

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

Distr.: General
12 May 2014
Original: English

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fifth Meeting
28-30 May 2014, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. GENERAL

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea is scheduled to be held from 28 to 30 May 2014 at “Yyldyz” Hotel in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

II. MEETING SCHEDULE

2. The tentative schedule for the Conference is as follows.

WORKING SESSIONS

3. The working sessions will be opened at 10.00. a.m. on Wednesday, 28 May 2014, in the big Conference Hall at “Yyldyz” Hotel. Guiding signs will show the way to the Conference Hall.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

4. The Inaugural Session will start on 30 May 2014, at 9.30. a.m. with a welcome note from the host Government.

III. PRE-REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

5. A registration desk will be set up at the entrance of the Meeting Hall on the following day during the hours indicated:

28 May 2014

At 9.00. a.m.

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Participants attending the events are required to register and obtain meeting badges prior to the opening of the Conference on 28 May 2014.

6. For identification and security reasons, meeting badges should be worn visibly at all times during the meetings and at social functions.

IV. WEATHER

7. The average temperature in Ashgabat in May normally varies from 25 to 35°C.

V. FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND BANKING FACILITIES

8. The currency in Turkmenistan is Manat. Foreign currency can be exchanged at exchange counters and in hotels without restriction. The current rate of exchange against the United States dollar is approximately 1USD = 2,85 Manat, as of 5 May 2014.
9. You may pay with Visa Card in the hotels.

VII. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

10. Official hotels include:

#	Name and address	Room cost	Description
1	Grand Turkmen Hotel 50, Gorogly Street, 744000 Ashgabat	135USD - semi- luxury suite 165 USD – luxury suite*	Includes: breakfast, free Wi-Fi, sauna and gym apparatus room. Includes: breakfast, free Wi-Fi, sauna and gym apparatus room; luxury suite consists of comfortable living room & bedroom.
2	“Yyldyz” Hotel* 2002/5, 17, (Bakhtiyarlyk Street) 744000 Ashgabat	230USD	Includes: breakfast, free Wi-Fi, sauna, swimming pools (3 ones) and fitness hall.

***Note:**

- As at that period there are many events in Ashgabat, only semi- luxury suites & luxury suites are available in the pointed hotel.
- The Turkmen side will cover expenses connected with hotel accommodation for each Minister of Environment + 1 person (he/she may be the Head of Delegation/Country representative)

VIII. PAYMENT OF HOTEL ACCOUNTS

11. Before departing from Ashgabat, participants are expected to settle directly with the respective hotels all accounts, including room charges and other expenses, such as for local and long-distance telephone calls, internet use, business centre use, laundry, room-service and hotel transportation services, as well as mini-bar items and restaurant and bar services. Participants are also responsible for any charges incurred with respect to rooms remaining vacant owing to their late arrival or rescheduled departure for which inadequate prior notice is given.

IX. RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL

12. Transportation for participants from/to the airports to/from the official hotels are provided upon request.

X. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

13. The mentioned hotels are located rather far from each other. Transportation to/from the meeting venue will be provided for delegates/meeting participants.
14. Participants not staying in one of the designated hotels are responsible for arranging for their own transportation to and from the airport as well as between their respective hotels and the meeting venue.

XI. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

15. Ashgabat has one international airport located in the city itself. Taxis can be hired at the airport, prices vary depending on the airport starting from 07.00.a.m. through 20.00p.m (approx. 10\$).
16. Ashgabat has a well-developed public transport system with buses and mini-buses. The fixed price for one-way trip is 20 tenge (7 cents) for buses and 60 tenge for mini-buses (21 cents).
17. Taxis within the city can be ordered at the hotel lobbies, on the streets, and at specialized locations. Prices depend on the Taxi Company and distance.

XII. MEETING DOCUMENTS

18. All information and documents of the event will be made available in English and Russian at <http://www.tehranconvention.org>.

XIII. INQUIRIES

19. Participants desiring further information or assistance may contact the following persons:

1. **Mr. Batyr Ballyyev**
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