
**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Sixth Meeting
6-8 November 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan**

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

(Note by the interim Secretariat)

Introduction:

By the Ministerial decisions taken at subsequent Conferences of the Parties (COPs), including COP5, 30 May 2014 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the Contracting Parties 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.

Cooperation with the private sector was furthermore encouraged by the Protocols to the Tehran Convention, in particular in Article 14 of the Aktau Protocol, Article 20 of the Moscow Protocol, Article 21 of the Ashgabat Protocol.

Five consultants of the member state countries were assigned to identify how and which companies, in particular from the oil and gas and transport sector, could potentially contribute or strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Convention. As a result, five national strategic papers on private sector engagement in the Tehran Convention implementation process together with a synthesis and strategy for attracting and engaging the private sector, in particular the oil, gas and transport industry in the implementation of the Tehran Convention were produced.

At its 4th Meeting the PrepCom, held November 2016 in Geneva, 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 document is contained in Annex 1.

Since, the interim Secretariat explored collaboration opportunities with the private sector. Particularly promising thematic areas are the implementation of the Aktau and Moscow Protocols as well as stakeholder engagement. Currently, the project "Addressing Marine Litter in the Caspian Sea Region" supported by the Coca-Cola-Foundation is being implemented and expected to be finalized in April of 2020. Furthermore, the Secretariat is developing a draft project document with Integral Petroleum SA on enhancing stakeholder engagement and public participation. A project with support of BP for the development of the 2nd State of the Caspian Environment Report and the upgrade of the Caspian Environmental Information Centre was finalized in December 2018 (see TC/COP6/16). Further opportunities for cooperation with the private sector for sustainable development in the Caspian Sea region and the implementation of the Tehran Convention will be sought within the framework of the newly established Caspian Economic Forum, which held its first meeting in Avaza, Turkmenistan, 11-12 August 2019.

Suggested Action.

The Meeting is invited to consider and decide on:

- the follow-up of the Outcome Document of the Round Table on Collaboration with the Private Sector contained in Annex 1; as well as
- the relevant paragraphs in the draft Ministerial Statement and Decisions (TC/COP6/10).

**Outcome Document
Round Table on Collaboration with the Private Sector
in Bandar Anzali, Iran on 17 April 2017**

**Public-Private Sector Collaboration for the implementation of
the Tehran Convention and its Protocols**

The participants of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol),

Recognizing that sound and healthy environmental conditions are a prerequisite for sustained livelihoods of the people living at or in proximity to the Caspian Sea;

Aware of the environmental challenges the ecosystem of the Caspian Sea is facing and joining efforts to respond to environmental risks associated with the economic activities in the Caspian Sea region;

Emphasizing the crucial role that national and international companies, in particular of the oil, gas and associated industries play for the economic and social development in the Caspian Sea region;

Taking into account that most environmental challenges are transboundary and require coordinated, appropriate approaches to address them;

Welcoming the cooperation of the Caspian Sea littoral states Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan under the Caspian Environment Program to establish the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) and its Protocols;

Acknowledging the importance of collaboration between the private sector and public authorities in shaping and implementing policies to effectively address environmental challenges and to realize sustainable development;

Appreciating previous international public-private partnerships in the Caspian Sea region, such as the support of BP to the Caspian Environmental Information Centre, of AGIP KCO (now replaced by NCOC) for data provision and coastal zone management planning in Kazakhstan and LUKOIL for supporting the Caspian Day celebrations in the Russian Federation;

STATED THE NECESSITY TO:

- coordinate efforts by the public and private sector towards environmentally sustainable development in the Caspian Sea region;
- respect the internationally recognized precautionary and the-polluter-pays principles;
- apply environmentally friendly, best available technologies in business activities;
- provide support of the private sector to coordinated activities aiming to enhance the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols including but not limited to corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities as per the applicable legislation and commercial arrangements the Caspian littoral states may have. These activities can cover but are not necessarily restricted to the areas of:
 - o environmental monitoring information exchange;
 - o data provision for the development of publications such as the Caspian Sea State of the Environment Report and the Caspian Sea Biodiversity Atlas;
 - o joint training, exercises and expertise-sharing for oil pollution preparedness and response in the framework of the Aktau Protocol implementation;
 - o biodiversity protection in particular with regard to the Caspian seal and sturgeons;
 - o capacity building in environmental monitoring and oil spill preparedness and response
 - o youth education for awareness-raising and protection of the Caspian Sea environment, in particular the annual celebrations of the Caspian Sea Day on the 12th of August;
- encourage providing support in the form of both financial as well as in kind contributions such as equipment, personnel, exchange of data and information etc.;
- call for the enhancement of public-private partnership to support the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols on the regional and national levels;
- welcome the invitation of the Russian Federation to participate at the Caspian Sea Day (12th of August) celebrations in the framework of the declared Year of the Environment in the Russian Federation 2017 to take place on 10 to 11 August 2017 in Astrakhan, Russian Federation with the support of LUKOIL and other stakeholders.

Bandar Anzali, Islamic Republic of Iran on 17 April 2017