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Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to
the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-
Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider
Caribbean Region

Virtual Meeting, 26 July 2021

MEETING DECISIONS

For public health and safety reasons associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents in electronic format for downloading as needed.

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Decisions of the Meeting

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS COP5) in the Wider Caribbean Region, virtually on 26 July 2021;

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the period 2019-2020 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.4;

Also taking note of the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2019-2020 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.5;

Taking further note of the opportunities provided through participation of countries in ongoing projects such as the GEF IWEco, GEF CREW+, ACP MEA 3, and new pipeline projects to assist them in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol;

Welcoming the increased global focus on the control, prevention, and reduction of marine pollution through UNEP's new Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work;

Recognizing the efforts taken by the Secretariat to increasingly integrate the work of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes, including through partnerships and new Memoranda of Understanding signed between the Secretariat and partner agencies;

Further recognizing the importance of these partnerships in forming part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) for supporting priority action on wastewater, nutrients and marine litter pollution including through the work of UNEP Global Partnerships on these pollutants;

Having reviewed the Report on the *Ad-Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.6 Rev.1;

Having also reviewed the Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC5) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/5;

Having further reviewed the Workplan and Budget for the activities of the AMEP Sub-Programme for the biennium 2021-2022, as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/3 Rev.1;

Welcoming the new Medium-Term Strategies developed by the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for the LBS Protocol reflected in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4a/Rev.1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4b/Rev.1, which outline how the LBS RACs will contribute to the implementation of the 2020-2021 Workplan;

Considering the proposed Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.10/Rev.1;

Congratulating the Government of Barbados for its ratification of the LBS Protocol in 2019 and the progress made by Non-Contracting Parties in their efforts to ratify the LBS Protocol;

Noting the efforts by the Secretariat to mobilize project funding that will further support ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties and assist Contracting Parties in meeting their national obligations under the LBS Protocol;

Further noting the need to finalize the Host Agreement with the Government of Cuba for LBS RAC CIMAB;

Recognizing the budgetary constraints faced by the Secretariat, and **further noting** the importance of implementing prudent financial management in the implementation of the 2021-2022 workplan and budget.

Decide to:

1. **Endorse** the recommendations of LBS STAC5.
2. **Endorse** for final approval by the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium, including the prioritization of proposed unfunded activities and modifications agreed during the meeting which include a review and redistribution of allocations to support priority activities that will assist countries in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to engage in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to support the implementation of the LBS Protocol in the region including through the provision of funding for unfunded activities in the 2021-2022 Workplan.
4. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to maximize on opportunities for financial support for capacity-building through ongoing projects and activities that will enable Contracting Parties to comply with their national obligations under the LBS Protocol.
5. **Endorse** the Medium-Term Strategic Plans presented by RAC IMA and RAC CIMAB and **request** the development of biennial work plans by the LBS RACs that could be approved as part of the 2023-2024 biennium work plan thus enabling greater integration of RAC activities into future AMEP Work Plans and Budgets.
6. **Request** the LBS RACs to support the Secretariat in resource mobilization and provide technical support and advice to Contracting Parties for implementing the LBS Protocol, and to Non-Contracting Parties for ratification of the LBS Protocol.
7. **Adopt** the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (RNPSAP) and request the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to provide technical support and oversight for its phased implementation at national and regional levels subject to availability of funding and to amend its Terms of Reference accordingly.
8. **Acknowledge** with thanks the significant contribution of the outgoing chair of the OEWG, Ms Stephanie Adrian from the Government of the USA and encourage other Contracting Parties to consider chairing the OEWG during the 2021-2022 biennium, and **request** that the Secretariat share the terms of reference for the working group with all Contracting Parties.
9. **Establish** the following sub-groups of the OEWG to consider issues of importance for the further development of the LBS Protocol: (i) standards and criteria that would include discussions on comparable data, nutrients standards, wastewater effluent standards and defining Class I & II waters, (ii) information management, and (iii) future planning including consideration of emerging issues such as freshwater management, and invite all Contracting Parties to nominate national and/or regional experts to participate actively in the OEWG and new sub-groups established.
10. **Request** Contracting Parties and LBS RACs to submit nominations of national government and non-government experts to the OEWG and the new sub-groups by August 31, 2021.
11. **Request** the Secretariat to strengthen the integration between the LBS and SPAW Working Groups, including the cross representation of experts, when possible, among the groups, to provide increased expert and technical support to the implementation of the AMEP programme of work.

12. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to promote the work of the RAC REMPEITC-Caribe and encourage greater collaboration among all the RACs of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
13. **Request** the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to finalize the Host Agreement with the Government of Cuba for the formal recognition of RAC CIMAB as an LBS RAC.
14. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP to endorse the Revised Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.25 Rev.1 reflecting additional questions that would facilitate improved reporting toward the development of future State of the Convention Area Reports.
15. **Further request** the Secretariat to implement measures to make it easier for Contracting Parties to complete and submit national reports including establishing a fixed deadline for submission of these reports.
16. **Recommend** to the Cartagena Convention COP that due to the financial challenges faced by the Secretariat and the importance of exercising financial prudence during the 2021-2022 biennium, that in the short-term, the Secretariat convene its intergovernmental meetings virtually, including the 6th LBS STAC and 6th LBS COP.
17. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP to encourage all Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to become Contracting Parties at their earliest opportunity, and in doing so, the Secretariat should provide Non-Contracting Parties with examples of benefits of ratification including through the achievements of Contracting Parties in addressing marine pollution from land-based sources and activities.