Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange, and decide on the dates of the next round of negotiation.

**16:00 – 16:30 - Coffee break**

**16:30 – 18:00 - Continued: draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

<b>Tuesday, 2 June 2015</b>
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**10:00 – 11:30 - Continued: Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

**11:30 – 12:00 - Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:00 - Continued: Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and information Exchange**

**13:00 – 14:30 - Lunch break**

**14:30 – 16:30 - Continued: Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

**16:30 – 17:00 - Coffee break**

**17:00 – 18:00 - Continued: Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

<b>Wednesday, 3 June 2015</b>
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**10:00 – 10:30 - Continued: Draft Protocol on Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Exchange**

**10:30 – 11:00 - Other business: Caspian Day 2015**

The Russian Federation is invited to inform the Meeting on the plans for Caspian Day 2015. The Meeting is invited to consider linking the celebrations of Caspian Day in Astrakhan to the organization of a regional stakeholders meeting, and to discuss the modus for its preparation and attendance.

**11:00 – 11:30 - Coffee break**

**11:30 – 13:00 - Wrap-up of the meeting**