

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

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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Second Meeting
Tehran, 10 – 12 November 2008**

Report of the meeting

This report has been prepared by the interim Secretariat, for information and convenience of the participants providing a record of the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

Opening of the Meeting (Item 1)

1. The second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (COPII) took place in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 10 to 12 November 2008. The meeting was held at the Raiezan International Conference Complex.
2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Rasim Sattarzadeh, representative of the chairperson in office, Mr. Goussein Bagirov, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In his opening statement, Mr. Sattarzadeh welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to the host Government for organizing and hosting the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Sattarzadeh confirmed that the Azeri Government is paying special attention to the Tehran Convention having hosted the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and he wished the delegations a very successful meeting.
3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the five Contracting Parties to the Tehran Convention, as well as by observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including the UNDP, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and the Caspian Environment Programme.

Organizational matters (Item 2)

4. The meeting elected Mr. Bagher Nabavi, Deputy of Department of Environment and National Focal Point for the Caspian Environment Programme in I.R. of Iran, as Chairperson by acclamation. In his welcoming speech Mr. Nabavi recalled the successful holding of the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties praising the host country Azerbaijan for their

excellent arrangements and great hospitality. While reminding the meeting of the important achievements reached in Baku, Mr. Nabavi outlined the challenges facing the delegations to the second Conference of the Parties, underlining that the time has come to build upon the earlier achievements in order to implement the Convention. A special gratitude was expressed towards the international organizations that have supported the Convention process over the past years and the continuation of their support was considered as essential.

5. The Head of the interim Secretariat, Mr. Frederik Schlingemann was nominated as the co-chairperson and the Kazakh delegation was requested to provide a Vice-chair person given that Kazakhstan will be the host of the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In line with the Rules of Procedure, the interim Secretariat acted as the Rapporteur.

6. The provisional agenda of the meeting (TC/COP2/1/Rev.2) was presented by the interim Secretariat and was adopted with amendments. The meeting agreed to organize its work according to the proposal contained in the Provisional organization of work (TC/COP2/1/Add.2), with preparatory sessions on Monday and Tuesday, 10-11 November 2008, and a High Level Segment for the adoption of the Ministerial Statement of COP II, on Wednesday, 12 November 2008.

7. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, observers listed in the List of observers circulated by the interim Secretariat (TC/COP2/1/Add.3) were admitted to the meeting without any objection.

Report on the credentials of representatives to the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Item 3)

8. The interim Secretariat addressed the issue of credentials requesting all delegations to submit credentials before the end of the first session in line with the Rules of Procedure. In accordance with Rule 10 of Rules of Procedure, the Bureau subsequently reviewed and reported thereon to the Meeting.

Strategic Convention Action Programme (Item 4)

9. The first day of the working sessions was largely devoted to the finalization of the Convention Strategic Action Programme which will serve as the guidance document for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its future Protocols over the next 10 years. Following a thorough review of the outstanding issues the document was agreed upon except for a) issues related to the establishment of a Regional Center in the context of the draft Protocol on Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents and b) the scope and nature of the regional cooperation for the management, protection, rehabilitation and rational use of the marine living resources of the Caspian Sea.

Status report on the development of priority Protocols to the Tehran Convention (Item 5)

10. The second day of the working sessions was opened with the discussion on the Protocol Status Report (TC/COP2/3). In light of the advanced stage of the negotiations, the delegations agreed that full support should be provided for the finalization of the protocol negotiations allowing for the Protocols' adoption and signing at the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The interrelationship between the fisheries and the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea (Item 6)

11. Following a review of the "Scoping Paper on the interrelationship between the fisheries and the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea" (TC/COP2/4), the delegations agreed on the need to further explore possibilities for strengthening the intergovernmental cooperation for the conservation and rational use of the aquatic bioresources of the Caspian Sea highlighting the need to continue joint efforts to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on the issue.

Programme of Work and Budget (Item 7)

12. The Convention work programme for the year in between the second and third Meetings of the Conference of the Parties was adopted (Statement para.3, Annex 1). The Programme of Work, which is attached as Annex 3, features a set of activities including the finalization of draft protocols in priority areas of concern, development of regional and national protocol implementation plans, enhanced stakeholders involvement, and the preparation of the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Convention permanent Secretariat arrangements (Item 8)

13. Further to the review of the current status of the inter-governmental consultations for the establishment of a Tehran Convention permanent Secretariat, the delegations of Azerbaijan and I.R of Iran repeated their Governments' readiness to host the Convention permanent Secretariat, while the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan reiterated their interest. The delegation of Kazakhstan stressed the urgency of the matter and expressed its Government's willingness to contribute to an early solution. The meeting reiterated the need to reach an expeditious agreement on the location and arrangements of the permanent Secretariat at the appropriate high political level. One delegation proposed establishment of a permanent Secretariat on a rotation basis of six years.

Progress report on GEF, EU and private sector current and future support to the Convention process (Item 9)

14. Under this agenda item the meeting was briefed by the Head of the interim Secretariat on the status and progress of the future GEF CASPECO project; he confirmed the advanced

stage of the GEF approval process and the expectation to have the project initiated in early 2009.

Place and date of the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (Item 10)

15. The meeting agreed that the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention will take place in 2010 in Kazakhstan. The delegation from Kazakhstan confirmed that further details as to the exact date and venue would be communicated in due time through the diplomatic channels.

Rules of Procedures (Item 11)

16. Following a review of the outstanding issues in the Rules of Procedures all delegations agreed that the bureau of the Conference of the Parties should include only one vice-chairperson instead of four and the decision was taken that the Rules of Procedures should be amended accordingly (Annex 4).

Other matters (Item 12)

17. Following a brief review of the proposal for a Convention logo, the meeting agreed that all delegations will communicate to the interim Secretariat their preferences for a Convention logo based on the selection of logos contained in COP II working document TC/COP2/8.

High-level Ministerial Segment (Item 13 - 17)

18. The High level Ministerial segment was preceded by inaugural session with recital from the Holy Quran, National Anthems, and a cultural programme.

19. H.E. Ms. F. Vaez Javadi Vice-president and Head, Department of the Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, inaugurated the high-level segment of COP2 with a welcoming address on behalf of the host Government.

20. Statements were made by the heads of delegations, *i.e.*, Mr. Aliyev Firdovsi, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Mr. Yuri Romashov, Deputy Chairman of the Fishery Committee of Kazakhstan, Mr. Stanislav Ananiev, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, Mr. Jumamurad Saparmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

21. Mr. Frederik Schlingemann, Head of the interim Secretariat, made a statement on behalf of UNEP's Executive Director Mr. Achim Steiner, expressing, *inter alia*, readiness of UNEP to continue the functions of the Convention Secretariat *ad interim*, and to assist and administer the Convention permanent Secretariat if the Parties so wish.

22. The following observers made statements: Mr. H. Ghaffarzadeh, UNDP and CEP, Mr. P. Mannini, FAO, Mrs. P. Charlebois, IMO, Mr. D. Douma, Associate expert, EU Caspian MAP

project, on behalf of the European Commissioners, Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Stavros Dimas.

23. Under the agenda item 15 the High Level segment received a report on the working sessions presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Frederik Schlingemann, Head of the interim Secretariat. (Annex 5)

24. The Ministers and Heads of delegations considered the three documents forwarded by the preparatory sessions: the Strategic Convention Action Programme, the Programme of Work and the Statement. The delegations were given the opportunity to once again review the Strategic Convention Action Programme with particular emphasis on the issue related to the establishment of a Regional Center in the context of the draft Protocol on Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents. After thorough consideration a decision was taken to keep the reference to the Regional Center in square brackets throughout the document in the understanding that the issue will be resolved once the Protocol has been finalized. The square brackets were also kept on parts of paragraph 3.2 pending confirmation of the position of one of the Parties. The adopted Strategic Action Programme is contained in Annex 2.

25. The Ministers and Heads of delegations then reviewed and adopted the Programme of Work in line with the agreement reached during the working sessions. The adopted Programme of Work and Budget is contained in Annex 3.

26. The Ministers and Head of delegations reviewed and adopted the Ministerial Statement of the second Meeting of the Conference of Parties to Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, as contained in Annex 1.

27. The Statement, *inter alia*, reaffirms the Parties' intention to finalize the negotiations on the four priority protocols on *i)* Biodiversity Conservation, *ii)* Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents; *iii)* Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities and *iv)* Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context, allowing for their subsequent adoption and signing at the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It further confirms that the Parties to the Tehran Convention will continue to support the implementation of the Programme of Work on the same conditions and with the same amount as agreed at the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. *i.e.*, \$360.000 per year (\$72.000 as contribution of each Party). By adopting the Strategic Action Programme of the Tehran Convention the Parties affirm their intention to implement the Strategic Action Programme through national action programmes and through support to the biennial Programmes of Work of the Tehran Convention. The Statement also notes the need to continue joint efforts to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on conservation and rational use of aquatic bioresources of the Caspian Sea. In terms of institutional arrangements for the Convention process, the Parties confirm their intend to reach an agreement on the location and arrangements for the Convention permanent Secretariat as soon as possible and invited UNEP to continue the functions of the Tehran Convention Secretariat ad interim until a permanent Secretariat has been put in place.

Closure of the Meeting (Item 18)

28. Following the customary exchanges of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 14.00 on Wednesday 12 November 2008. A press conference and a reception organized by the host Government followed.

Annex 1

Statement of Ministers

Annex 2

Strategic Convention Action Programme

Annex 3

Programme of Work, January 2009 - December 2009

Annex 4

Rules of procedure (amended)

Annex 5

Rapporteur's report on the working sessions

Annex 6

List of Participants