



Revised version, 30 August 2019

**Seventh Meeting of the Preparatory Committee
for the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Tehran Convention
Baku, 16-20 September 2019**

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 16 September 2019

- 10:00 – 10:30 - Registration and opening of the meeting
- Adoption of the agenda
- 10:30 – 11:30 - Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange (TC/COP6/4)
- The Meeting is invited to consider and finalize the text of the 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 – 16:00 - *Continued:* Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange
- 16:00 – 16:30 - Coffee break*
- 16:30 – 18:00 - *Continued:* Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange

Tuesday, 17 September 2019

- 10:30 – 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 – 16:00 - Management and administration of the Tehran Convention Secretariat (TC/PrepCom 6-1rev.)

The Contracting Parties, at PrepCom5 for COP6 (Geneva, 13-17 November 2017), in addressing the outstanding issues related to the implementation of the Decision of COP5 on the Location and Arrangements for the Tehran Convention Secretariat, requested the interim Secretariat to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the management and administration of the Convention Secretariat.

The draft MOU integrating comments received before the PrepCom-6 (Baku, Azerbaijan, 24-28 September 2018) was circulated to the Contracting Parties as Annex 2 to document TC/PrepCom6-1.

At PrepCom6 the Contracting Parties did not succeed in reaching agreement on the text of Annex 2 and requested the interim Secretariat to reproduce the text of Annex 2 reflecting the state of art in terms of paras reviewed, and paras and proposals which were not or only partly discussed. The status report was issued at the last day of the Meeting and has been added to document TC/PrepCom 6.-1 as Annex 3.

The Meeting is invited to consider continuing its discussion on the draft MOU taking into account the status report contained in Annex3 to document TC/PrepCom 6-1rev.

16:00 – 16:30 - *Coffee break*

16:30 – 18:00 - Draft Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan on the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea of 4 November 2003

At the 6th Meeting the Preparatory Committee (Baku, 24-28 September 2018) the Representative of Kazakhstan proposed that the Parties revisit COP5 Decision of 30 May 2014 on the location and arrangements for the Tehran Convention Secretariat and conclude an exclusive five Party agreement on the arrangements.

On 29 July 2019, Kazakhstan sent a draft five-Party agreement on the Secretariat arrangements via diplomatic channels. The letter from Kazakhstan requesting to add an additional PrepCom-7 agenda item as well as the draft Agreement are contained in the document (TC/PrepCom7/1). The meeting is invited to consider the proposed draft Agreement.

Wednesday, 18 September 2019

10:00 – 11:30 - *Continued:* Draft Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan on the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea of 4 November 2003

10:00 – 11:30 - *Parallel meeting:* Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
For the annotated agenda of the WGMA see Annex I

11:30 – 12:00 - *Coffee break*

12:00 – 13.00 - Tehran Convention Interim Secretariat services; proposal to move the interim Secretariat (TCIS) to the UN house in Azerbaijan

Recognizing the need and importance of an adequately staffed secretariat in the region, the Conference of the Parties at its 5th Meeting, on 30 May 2014 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, provided instructions and guidance on how to achieve that objective. On 20 July 2018, at its Extraordinary Meeting in Moscow, the Conference of the Parties reiterated the need and urgency to finalize all matters related to the Secretariat structure and arrangements. At the sixth Preparatory Committee meeting (Baku 24-28 September 2018) the Parties noted that the actual establishment of the Convention Secretariat in the region would take time. In order to prevent further delays in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and secure sufficient human and financial service capacity, it is proposed to move the interim secretariat provided by UNEP-Regional Office for Europe (TCIS) to the region, recruit a Head of TCIS and solicit secondments from governments.

A Note by TCIS on the Tehran Convention interim secretariat services was circulated to the NCLOs by email of 1 July 2019 and, together with the comments received, is contained in document TC/PrapCom7/2. The Meeting is invited to consider and express its view on the proposal to strengthen and move the interim secretariat services to Baku.

12:00 – 13:00 - *Continued: Parallel meeting WGMA*

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

14:30 – 15:00 - *Status of the ratification of the Moscow, Ashgabat and EIA Protocols*

The Depositary – IR Iran – is invited to report on the status of ratification

of the Moscow, Ashgabat and EIA Protocols; the representatives of the Contracting Parties which have not yet ratified one or more of the Protocols may provide information as to the timing and possible – additional - requirements that need to be met in order to secure ratification.

15:00 – 16:00 - Aktau Protocol (TC/COP6/17)

The Meeting is invited to review and agree on the Caspian Sea Plan Concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution in Cases of Emergency, as well as on the other proposals in document TC/COP6/17.

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

16:30 – 17:00 - Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (TC/COP6/11)

The Meeting will be informed of the outcome of the Meeting of the WGMA and consider the recommendations of the Working Group.

17:00 – 17:15 - State of Environment Report (TC/COP6/5)

The Meeting is invited to welcome the publication of the second State of the Caspian Sea Environment report and address the questions and proposals in document TC/COP6/5 concerning the future of the SOE reporting process.

17 :15 – 17 :45 - Caspian Environment Information Center CEIC (TC/COP6/16)

The Meeting will be updated on the state of the CEIC and is invited to consider the proposals and recommendations in document TC/COP6/16, including related proposals for the establishment of a monitoring data center by the WGMA.

17:45 – 18:00 - Unified Reporting Format (TC/COP6/13)

The Meeting is invited to consider the Unified Reporting Format contained in Annex I of document TC/COP6/13, for submission and approval by COP6. The Meeting is furthermore invited to consider the need and possibilities for updating the Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) adopted by COP2, 12 November 2008, as a comprehensive, long term agenda and framework for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols over a period of 10 years.

Thursday, 19 September 2019

10:00 – 10:30 - Outcomes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, Moscow, Russian Federation, 19-20 July 2018 (TC/COP6/Info1)

The Meeting is invited to consider the outcomes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Moscow, Russian Federation, 19-20 July 2018, as contained in document TC/COP6/Info1, and provide guidance as to the implications for the Convention process and the Program of Work (POW).

10:30 – 11:15 - Status of the preparatory work for the implementation of the Moscow, Ashgabat and EIA Protocol (TC/COP6/Info3)

TCIS will inform and the Meeting may review and provide guidance on the implementation activities of the Moscow, Ashgabat and EIA Protocols, which are planned and programmed in the POW.

11:15 – 11:30 - Terms of Reference NCLOs (TC/COP6/6)

The Meeting is invited to confirm agreement with the terms of reference and arrangements for National Convention Liaison Officers (NCLO), as contained in document TC/COP6/6.

11:30 – 12:00 - *Coffee break*

12:00 – 13:00 - Program of Work and budget (POW) (TC/COP6/8)

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the POW and budget, as contained in Annex 1 and 2 of document TC/COP6/8, for submission and approval by COP6.

The Meeting may furthermore discuss and provide advice to COP6 on how to increase the human and financial resources available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

13:00 – 14:30 - *Lunch break*

14:30 – 16:00 - Ongoing project preparations and other possibilities for cooperation

The meeting will be updated on the state of implementation of the Coca Cola funded project on “Addressing marine litter in the Caspian Sea region” (TC/COP6/14).

The meeting will furthermore be updated on the state of development of other project proposals in particular the projects submitted to Integral Petroleum for collaboration and support by the Great Caspian Foundation.

16:00 – 16:30 - *Coffee break*

16:30 – 18:00 - Private Sector and Stakeholder Engagement (TC/COP6/12; TC/COP6/15)

The Meeting will be informed of the outcomes of Caspian Day related meetings and activities (TC/COP6/12), and of the Round Table in Bandar Anzali on collaboration with the private sector (TC/COP6/15) and is invited to provide guidance as to their follow-up.

Friday, 20 September 2019

10:00 – 11:30 - Ministerial Statement and Decisions (TC/COP6/10)

The Meeting is invited to review and agree on the Ministerial Statement and Decisions, for submission and approval by COP6

11:30 – 12:00 - Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 - *Continued:* Ministerial Statement and Decisions

13:00 – 14:30 - Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 - *Continued:* Ministerial Statement and Decisions

16:00 – 16:30 - Coffee break

16:30 – 17:30 - *Continued:* Ministerial Statement and Decisions

17:30 – 18:00 - Wrap-up and closure of the meeting

**Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
(Baku, 18 September 2019)**

A tentative annotated agenda (version 2)

1. Opening and Adoption of Agenda

Acting Chair will introduce the meeting to a draft agenda which is meant to review implementation of the earlier - made decisions and to continue the previous discussions by the group. Taking into account that the tentative agenda is very tense for a 3-hour meeting, Acting Chair will suggest to prioritize the agenda items and propose a basis for such a prioritization. Those items which will not be discussed because of time shortage will be moved to the agenda of next WGMA meeting.

Besides, the group will discuss a suggestion by Kazakhstan to consider an expediency of including standardization (unification) of chemical analytical methods for sea water and bottom sediments into the agenda of the meeting.

Based on the comment by Acting Chair and discussion of the Kazakhstan suggestion regarding the agenda, the WGMA will be invited to adopt the agenda or modify it, if necessary.

Reference documents: Doc. 1.1, Doc. 1.2

2. Requirements to the Caspian Regional Monitoring Data Centre

Acting Chair will inform the meeting that the ongoing PrepCom meeting expects WGMA recommendations regarding establishment of a Caspian Regional Monitoring Data Centre. He will emphasize that though a decision as to which littoral state and organization would host the Caspian Regional Monitoring Centre rested with the Conference of the Parties, WGMA is expected to elaborate requirements which a Caspian Regional Monitoring Centre should meet. Such requirements proposed by Kazakhstan and other participants will be reviewed and WGMA recommendations on them to PrepCom meeting will be developed and agreed upon.

Reference documents: Doc. 2.1

**3. A possible WGMA contribution to implementation of the Caspian Marine
Litter Action Plan**

Acting Chair will inform the group that the 6th Conference of the Parties intends to initiate implementation of the Caspian Marine Litter Action Plan. The Plan is expected to contain several components one of which is entitled “Monitoring and assessment of marine litter”. In more detail, the Preliminary Draft Caspian Marine Litter Action Plan will be introduced by the Secretariat via Skype connection. Then the group will be invited to discuss a possibility of including handling of

monitoring and assessment of marine litter into the WGMA mandate.

Reference documents: Doc. 3.1, Doc. 3.2 (English only)

4. Caspian Regional Sediment Quality Guidelines

Acting Chair will remind that the 1-st WGMA Virtual meeting on 18 June 2019, as its coordinated report says, “reached a preliminary agreement on using the Probable Effect Levels (PELs) from the Canadian system as Interim Regional Criteria of the Caspian Sea bottom sediments. The initial stage will involve only a limited number of parameters to comply with the country’s monitoring capabilities.” In this connection, the meeting will be invited to comment on how we should deal with the substances for which PEL’s have not been established (particularly, THCs and some POPs).

Acting Chair will remind that Caspian Regional Sea Water Criteria and Sediment Quality Guidelines are expected to be attached to the Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange to Tehran Convention. Interim Caspian Regional Water Quality Standards based on existing Maximum Allowable Concentrations (with some amendments) have been already agreed upon by the WGMA earlier. In this connection, the group will be invited to comment on whether WGMA is already in position to propose interim Caspian Regional Sea Water Criteria and Sediment Quality Guidelines to the Protocol negotiators. If not, the group is expected to decide what further action should be taken to this end.

Reference documents: Doc. 4.1, Doc. 4.2

5. Caspian Environment Monitoring Program (EMP)

Acting Chair will remind the group of its previous decisions (including that made by the 1- st Virtual WGMA meeting on 18 June 2019) to promote the EMP implementation by developing a map which would display national monitoring networks of all the Caspian littoral states with a special indication of stations intended to serve as EMP stations. A status of implementation of

this decision will be reviewed. In particular, amendments to the earlier developed national monitoring network reporting form proposed by Iran will be examined.

The Group will be invited to consider further steps to promote EMP, including (a) possible development of a joint monitoring programme which would integrate national monitoring programmes of the Caspian littoral states or/and (b) making annual reports on the national monitoring activities to WGMA meetings.

6. Procedures for Monitoring Data Exchange

Acting Chair will remind that the 1-st WGMA Virtual Meeting generally agreed to focus on the data quality control at the first phase and, to this end, further consider Chapter 5 of the “Guideline on Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Chemical Oceanographic Data Collections” approved by the Black Sea Commission. To facilitate a proper review process by Russian – speaking experts, the ISTC has expressed its readiness to arrange translation of Chapter 5 from English into Russian. The implementation of this decision is still in progress.

Acting Chair will also remind that the 1-st WGMA Virtual Meeting expressed a desire to revisit the issue of the analysis methods unification (standartisation) as earlier proposed and re- iterated by Iran. As a step to implementing this decision, the Acting Chair will invite brief comments to A List of Analytical Methods for Measuring Chemical Substances included into the recommended interim Caspian Regional Water Quality Criteria as proposed by Iran in May 2018. The WGMA will be invited to determine the time when the group will be in position of further discussing a possible unification (standardization) of the applied analytical methods across the Caspian states.

Reference documents: Doc. 6.1

7. Closure of the meeting

As a wrap-up, Acting Chair will summarize the agreed decisions/recommendations and provide the meeting with the main points of his report to PrepCom meeting.