
**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Sixth Meeting
19-21 October 2022, Baku, Azerbaijan**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND DECISIONS
OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CASPIAN
SEA
21 October 2022, Baku, Azerbaijan**

The Ministers and High-level officials representing the Contracting Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (hereinafter referred to as the Tehran Convention), as well as its Protocols:

Recalling the statements adopted at the Caspian summits of the Caspian littoral states (Tehran 2007, Baku 2010, Astrakhan 2014, Aktau 2018 and Ashgabat 2022) on the Tehran Convention related issues;

Recalling the Statements and Decisions adopted at previous Meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Tehran Convention;

Welcoming the entry-into-force of the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Aktau Protocol) on 26 June 2016;

1. Take note of the Note by the interim Secretariat (TCIS) on the State of implementation of the Decisions and proposals on the location and arrangements for the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (TC/COP6/2);
2. Welcome the adoption and signing of the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-Boundary Context to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (EIA Protocol) by the Contracting Parties at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 20 July 2018, Moscow, Russian Federation, as well as the ratification by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan, urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure early ratification and request the TCIS to undertake the necessary steps to promote its implementation;
3. Welcome the ratification by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan of the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Moscow Protocol), urge the Russian Federation to ensure early finalization of the internal procedure, required for the entry into force of the Protocol and request the TCIS to undertake the necessary steps to promote its implementation;

4. Welcome the ratification of the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Ashgabat Protocol) by Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan, urge the other Contracting Parties to ensure early finalization of required internal procedures for its entry-into-force and request the TCIS to undertake the necessary steps to promote its implementation;
5. Welcome the information provided in the Note by TCIS on the priority areas of implementation of the Moscow Protocol, the Ashgabat Protocol, and the EIA Protocol (TC/COP6/4) and consider it important to discuss the priorities of these Protocols;
6. Note the progress in the negotiations on the draft of the Protocol on (Environmental) Monitoring, Assessment, and Information Exchange on the status of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea (Annex I, TC/COP6/18), and urge the Contracting Parties to expedite the finalization of the Protocol for its further adoption at the Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Tehran Convention;
7. Welcome the efforts on the implementation of the Aktau Protocol, including the holding of oil spill response exercises carried out within the framework of the Aktau Protocol and in this connection urge the countries to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on the Caspian Sea Plan Concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution in Cases of Emergency (Plan);
8. Call upon the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of creating a budget to make monetary or in-kind contributions for carrying out concrete activities for the implementation of the provisions of the Aktau Protocol;
9. Note the progress achieved in the implementation of the National Convention Action Plans (NCAPs) or relevant Convention-related programme documents of the states for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols, recall their agreement to provide national reports on a three-year basis starting from 2014, and adopt the updated Unified Reporting Format as the framework for reporting (Annex I, TC/COP6/13);
10. Adopt the Terms of reference of the National Convention Liaison Officers (NCLOs), contained in document TC/COP6/6rev, and request the TCIS jointly with the Contracting Parties to regularly evaluate the activity of the NCLOs;
11. Endorse the Terms of Reference and composition of the Working Group on (Environmental) Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) (TC/COP6/11rev2);
12. Welcome the Second Report on the State of the Environment of the Caspian Sea and request the TCIS jointly with the Contracting Parties develop guidelines for future State of the Environment reports;
13. Welcome the organization and outcomes of the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region, held 27-28 October 2021 in online format, and express gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the Conference, along with the Chair, keynote speakers and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) for their significant contribution;

14. Request the TCIS and the CASPCOM to develop the Terms of Reference and working arrangements for the network of scientists, engaged in cooperation in the field of climate change in the region, for consideration of the COP7 and subsequent CASPCOM sessions;
15. Express its gratitude to GRID-Arendal and BP Azerbaijan for coordinating and financially supporting the development of the Caspian Environment Information Centre (CEIC) portal, welcome the merge of the CEIC and the Tehran Convention website, endorse the organizational and management structure of the new website, welcome the draft of the Terms of Reference of the National Environmental Information Officers (NEIOs) contained in TC/COP6/16, and request the TCIS to further work on the document for subsequent submission to the Contracting Parties;
16. Reaffirm the importance of the celebration in the Caspian littoral States of the date of the entry-into-force of the Tehran Convention in accordance with the decision of COP1 on the 12th day of August, and welcome to annually hold the event named "Caspian Sea Day" to support the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;
17. Welcome the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a high-level event on the occasion the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Tehran Convention in 2023 and to agree on the specific date of the event;
18. Request the TCIS to develop a draft concept of "the Caspian Decade" including the update the Strategic Convention Action Program (SCAP) adopted by COP2, Tehran, I.R. Iran, 12 November 2008, as a long-term agenda for further consideration by the Contracting Parties and possible adoption at COP7;
19. Welcome the support by the Russian Federation of the development and implementation of the UNDP–UNEP project "Addressing marine litter and marine plastic – a systemic approach in the Caspian Sea";
20. Welcome the draft Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan (Annex VI, TC/COP6/14), a guidance document prepared within the framework of the project "Addressing the Marine litter in the Caspian Sea region" in 2018-2019 under the auspices of the TCIS as basis for actions at the national level on minimization of damage to the marine environment of the Caspian Sea from marine litter;
21. Welcome the development by UN-Habitat, UNEP, IOM of the project by "Urbanisation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region";
22. Welcome the Report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 24-29 April 2017, organized within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (TC/COP6/Info 6) and request the TCIS to promote and collaborate with the secretariat of the CBD;
23. Express further support for public participation in the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols, and request the TCIS to prepare an update of the synthesis report of the national public participation strategies as part of the NCAPs or Convention related programme documents of the states, for consideration by the COP7;
24. Adopt the Programme of Work of the Tehran Convention for 2023-2024 (Annex I, TC/COP6/8rev);

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25. Welcome the Rolling Work Programme (Annex III, TC/COP6/8rev) and call upon relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as international funding institutions, as for example the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to collaborate and support the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;
26. Decide to continue to collectively provide a contribution of US\$ 360,000 (US\$ 72,000 per country) per year to the budget of the Convention and consider the possibility to voluntarily increase their monetary contributions;
27. Take into account the Statement of income and expenditure since COP5 and encourage the countries with arrears in annual contributions to ensure due payments as soon as possible;
28. Express gratitude to UNEP for its continuous contribution and support to the administration of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;
29. Express gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the organization of the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention;
30. Accept with gratitude the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP7) and decide to hold COP7 in Tehran, 2024.