Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Seventh Meeting
23 September 2026, Tehran, Iran

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND DECISIONS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CASPIAN SEA 23 September 2026, Tehran, Iran

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, done at the city of Tehran on the fourth day of November 2003 and which entered into force on 12 August 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the Tehran Convention),

Guided by the outcome documents adopted at the Caspian Summits,

Recalling the Ministerial Statements and Decisions adopted at previous Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention,

Affirming the provisions of the Protocol of the Ministerial Consultations of the Caspian Littoral States organized by the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe on 21-22 September 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland,

Welcoming the entry into force 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) on 13 November 2023,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (EIA Protocol) on 18 November 2025,

Affirming the key role of the Tehran Convention as the legal framework for cooperation among the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea,

Recognizing environmental challenges facing the Caspian Sea which require enhanced regional cooperation and coordinated action,

Having considered the reports and notes submitted by the interim Secretariat[1] (TCIS) to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention and having heard the Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea*:*

[1] Until the formation of the permanent Secretariat in the region, its functions are carried out on an interim basis by the United Nations Environment Programme through its European Office

1. Express concern about the prolonged process of formation of the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention in the territory of the Caspian littoral States on a permanent basis, and call upon the Contracting Parties to accelerate the work of the Ad hoc Expert Group on the arrangements of the Secretariat;

2. Welcome the progress in the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol), and recalling the decisions of COP6, call upon the Contracting Parties to continue working towards reaching agreement on the mechanism for joint response to major oil pollution incidents;

3. Welcome progress in the implementation of the Moscow Protocol and call upon the Contracting Parties to continue working on the priority areas of activities under the Moscow Protocol (as contained in Annex II to document TC/COP7/3);

4. Take note of the commencement of discussions on the implementation of the EIA Protocol and welcome the designation of national competent authorities by all the Contracting Parties;

5. Welcome the progress towards the entry into force of the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Ashgabat Protocol) and call upon those Contracting Parties that have not yet completed the required internal procedures to do so at the earliest possible opportunity;

6. Note the progress achieved by the Contracting Parties in negotiations on the draft Protocol on (Environmental) Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange, and call upon the Contracting Parties to continue negotiations;

7. Welcome the work undertaken by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) since the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and underline the importance of continuing its work in accordance with its Terms of Reference;

8. Note the significant work undertaken by the WGMA in developing the Environmental Monitoring Programme of the Caspian Sea – Phase 1 (as contained in Annex VI to document TC/COP7/13), and call upon the Contracting Parties to continue work towards reaching agreement on it;

9. Welcome the contribution of the WGMA to those technical activities under the Moscow Protocol that are relevant to its mandate in accordance with its Terms of Reference;

10. Encourage timely exchange of environmental monitoring information among the Contracting Parties in accordance with their national legislation and regulations for the purpose of preparing regional assessments of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea;

11. Take note of the updated draft Strategic Convention Action Programme (SCAP) and call upon the Contracting Parties to finalize its development;

12. Welcome TCIS's initiative to prepare a draft the Caspian Sea Level Fluctuation Action Plan 2026-2036, and instruct TCIS, together with interested stakeholders, to facilitate the finalization of, and agreement on the Action Plan for its subsequent implementation;

13. Welcome the preparation of the draft Interstate Programme for the Conservation of the Water Resources of the Caspian Sea, initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan, and circulated to the Contracting Parties for consideration;

14. Note the development of the draft Regional Action Plan on the Conservation of the Caspian Seal, prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran;

15. Welcome continued cooperation between the Tehran Convention and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM), including on climate change and Caspian Sea level fluctuations;

16. Welcome the proposal to organize, in cooperation with CASPCOM, a Scientific Conference on "Changes in the Caspian Sea level: causes, modelling, adaptation strategies" and request the TCIS to continue its cooperation with CASPCOM and the Contracting Parties on the preparation and organization of the Conference, including its substantive and administrative arrangements;

17. Take note of the development of the draft Terms of Reference and working mechanisms of the Network of scientists, engaged in cooperation in the field of climate change in the region f the Caspian Sea Region, and request the TCIS and CASPCOM, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, to continue work on their development;

18. Welcome high-level Caspian Sea events held on the margins of COP28, COP29 and COP30 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, (United Arab Emirates), in 2023, Baku, (Azerbaijan), in 2024, and Belém, (Brazil), in 2025, as well as on the margins of Regional Ecological Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2026, and outcome documents of these events;

19. Welcome the implementation of projects aiming at supporting the objectives of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols, call upon the Contracting Parties, together with TCIS, to continue developing regional and national initiatives, and mobilizing additional financial resources; as well as encourage relevant international organizations, international financial institutions and donors to continue and, where possible, enhance their support for implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols);

20. Reaffirm the importance of public and stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols and encourage the continued annual celebration of Caspian Sea Day on 12 August;

21. Adopt the Programme of Work and Budget of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols for 2027–2028;

22. Take note of the presentation by the TCIS on the impact of inflation on the real value and purchasing power of the annual contributions to the Tehran Convention, agreed by the Contracting Parties; and note the importance of timely payment of contributions

23. Decide to continue to collectively provide a contribution of US$ 360,000 to the budget of the Tehran Convention (US$ 72,000 per Contracting Party) per year;

24. Express gratitude to United Nations Environment Programme for its continued contribution and support to the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;

25. Express gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting and organizing the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention;

26. Accept with gratitude the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP8) in Kazakhstan.