

**First Meeting of the Representatives of the States-Signatories to the
Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment
of the Caspian Sea**

Tehran, I.R. of Iran, July 19-20, 2004

Recommendations

As a result of the exchange of opinions on the draft work-plan and the discussion paper on prioritization of protocol areas, prepared by the Interim Secretariat, the meeting took the following recommendations:

Cluster I

Provide assistance to the preparation of the coming into force of the Framework Convention, which may be needed by some countries.

1. The meeting welcomed that the internal procedures needed for ratification of the Framework Convention in all Caspian countries have started, and expressed the hope that all countries will be able to finish the process within the shortest time possible. At the request of a party, expert support will be provided by the Interim Secretariat.
2. The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to prepare Rules of Procedures and financial rules for discussion and adoption at a first meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP). The documents will be prepared for discussion at a Government nominated experts meeting, hosted by the Russian Federation before the end of the year.
3. The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to provide the Caspian countries with a preliminary estimate of the cost of the Permanent Secretariat, pending the preparation of a full fledged Secretariat arrangement and budget for consideration at the first meeting of the COP.

Cluster II

Develop ancillary agreements to the Framework Convention.

4. The Meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to initiate the development of a biodiversity protocol, taking into account the ongoing work of the Caspian countries on the draft agreement on Bioresources Conservation and Management, and paying special attention to the issue of invasive species. To that extent, the Interim Secretariat will prepare an analytical paper for consideration by a meeting of Government designated experts.
5. The Meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to initiate the development of a Protocol on land-based sources of pollution (LBS), taking into account ongoing

work in and between the countries. An LBS Protocol should, *inter alia*, pay attention to the monitoring of pollution in the Caspian countries. The meeting noted the interest and support of EU/Tacis for coastal zone management and land-based sources of pollution related work in the Caspian region, in support of the development of the LBS Protocol, and stressed that the LBS related activities should cover and benefit all Caspian countries. Based upon this guidance, the Interim Secretariat will further discuss and ensure that the Tacis support is fully in line with the development of the Protocol. A draft Protocol will be prepared for a reading and review by a Meeting of Government designated experts.

6. The Meeting requested the Interim Secretariat and the CEP-PCU to circulate the text of the Protocol concerning Regional Cooperation in Cases of Emergency, to the Governments of the Caspian countries, with the recommendation that the countries prepare for signing the Protocol at the First Meeting of the COP.
7. The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to initiate the development of a Protocol on EIA in a transboundary context, taking into account the work already done in cooperation with the Secretariat of the ESPOO Convention.
8. The meeting agreed that other priority protocols would also need to be developed in the other areas mentioned in the Convention. The development of these protocols should be decided upon and start once the human and financial resources can be made available.
9. The meeting encouraged the Interim Secretariat and the Programme Coordination Unit of the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP-PCU) to seek and maximize ways and means for promoting and assuring full exchange of information within the context of CEP and the Convention.

Cluster III

Participation of the Caspian littoral states and their institutions in the implementation of the Framework Convention, including the functioning of an active secretariat.

10. The representatives of the Caspian littoral states declared that they will continue to discuss the arrangements and location of the Permanent Secretariat, as referred to the Article 23 of the Convention, in bilateral and other appropriate contexts. The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to prepare a paper on the issue, taking into account the CEP Institutional Arrangements and other relevant regional and sub-regional arrangements.

Cluster IV

Deliver workshops/seminars on the implementation of the Caspian Framework Convention.

11. The Meeting agreed that holding seminars/workshops on the experience of MEAs can be useful for the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea and its Protocols, and supported the proposal of the Interim Secretariat to organize these workshops/seminars in cooperation with the Secretariats of such conventions and programmes.

Cluster V

Promote the regional practice of environmental impact assessment and the use of economic instruments contributing to improved environmental management.

12. The Meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to further advance economic instruments for environmental management in the Caspian littoral states. The issue might be put on the agenda of the First Meeting of the COP.

NGO Participation

The meeting agreed that pending the preparation and adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee of the CEP will apply.