



**Fifth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee
for the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Tehran Convention
Geneva, 13-17 November 2017**

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Monday, 13 November 2017

- 10:00 – 10:15 - Registration and opening of the meeting
- Adoption of the agenda

- 10:15 – 11:30 - Discussions on outstanding matters related to the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention

In discussions in a meeting of Parties organized by Azerbaijan (Baku, 14 June 2017) and further exchanges in the margin of meetings in Iran (Bandar Anzali, 16-20 April 2017) and Russian Federation (Astrakhan, 10-12 August 2017) questions were raised as to the financial implications of, and the position of the Executive Secretary in a rotating Convention Secretariat. Pending is also the format and text of the Host Country Agreement since Azerbaijan did not find acceptable the solution which was proposed at PrepCom 4, 7-10 November 2016, in Geneva.

A Note by the TCIS to clarify the outstanding issues and assist the Parties in deciding on the way forward, is contained in document TCIS Note 1. The document also contains a draft-Decision on the Secretariat arrangements prepared by TCIS.

The PrepCom is invited to comment on the clarifications made and reach agreement on the outstanding matters, including the proposed draft Decision on Secretariat arrangements, for submission and adoption by COP6.

- 11:30 – 12:00 - *Coffee break*

- 12:00 – 13:00 - *Continued.* Discussions on outstanding matters related to the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention

- 13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

- 14:30 – 16:00 - Status of the Moscow, Ashgabat, EIA and Aktau Protocols

The PrepCom is invited to review the status of ratification of the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities (Moscow Protocol, ratification Kazakhstan, Russian Federation pending), and the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Ashgabat Protocol, ratification Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and IR Iran pending).

At its 3rd Meeting, the PrepCom, having reviewed the advisory opinion of the Espoo Convention Secretariat on the proposals of Turkmenistan for the Annex to the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context, concluded that, "in the continuing absence of consensus,

the Ministers at COP6 will be requested to review and reach agreement on the proposals". PrepCom 4 (Geneva, 7-10 November 2016) repeated that request.

The text of the Protocol with the Proposals of Turkmenistan, as well as the Advisory Opinion of the Espoo Convention Secretariat, are contained in document TC/COP6/3.

Having been ratified by all Parties the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol) entered into force on 25 July 2016. At the meeting in Iran (Bandar Anzali, 16-20 April 2017), the Parties agreed on the text of the Caspian Sea Plan Concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution in Cases of Emergency of the Aktau Protocol, with the exception of the definition of the Regional Mechanism. The plan is the implementation framework of the Aktau Protocol and guidance document for effective cooperation on oil pollution preparedness and response activities in the Caspian Sea. The PrepCom is requested to consider and agree on the plan for submission to and adoption by COP6 as contained in document TC/COP6/17. The PrepCom will furthermore be informed about the intention to hold a first a implementation workshop in May 2018 co-organized with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

16:00 – 16:30 - *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:30 - Programme of work and budget

The PrepCom is invited to consider and agree on the Programme of Work and budget for 2018-2019, as contained in document TC/COP6/8, for submission and approval by COP6.

17:30 – 18:00 - Terms of Reference (ToR) and Budget of the Convention Trust Fund (TF).

At its 1st Meeting in Baku, 24-27 November 2014, the PrepCom reviewed and reached agreement on the draft ToR of the Trust Fund for the Tehran Convention. UNEP reviewed the draft as agreed by the PrepCom and provided comments. The draft ToR as agreed by the subsequent PrepCom is contained in the Note by TCIS on the TF (TC/COP6/7).

At its 3rd Meeting, the PrepCom agreed with the proposed budget of the TF, "on the understanding, that the budget figures will be updated once the certified statement of income and expenditure over 2015 has been issued". In light of the delay in finalizing the arrangements for COP6, an update of the budget has been prepared and is included in the Note by TCIS on the TF.

The PrepCom is invited to consider the updated draft budget prepared by TCIS and included in document TC/COP6/7. The draft TF Tor and budget will be submitted to COP6 for its consideration and approval.

Tuesday, 14 November 2017

10:00 – 10:30 - Terms of Reference NCLOs

At its 4rd Meeting, the PrepCom reviewed the draft ToR for the NCLOs and requested TCIS to incorporate comments made by Kazakhstan and Russian Federation and prepare the ToR for submission to COP6. The final draft of the ToR is contained in document TC/COP6/6.

The PrepCom is invited to agree on the ToR of the NCLOs for submission to

and adoption by COP6.

10:30 – 11:00 - Unified Reporting Format

At its 4rd Meeting the PrepCom agreed to the proposal of Russian Federation and requested the interim Secretariat to ensure updating the Unified Reporting Format. At the meetings in Iran (Bandar Anzali, 16-20 April 2017) the Unified Reporting Format was initially reviewed. The meeting is invited to consider the Unified Reporting Format contained in document TC/COP6/13, for submission and approval by COP6.

11:00 – 11:30 - *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:30 - Green Climate Fund

In the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" and against the background of the knowledge and state of Caspian Sea level fluctuations, regional consultations took place at the meeting in Astrakhan, 10-12 August 2017 Russian Federation. All Parties supported the idea of development of a project addressing the issue of Climate change and Caspian Sea level fluctuations. The PrepCom is invited to review the initial concept note and the timetable for finalizing the proposal to the Green Climate Fund, contained in document TCIS Note 2.

12:30 – 13:00 - Co-operation with the private sector

At its 4th Meeting the PrepCom requested the (interim) Secretariat to explore possibilities for intensifying collaboration with the private sector. A Round Table on Collaboration with the Private Sector was held at the meeting in Iran (Bandar Anzali, 16-20 April 2017). The outcome is contained in document TC/COP6/15. The (interim) Secretariat will inform the meeting of the latest developments in relation to possibilities for cooperation with the private sector.

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

14:30 – 16:00 - Stakeholder involvement, status CEIC and SOE preparations

The Russian Federation/Secretariat will inform and introduce the report and recommendations of the Stakeholders' Meeting, Astrakhan, 12 – 13 August 2015 (TC/COP6/12). The PrepCom is invited to consider the report and recommendations and review and agree on para 6 of the draft Ministerial Statement, contained in document TC/COP6/10.

Following the approval by BP of the project on the second phase of the Caspian Environment Information Centre (CEIC-2), and the designation/confirmation by the Contracting Parties of their National Environmental Information Officers, a first skype call consultation with and between the designated experts was held on 11 September 2017. The invited national experts/information officers are requested to discuss further the progress in the preparation of the second State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report and review the first draft of the interface web-portal (GRID-Arendal).

The PrepCom will be informed by the Representative of Grid Arendal of the status of Caspian Environment Information Centre (CEIC), and the invited national experts/information officers are requested to discuss progress and review the first draft of the interface web-portal.

In presence of and based on the advice of the National Environmental Information Officers the PrepCom is invited to consider the Note by TCIS on the preparations for the second State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report (SOE2), contained in document TC/COP6/5. and agree on the scope of the report, and Table of Contents, process, methodology, process, timetable and division of work for its preparation.

16:00 – 16:30 - *Coffee break*

16:30 – 18:00 - *Continued:* Stakeholder involvement, status CEIC and SOE preparations. Information by National Experts on the status of the preparation of the second State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report and information holders' assessment. Introduction to Expert elicitation method (GRID-Arendal).

PARALLEL SESSION (GRID-Arendal)

(National Environmental Information Officers, National Experts)

10:00 – 11:30 - Introduction to Expert elicitation method (continued).
Testing of the Expert elicitation method in the application to risk analysis.
Preparation of the SOE report. Assessment of the national information holders.

11:00 – 11:30 - *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:00 - Training session on the use of the CEIC portal.

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

14:30 – 16:30 - *Continued.* Training session on the use of the CEIC portal.

Wednesday, 15 November 2017

10:00 – 11:30 - Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Information Exchange

The Acting Chair will review the progress achieved by the group during the 2 years of its activities and briefly inform the meeting on the discussions on the Caspian monitoring and assessment occurred during the Caspian Day 2017 celebration in Astrakhan on 10 August 2017. He will also outline his views on the subjects which are to be in the focus of the future WGMA activities.

The WGMA will review the Caspian Environment Monitoring Program (EMP) and its members are invited to express their views on the necessity of its modification taking into account the possible changes in the country's monitoring capabilities, national monitoring program's structures (particularly the monitoring networks and sets of observed parameters) as well as changes in international monitoring practices occurred since 2012

The WGMA will be invited to express their opinion on the choice of set of standards as elaborated in the report of Dr. Ostrovskaya, presented at the meeting in Iran (Bandar Anzali, 16-20 April 2017).

11:00 – 11:30 - *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:00 - *Continued.* Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Information Exchange

The WGMA will be invited to consider 3 issues on which no agreement was reached at the previous meetings:

- 1) Minimum data quality control procedures to be applied at the national level prior to data submission;
- 2) Data Submission Formats;
- 3) Organization to serve as the Caspian Monitoring Data Centre

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

14:30 – 16:00 - Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange

The text of the Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange prepared by TCIS was reviewed at meetings in Baku, 21 -22 January 2016, and IR Iran, April 2017. Copy of the text, as amended at the last meeting is contained in document TC/COP6/4.

The Parties are requested to continue to review and make every effort to finalize the text it for consideration and adoption by COP6.

16:00 – 16:30 - *Coffee break*

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

Thursday, 16 November 2017

10:00 – 11:30 - *Continued.* Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange

11:30 – 12:00 - *Coffee break*

12:00 – 13:00 - *Continued.* Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

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

16:30 – 18:00 - Ministerial Statement and decisions

A draft of the Ministerial Statement and Decisions of COP6 was submitted to and reviewed by PrepCom 3 Baku, 10-11 November 2015. The Statement as amended is contained in document TC/COP6/10. The meeting is invited to continue to review and finalize the Statement for submission and approval by COP6.

Friday, 17 November 2017

10:00 – 11:30 - *Continued.* Ministerial Statement and decisions

11:30 – 12:00 - *Coffee break*

12:00 – 13:00 - *Continued.* Ministerial Statement and decisions

12:45 – 13:30 - Wrap-up and closure of the meeting