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

ANNOTATED AGENDA

WORKING SESSIONS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) will be held from 19 to 21 October 2022 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 19th October.
2. In line with the adopted Rules of Procedure, the meeting will be declared open by the Chairperson in office, His Excellency, Mr. Allanur Altyev, Minister of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan
3. Welcoming announcements will be made by a representative or representatives of the Government of Azerbaijan and by the Representative of the interim Secretariat.

Item 2. Organizational matters

a) Election of officers

4. The Conference is requested to elect its Bureau. In accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference of the Parties should elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson (to replace the Chair in his absence). In the absence of an Executive Secretary, the Head of the interim Secretariat, or his representative, will act as Rapporteur.
5. Upon election and in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson will preside at the meeting, ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions.

b) Adoption of the agenda

6. The Conference may wish to consider and adopt the provisional agenda as contained in document TC/COP6/1/Add.1 prepared by the interim Secretariat pursuant to Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure.

7. When preparing the provisional agenda, the interim Secretariat has based itself on the Statement of Ministers and the Decisions of the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and has taken into account the discussion and decisions taken at the Preparatory Committee Meetings for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (24–27 November 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan; 31 May – 3 June 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan; 10–11 November 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan; 7–10 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland; 13–17 November 2017, Geneva, Switzerland; 24–28 September 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan; 16–20 September 2019 Baku, Azerbaijan; 20 September 2022, online session; 28 September 2022 online session).

c) Organization of work

8. Upon introduction by the Chairperson, the Conference is requested to consider and agree on the organization of work for the meeting (TC/COP6/1/Add.2). The High-level segment of the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties is proposed to take place on Friday, 21 October 2022 from 10.00 till 13.00, and Heads of Delegations will be requested to consider and adopt the Ministerial Statement and Decisions of the Conference.

d) Admission of observers

9. According to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 35, the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and any State not a Party to the Convention may be invited to participate at the open sessions of the Conference of the Parties. Such observers may, upon invitation of the Chairperson, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting unless at least one of the Parties present at the meeting objects.
10. According to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 36, the Conference of the Parties may admit as observer any agency or body, whether international or national, intergovernmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the open session of the Conference of the Parties, unless at least one of the Parties present at the meeting objects. Such observers may, upon invitation of the Chairperson, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one of the Parties present at the meeting objects.
11. In accordance with Rule 35 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference might wish to consider the draft list of observers prepared by the interim Secretariat (TC/COP6/1Add.4) and agree on the admission of those observers to the Conference.

Item 3. Report on the credentials and full powers of representatives to the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

12. Pursuant to Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, and as outlined in the document TC/COP6/Info1, the credentials and full powers should be submitted to the Secretariat before the end of the first session. The credentials should be issued according to the national legislation and must bear the name of the persons who are members of the delegations indicating their positions in the delegation.
13. Pursuant to Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau will examine the credentials and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties for decision.

Item 4. Report of the interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention

14. Article 22 para. 10 (e) of the Tehran Convention establishes that the Conference of the Parties considers reports prepared by the Secretariat on matters relating to the Convention. Furthermore, Article 23 para. 4 (b) and (d) of the Tehran Convention requests the Secretariat to prepare reports on matters relating to the implementation of the Convention and its protocols.
15. The state of implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols is provided in the reports of the Preparatory Committee meetings for COP6 as contained in document TC/COP6/Info7, and the resulting documents and reports prepared by TCIS and submitted for consideration of COP6.
16. The Conference may wish to take note of the Reports of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 5. Items for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties.

17. The delegations of the Contracting Parties at their Preparatory Committee Meetings for COP6 held 24-27 November 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan; 31 May-3 June 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan; 10 – 11 November 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan; 7-10 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland; 13-17 November 2017, Geneva, Switzerland; 24-28 September 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan; 16-20 September 2019 Baku, Azerbaijan; 20 September 2022, online session; 28 September 2022 online session, discussed the issues and reached provisional agreement on the majority of recommendations contained in the draft Ministerial Statement and Decisions (TC/COP6/10rev). The items for discussion and finalization for Ministerial decision, include the following.

- **Secretariat location and arrangements (paragraphs 1 to 2 draft MS).**
The note (TC/COP6/2) prepared by the interim Secretariat provides an overview of 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. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraphs 1 to of the draft MS.
- **Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context (paragraph 3 draft MS).**
The Protocol was adopted and signed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, 19-20 July 2018, Moscow, Russian Federation. Islamic Republic of Iran may inform about the status of its ratification of the Protocol; delegations may amend the text of paragraph 3 of the draft MS accordingly.
- **Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities “Moscow Protocol”. (paragraph 4 draft MS).**
Russian Federation may inform about the status of its ratification of the Protocol; delegations may amend the text of paragraph 4 of the draft MS accordingly.
- **Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity “Ashgabat Protocol” (paragraph 5 draft MS).**
Azerbaijan Republic and Russian Federation may inform about the status of ratification of the Protocol by their Government; delegations may amend the text of paragraph 5 of the draft MS accordingly.

- **Priority areas of implementation of the Moscow Protocol, the Ashgabat Protocol, and the EIA Protocol (paragraph 6 draft MS).**

The note (TC/COP6/4) prepared by the interim Secretariat lists the priority areas of implementation of Protocols which have not entered into force yet (Moscow Protocol, the Ashgabat Protocol, and the EIA Protocol). Delegations may consider and welcome the proposed present report and the priority areas of implementation of the Moscow Protocol, the Ashgabat Protocol, and the EIA Protocols.
- **Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment, and Information Exchange (paragraph 7 draft MS).**

Upon request of the COP5 the interim Secretariat initiated and serviced intergovernmental consultations on a legal framework for information sharing in support of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols. The Note prepared by interim Secretariat (TC/COP6/18) outlines the progress in the negotiations of the Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment, and Information Exchange to the Tehran Convention. Delegations may consider the updated note and agree on the paragraph 7 of the draft MS.
- **Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents “Aktau Protocol” (paragraphs 8-12 draft MS).**

The Aktau Protocol entered into force on 26 July 2016. The note prepared by the interim Secretariat (TC/COP6/17) provides an overview of the activities since the entry-into-force of the Aktau Protocol. Delegations may consider the updated note and agree on the paragraphs 8-12 of the draft MS.
- **Unified Reporting Format (paragraph 13 draft MS).**

The Unified Reporting Format (contained in Annex I, TC/COP6/13) was presented and agreed upon at the PrepCom-7. The PrepCom-7 recommended to COP6 to adopt the format as the framework for reporting. Delegations may consider and agree on the paragraph 13 of the draft MS.
- **Terms of reference of the National Convention Liaison Officers (NCLOs) (paragraph 14 draft MS).**

The ToRs of the NCLOs were prepared by the interim Secretariat upon the request of the PrepCom-2 to COP6. Subsequent PrepComs to COP6 reviewed the ToRs and made respective amendments. The PrepCom-7 agreed upon the ToRs ((TC/COP/6) and decided to submit them to COP6 for adoption. Delegations may consider and agree on the paragraph 14 of the draft MS.
- **Terms of Reference and composition of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) (paragraph 15 draft MS).**

Upon request of the COP5 the interim Secretariat initiated the preparation of the ToRs of the WGMA and serviced respective meetings related to environmental monitoring. The note (TC/COP6/11) provides an overview of the activities and discussions since COP5. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraph 15 of the draft MS.
- **2nd Report on the State of the Environment of the Caspian Sea (paragraph 16 draft MS).**

Following the request of the COP5 the interim Secretariat coordinated and oversaw the preparation of a second State of the Caspian Sea Environment Report (2nd SOE). The note (TC/COP6/5) describes the process of the preparation of 2nd SOE which was issued on the 21st of April 2020. Delegations may consider and agree on the paragraph 16 of the draft MS.
- **Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region (paragraphs 17 and 18 draft MS).**

The note (TC/COP6/7) prepared by the interim Secretariat describes the preparation and holding of the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region, organized under the auspices of the CASPCOM and the TCIS in October 2021. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraphs 17 and 18 of the draft MS.

- **Potential collaboration with the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian Sea (paragraph 19 draft MS).**

The note (TC/COP6/9) prepared by the interim Secretariat describes, among others, the potential cooperation with Commission for the Conservation and Rational Use of Aquatic Biological Resources and Management of Shared Stocks of such Resources including the steps undertaken by the interim Secretariat following the request of the PrepCom-6. Delegations may review the respective part of the Note and agree on the paragraph 19 of the draft MS.

- **Activities towards the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Tehran Convention (paragraphs 22 and 23 draft MS).**

The note (TC/COP6/15) prepared by the interim Secretariat provides a description of the potential events and activities to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Tehran Convention. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraphs 22 and 23 of the draft MS.

- **Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan (paragraph 24 draft MS)**

The note (TC/COP6/14) prepared by the interim Secretariat provides an overview of the activities held in the context of the “Addressing the Marine litter in the Caspian Sea region” project. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraph 24 of the draft MS.

- **“Urbanisation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region” (paragraph 25 draft MS)**

The note (TC/COP6/9) prepared by the interim Secretariat describes, among others, the process of the preparation of the regional components of the project “Urbanisation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region” submitted to the Adaptation Fund. Delegations may review the respective part of the Note and agree on the paragraph 25 of the draft MS.

- **Addressing marine litter and marine plastic – a systemic approach in the Caspian Sea” (paragraph 26 draft MS)**

The note (TC/COP6/9) prepared by the interim Secretariat describes, among others, the process of the preparation the project “Addressing marine litter and marine plastic – a systemic approach in the Caspian Sea” supported by the Official Development Assistance of the Russian Federation. Delegations may review the respective part of the Note and agree on the paragraph 26 of the draft MS.

- **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea (paragraph 27 draft MS)**

The note (TC/COP6/Info 6) prepared by the interim Secretariat reports on the workshop organized within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraph 27 of the draft MS.

- **Programme of Work and Budget (paragraphs 29-33 draft MS).**

The document (TC/COP6/8rev) prepared by the interim Secretariat contains the Programme of Work for 2023-2024, state of income and expenditures as well as Rolling Work Programme meant to enhance the resource mobilization for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols. Delegations may review the Note and agree on the paragraphs 29-33 of the draft MS.

Item 6. Place and date 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

18. The Conference has before it a note prepared by the interim Secretariat on the date and venue of its seventh meeting (TC/COP6/19).
19. When deciding on the place for its seventh meeting, the Conference may wish to refer to the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 22 paragraph 5 of the Convention and Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, which stipulate that the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties "shall be held in the territories of the countries of the Contracting Parties on the basis of rotation in alphabetical order of the English language or at the location of the Secretariat".
20. **The Conference of the Parties at its working sessions is requested to consider the statement delivered by the representative from the Islamic Republic of Iran, whereby Iran confirmed its readiness to host the seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure, and finalize the related decision in para 35 of the draft Ministerial Statement for adoption at the High-level Segment.**

Item 7. Finalization Ministerial Statement and Decisions.

21. Taking into account results of the discussions on Item 5, **the Conference of the Parties at its working sessions is requested to review and finalize for adoption at the High-level Segment the draft Ministerial Statement and Decisions of the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (TC/COP6/10)** prepared by the interim Secretariat on the basis of the outcome and agreements reached at the Preparatory Committee Meetings mentioned in paragraph 7 above.

Item 8. Other matters

22. Under this Agenda item the Conference is asked to consider any other matters that might require the attention of the Conference or be raised by delegations in the course of the meeting.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**Item 9. Opening of the High-level segment****a) Welcome address of the host country**

23. The Inaugural Session will start on 21 October at 10.00 with a welcome note from the host Government.

b) Statements of Parties to the Tehran Convention

24. The High-level representatives of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to deliver keynote speeches/statements on behalf of their Governments.

c) Statement on behalf of the interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention

25. A video message will be made by the Executive Director of UNEP.

d) Other statements

26. Other high-level representatives will be invited to deliver statements.

Item 10. Report of the Bureau on the working sessions

27. The Rapporteur will present the report of the working sessions of the COP.

Item 11. Adoption of the Ministerial Statement and Decisions

28. The Ministers/Heads of Delegations will be requested to consider and adopt the draft Ministerial Statement and Decisions prepared by the Conference of the Parties at its working sessions.

Item 12. Adoption and signing of the Final Act

29. The Ministers/Heads of Delegations will be requested to consider, adopt and sign the Final Act 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.

Item 13. Closure 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

30. The Chairperson will make a summary of the meeting outcomes and the high-level participants will be invited to deliver closing remarks. In accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson will announce the closing of the meeting.