

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

10-12 November 2008
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran,

The Ministers of Ecology and Natural Resources, Environment, Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Ecology, and Nature Protection and High-level Officials of the Governments of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, done at the city of Tehran on the fourth day of November 2003, (hereinafter referred to as the Tehran Convention), and entered into force on 12 August 2006:

Recalling their Statement adopted at the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, of 25 May 2007, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan,

Recalling also the Declaration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, adopted at the second meeting of the Presidents of the Caspian littoral States on 16th October 2007, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in which the Heads of the Caspian Sea littoral states, *inter alia*:

- Stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in solving environmental problems;
- Acknowledged that the state of the Caspian Sea environment, its population of sturgeon require urgent joint efforts to prevent undesirable environmental consequences;
- Expressed satisfaction that the Tehran Convention has come into force and stressed the need to – as soon as possible – develop and adopt additional protocols to it;
- Noted the need to – as soon as possible – finalize the procedural aspects of the Tehran Convention, especially as regards the location of its permanent secretariat.

Having considered the “Strategic Convention Action Programme”, and the “Convention Program of Work for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010”;

Acknowledging the status report on the development of priority protocols to the Tehran Convention and “the Scoping paper on the interrelationship between the fisheries and the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea”, and the “Elements of Regional Cooperation for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Bio-resources of the Caspian Sea”, prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the request of the interim Secretariat

1. Adopt the Strategic Action Programme of the Tehran Convention as a comprehensive, long term agenda and framework for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its future Protocols over a period of 10 years, and affirm their intention to implement the

SCAP through national action programmes and through support to the biennial Programmes of Work of the Tehran Convention;

2. Support the finalization for subsequent adoption and signing at the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention of the following Protocols to the Tehran Convention:
 - i) Protocol on the Biodiversity Conservation;
 - ii) Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents;
 - iii) Protocol on Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities;
 - iv) Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context .
3. Adopt the Programme of Work of the Tehran Convention and budget for 2009 - 2010;
4. Recalling their decision to collectively provide an amount of \$ 360,000 per year (\$ 72,000 as contribution of each Party) to the budget of the Tehran Convention for 2009, agree to continue to support the implementation of the Program of Work on the same conditions and with the same amount as agreed at the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
5. Note the need to continue joint efforts to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on conservation and rational use of aquatic bioresources of the Caspian Sea;
6. Agree to establish and support national Convention liaison officers in each of the Caspian littoral States;
7. Agree to review the institutional arrangements for the Tehran Convention at the third Meeting of the Conference of Parties, or earlier following an agreement on the location and arrangements of the permanent Secretariat, and confirm their intention to reach such agreement as soon as possible;
8. Invite UNEP to continue the functions of the Tehran Convention Secretariat ad interim until a permanent Secretariat has been put in place, and to develop a proposal for administering the permanent Secretariat for their consideration at the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
9. Welcome the GEF CASPECO project as well as contributions provided by other parts of the international community, in particular UNDP, UNEP, the European Union, the World Bank, as well as FAO and IMO, and call upon the donor community and the private sector to continue and increase their support to the implementation of the Tehran Convention;
10. Express gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the organization of the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention;
11. Agree to hold the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties once in two years.
12. Accept with gratitude the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention in 2010.

