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

Virtual

26th July 2021

REPORT OF THE MEETING

ACRONYMS

ACP MEA	African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Project
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
COP	Conference of Parties
CIMAB	Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport
CLME+	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems+ project
CRew+	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management+ project
EU	European Union
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HOD	Head of Delegation
HQ	Headquarters
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Pollution
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC	The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area
SPA	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USA	United States of America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
Introduction	1
Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	1
Agenda item 2: Establishment of Quorum	3
Agenda item 3: Election of Officers	3
Agenda item 4: Organization of the Meeting	3
(a) Rules of Procedure	3
(b) Organization of Work.....	3
Agenda item 5: Adoption of the Agenda	4
Agenda item 6: Review of AMEP Sub-Programme Activities for the period 2019-2020	4
(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol.....	4
(b) Review of Activities.....	4
Agenda item 7: Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy	8
(a) Marine Litter Strategy.....	8
(b) Regional Nutrient Strategy.....	9
Agenda item 8: Draft Work Plan and Budget for AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium	10
Agenda item 9: Strategies for LBS Regional Activity Centres	12
Agenda item 10: Review of Recommendations of the Fifth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC5) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean	13
Agenda item 11: Any Other Business	14
Agenda item 12: Rapporteur's Report	14
Agenda item 13: Closure of the Meeting	14
Annex I: Provisional Agenda	
Annex II: Provisional List of Documents	
Annex III: Recommendations of the Meeting	
Annex IV: List of Participants	

Introduction

1. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for convening meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in accordance with Article XV of the LBS Protocol.
2. The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the LBS Protocol was held virtually on 26th July 2021.
3. The objectives of the Fifth LBS COP Meeting were to:
 - i. Review the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to it, including a review of the Decisions of the Fourth LBS COP and the relevant Decisions of the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - ii. Review the implementation of projects and activities by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme during the period 2019-2020;
 - iii. Take appropriate action with regard to the recommendations resulting from the 5th Meeting of the LBS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) held virtually from 15th – 17th March 2021;
 - iv. Assess the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries and take appropriate action to facilitate increased ratification and/or implementation;
 - v. Approve the AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2021-2022 biennium for subsequent submission to, and endorsement by the 19th Intergovernmental Meeting and 16th Meeting of Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention held virtually from 28th -30th July 2021; and
 - vi. Conduct other business as appropriate.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting convened on Monday 26th July 2021 at 8:10 a.m. (AST). The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Opening remarks were led by Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer responsible for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
5. Mr. Corbin began by welcoming participants to the 5th LBS COP Meeting and acknowledged the presence of His Excellency Orlando Jorge Mera, Minister of Environment of the Dominican Republic, other Ministers, Contracting Parties, Observers, regional and international partners and agencies and members of the media. He then invited Minister Mera to bring opening remarks.
6. Minister Mera highlighted the importance of the work of the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol. He noted that the Dominican Republic ratified the LBS Protocol in 2012 and urged Parties that had not yet ratified to do so, as it remains the only legally binding agreement on marine pollution in the Caribbean region.

7. Minister Mera referred to projects that the Government of Dominican Republic had benefited from, with the most recent being the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW+) project on water and wastewater management. He added that the country was able to provide data on water quality to the first regional report on the state of marine pollution and, more recently, to the regional strategy for the reduction of nutrient pollution. He noted that similar to many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Dominican Republic faced capacity challenges to effectively monitor marine pollution and improve laboratory capacities.
8. In closing, the Minister emphasised the need for further technical support and the intention of the Dominican Republic in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. He added that the country would continue its own efforts to update and implement several national policies, laws, strategies and action plans on marine pollution.
9. Mr. Corbin thanked His Excellency Minister Mera for his remarks and proceeded to invite Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Head of the Ecosystems Integration Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme, to deliver her opening remarks on behalf of UNEP Headquarters.
10. Ms. Stendahl expressed UNEP's gratitude to the Government of Barbados for hosting the virtual meeting and for its support to the Secretariat. She acknowledged that the biennium had been difficult due to the persistent negative impacts of climate change, pollution of air, oceans and lands, loss of biodiversity and the devastating economic, environmental and social consequences further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
11. In light of the current challenges, Ms. Stendahl highlighted the importance of the Secretariat's work and its efforts to improve the management of coastal and marine resources, including pollution prevention, response to emerging pollution threats and the capitalization of opportunities through new projects and partnerships.
12. Ms. Stendahl explained that the Global Programme of Action (GPA) had facilitated the development of three major global partnerships on wastewater, nutrient pollution and marine litter and that the work of the LBS Protocol in the region had been an integral part of that growth. She added that she was pleased to see that continued collaboration in the 2021/2022 draft work plan.
13. Ms. Stendahl added that the work on the 2020 Status of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Report on Pollution and the recently finalized strategies and action plans on Nutrient Pollution and Marine Litter were landmark achievements of which the region and Contracting Parties should be proud. She noted that the strategies and action plans, as well as efforts from Contracting Parties, had positioned the LBS Protocol at the forefront of efforts to control, reduce and prevent pollution from all sources.
14. Emerging pollution issues such as microplastics and ocean acidification brought new opportunities through ecosystems-based management, circular economy and nature-based approaches with greater focus placed on effective enforcement and less on end-of-pipe solutions. Ms. Stendahl explained that despite the challenges, there were many lessons learnt, best practices and innovations from national and regional efforts to address pollution which would be further shared at a global level for possible replication. In closing, she noted that she is looking forward to a more integrated programme of work with the eighteen Regional Seas Programmes.
15. The opening ceremony continued with Ms. Lorna Inniss, Principal Coordination Officer of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, offering her remarks. She welcomed meeting participants and thanked them for their continued support and contributions to the implementation of the LBS Protocol. She expressed appreciation to the Government of Barbados for hosting the meeting and

their support in preparing for the sessions, which were being held virtually for the first time.

16. She added that the COVID-19 pandemic posed many challenges to a region already experiencing an economic downturn. Ms. Inniss highlighted the exacerbation of environmental challenges during the pandemic and the Convention's increased focus on marine pollution. She added that the transboundary challenges affecting the marine and coastal environment could only be addressed through team work. She then encouraged non-contracting parties to ratify the region's only agreement on marine pollution.
17. Ms. Inniss highlighted some of the Sub-Programme's projects, activities and achievements through support from donor agencies and governments. She noted that the issue of sustainable funding for the Secretariat continued to be a concern and further urged Member States to renew their commitment and ensure consistent payments to the Caribbean Trust Fund. She then urged Contracting Parties to incorporate more initiatives to deal with environmental challenges during their rebuilding process post COVID-19.
18. In closing, Ms. Inniss noted that the deliberations of the LBS COP would be essential for the adoption of the decisions. These decisions represent each countries' commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration.

Agenda item 2: Establishment of Quorum

19. The quorum was established by the presence of delegations from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, France, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USA.

Agenda item 3: Election of Officers

20. The proposal of the following officers by the Secretariat was unanimously approved by the Meeting.
 - Chairperson: Anthony Headley (Barbados)
 - Vice Chairperson: Silmer Gonzalez/ Otto Cordero (Dominican Republic)
 - Rapporteur: Stephanie Adrian (United States of America)

Agenda item 4: Organization of the Meeting

21. The Chairperson outlined the procedures for the conduct of the meeting.
 - (a) **Rules of Procedure**
22. The Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), as contained in UNEP, were applied and adopted pursuant to Article 20 of the Cartagena Convention.
 - (b) **Organization of Work**
23. English, French, and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous

interpretation was provided in English, French, and Spanish for the Meeting through the Zoom Platform. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.

24. The Meeting convened in plenary sessions. The Chairperson proposed that if required, working groups would be established. However, these would not have simultaneous interpretation.
25. Owing to the virtual nature of the meeting, the Chairperson informed the participants of the meeting's protocols. He added that virtual interventions would be allowed once acknowledged by the Chairperson. The Chairperson indicated that sequencing would be utilized once the floor had been requested, with priority given to the Contracting Parties, Regional Activity Centres (RACs), Observers and then observers.

Agenda item 5: Adoption of the Agenda

26. The Chairperson introduced the agenda (documents **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/2**) and invited comments from the plenary.
27. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the report of the Rapporteur would be read under Agenda item 12.
28. The Provisional Agenda of the Meeting was considered and adopted with the following amendments:
 - i. The inclusion of the Establishment of Quorum under Agenda item 2
 - ii. The inclusion of the Rapporteur's report under Agenda item 12

Agenda item 6: Review of AMEP Sub-Programme Activities for the period 2019-2020

(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol

29. The AMEP Programme Officer, Mr Christopher Corbin, provided an update of the status of ratification to the LBS Protocol and mentioned that the Government of Colombia, as depository for the Convention, had advised the Secretariat of the ratification of the LBS Protocol in 2019 by the Government of Barbados. Mr. Corbin mentioned that there are now fifteen Contracting Parties to the Protocol and highlighted the continued progress by regional governments to ratify the LBS Protocol and the Secretariat's efforts to have non-Contracting Parties ratify.

(b) Review of Activities

30. Mr. Corbin provided an overview on the implementation of the 2019-2020 AMEP Sub-programme Workplan with reference to four documents **UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.4, UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.5, UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.6 and UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.7**.
31. Mr. Corbin commenced his presentation by recognizing the contributions of the LBS Regional Activity Centres- the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB)

and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)- to projects and activities in support of LBS Protocol implementation. He further acknowledged the Monitoring and Assessment Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) particularly, the Chair from the United States of America (USA), the Co-Chair from Antigua and Barbuda, and regional partners for their contribution to the work plan over the last biennium.

32. Mr. Corbin provided an overview of countries that actively participated in some major regional projects that supported the work of the LBS Protocol. He acknowledged the work of Mr. Jan Betlem, Regional Project Coordinator of the GEF funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project and his team for the coordination of the largest project being implemented by the Secretariat. The IWEco project focuses on integrated watershed and coastal zone management in ten Small Island developing States (SIDS).
33. He further highlighted the work of the following main projects: (1) GEF CReW+ Project; and (2) The European Union- funded project for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. He then noted that these projects could provide support to beneficiary countries and that these opportunities would be further discussed in the presentation of the draft 2021/2022 work plan.
34. In relation to personnel support, Mr. Corbin noted the small number of dedicated staff members at the Secretariat for implementation of programme activities. He then highlighted the role of the Secretariat's staff in implementing these activities and the time spent supporting their coordination. Mr. Corbin mentioned the role of the AMEP Sub-Programme in supporting the development of new projects and his role as Officer-In-Charge of the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) Sub-Programme.
35. He also reported on some of the major sub-programme achievements during the biennium including: (1) ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Barbados; (2) presentation to senior officials in the Government of Suriname to promote their ratification of the Convention including the LBS Protocol; (3) securing funding from various regional projects that provided support to non-Contracting Parties to assist them with their ratification process; (4) launch of the State of Convention Area (SOCAR) Report at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the UNEP Regional Office in Panama (5) development of new knowledge management products on pollution and SOCAR summaries for specific audiences.
36. In the area of project development, Mr. Corbin referred to the various GEF-funded projects noting the most recently approved project concept on plastics and the new partnerships fostered. Mr. Corbin then gave an overview of the expenditure of some of the major projects and concluded with an update on the Secretariat's response to the LBS STAC 4 Recommendations and the COP 4 Decisions.
37. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for his presentation which demonstrated the importance of the Protocol to the region and the benefits of collaboration to generate specific outputs and impacts. Given the tremendous impacts the Secretariat's work was having on the region, he stressed the need for Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties to participate in any Working Groups established by the COP.
38. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Stephanie Adrian, thanked Mr. Corbin for the comprehensive presentation. She noted that it demonstrated the hard work of the Secretariat and the best use of

resources. She urged Contracting Parties to examine the core issues and efforts that would allow the Secretariat to fulfil its obligations with its limited resources. Ms. Adrian further added that the Secretariat should be more strategic and cautious when taking on new activities. She urged the Secretariat to focus on the mandate of the Convention and suggested to Contracting Parties that this be considered when making recommendations.

39. The delegate of France, Ms. Emmanuelle Thiesse, thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation. She thanked the RACs and Contracting Parties of the OEWG for the work done within the framework of the 2019-2020 work programme. She requested that in the future the Secretariat present its main successes and results in such a way that it guides Contracting Parties and enables them to adopt lessons learned and best practices in their respective countries.
40. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Fabian Hinds expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat for the work carried out. He reaffirmed the Government of Barbados' commitment to the Convention and the LBS Protocol. Mr. Hinds then highlighted the various activities and legislation being implemented by Barbados to effectively monitor marine pollution, support coral restoration and wastewater treatment.

Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Discussion on new sub-groups

41. The Chairperson of the OEWG, Ms. Stephanie Adrian, presented the status of work during the 2019-2020 biennium, which included the group's contribution to supporting the mandate of the LBS Protocol, particularly the finalisation, publication and dissemination of the SOCAR report. Ms. Adrian highlighted the recommendations for ongoing and additional technical assistance to the LBS Protocol which would include the development of three sub-groups on Standards and Criteria, Information Management and Future Planning (Emerging Issues).
42. She added that the sub-groups could be supported by experts from technical institutions and discussions should prioritize issues for further action. Additionally, the sub-groups could provide technical guidance to enhance lab capacity and long-term monitoring and assessment of the SOCAR parameters with a greater focus on increasing Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) and LBS interactions.
43. In concluding her presentation, Ms. Adrian announced that she would be stepping down as Chair of the OEWG. She encouraged Contracting Parties to consider assuming the role and offered guidance to those interested. Ms. Adrian thanked everyone for their work and support during her tenure and noted that she would continue to work within the OEWG as a member.
44. The Chairperson thanked the delegate of USA for her presentation and support to the Secretariat. He added that the presentation highlighted the importance of the OEWG to the Protocol and the Convention. The Chairperson noted that the group had provided support to the work programme and acted as an instrument for further collaboration and integration in dealing with transboundary pollution issues within the region.
45. The Chairperson, speaking in his capacity as Head of Delegation for Barbados, further urged Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to participate in the OEWG and the proposed sub-groups, if decided on by the COP. He emphasised that the SOCAR report was an important instrument within the region, which countries would be able to use as a foundation for policy

development to control land-based sources of marine pollution and for exploring a sustainable Blue Economy.

46. The Head of Delegation from Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Linroy Christian, endorsed the points made in the presentation, particularly regarding the importance of good data, its compatibility, the consistency of the methodology used, and the need to improve this area considerably to better implement the LBS Protocol. Mr. Christian also pointed out that issues such as selection and analysis of water quality parameters would need further clarification and consensus to better facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the development of the next SOCAR. He thanked Ms. Adrian for the work done over the years and her steady leadership and expertise in guiding the work of the group. He indicated that he was looking forward to continue working with her and the new Chair.
47. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Hinds, supported the statements of appreciation expressed by other delegates towards Ms. Adrian and thanked her for her service. He then enquired about the amount of time required for participation in the OEWG and the sub-groups, in order to determine the feasibility of participating in these groups, given other the commitments that delegates would have.
48. The Chairperson indicated that new Terms of Reference would need to be prepared for the OEWG and the proposed sub-groups, which would provide an idea of the scope of work of each group during the new biennium.
49. In response to the delegate of Barbados, Ms. Adrian noted that the OEWG would continue to meet on a regular basis, while the time commitments and expectations for the sub-groups could be specified in their respective Terms of Reference and could be limited to shorter time periods for certain issues. She added that some experts might only participate for a few months to advance discussions on a particular topic.
50. Mr. Corbin expressed sincere appreciation to Ms Adrian for leading the OEWG and for her willingness to assist with guiding the new Chair. He reiterated that the finalisation of the SOCAR was a significant achievement of the group, adding that the Secretariat fully supported some of the recommendations of the OEWG and welcomed the recommendations to convene the sub-groups.
51. Further responding to the interventions of Barbados and USA, Mr. Corbin noted that the OEWG usually convened on a quarterly basis, particularly during busy periods. He agreed that the sub-groups would be short-term to advance certain issues. He further pointed out that while the Chair of the OEWG should be a Contracting Party, general membership was not limited to Contracting Parties nor to focal points, but open to all experts that a government would like nominate.
52. Ms. Marlen Perez Hernandez of RAC CIMAB thanked Ms Adrian for the work done and the Secretariat for the clarification given on the new sub-groups and their functions. RAC CIMAB expressed support for the proposal to establish three technical sub-groups including their possible functions. Ms. Hernandez further enquired about a deadline to submit the nomination of experts for these sub-groups.
53. In response to RAC CIMAB's query, the Secretariat advised that the expert nominations should be made at the beginning of September, however, nominations of new members to the OEWG after that deadline would not be restricted. Mr. Corbin added that the appointment date of a new Chair of the OEWG would be guided by Decision of Contracting Parties.

54. Mr. Corbin reminded the delegates that the RAC staff would continue to be a key support for the OEWG and the proposed sub-groups. He mentioned that the OEWG and the sub-groups' work should align with the biennial work plan to better identify when support would be needed, particularly for the implementation of the nutrients and freshwater strategies. Mr. Corbin added that the sub-groups should also develop their own work plan.
55. The Director of the SPAW RAC, Ms. Sandrine Pivard suggested a meeting of all the Working Groups within the framework of the Cartagena Convention, including the four SPAW Working Groups, to further harmonize the work between the Working Groups of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes. She pointed out that there were several common issues between SPAW and AMEP, such as Sargassum.
56. The Chairperson reminded delegates of previous discussions which requested improved collaboration between the SPAW and LBS Protocols and the issue of establishing additional Working Groups. He noted that the suggestion from the SPAW RAC representative would allow further harmonization between the working groups.
57. The Secretariat also supported this suggestion and stressed the potential for further integration between the LBS and SPAW Protocols. Mr. Corbin also referred to a previous request for further integration and collaboration between the RACs for the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols. He noted that having joint working group meetings provided an opportunity to facilitate integration across the RACs and the Sub-Programmes as well as the possibility of cross representation.
58. The Chairperson concluded the agenda item by noting that collaboration among the working groups would support further efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the Protocol by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 7: Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy

59. The Chairperson then invited the Secretariat to introduce the information document on the new Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy (**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.10/Rev.1**).
60. The Secretariat informed the meeting that a presentation would not be made on the strategies as they were previously discussed during the pre-STAC, STAC and the pre-COP meetings. Mr. Corbin then gave a short overview on each regional strategy and guideline document to facilitate further discussion and recommendations from both Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties.

(a) Marine Litter Strategy

61. Mr. Christian explained that Antigua and Barbuda had long recognized the importance of controlling plastics. He noted that in 2017, steps were taken to ban single-use plastics and subsequently styrofoams. Mr. Christian stressed the importance of collaboration with different Conventions and organizations to effectively address the issue of microplastics. He further recommended that the Secretariat engaged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to assist with this issue.
62. The Chairperson supported Mr. Christian's recommendation for future collaboration between the IAEA and the Secretariat.
63. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian, noted that the strategies would not be useful unless they were

implemented and she appealed to all Member States present to embrace the strategies presented. She reiterated the need for good data to successfully measure the changes or improvements of important issues under the Convention. She added that the SOCAR report showed the need for considerable improvement in the area of data quality, which should be a priority.

64. She added that the USA supported the development of national action plans for marine litter, which described a country's plan of action and provided funders with a better understanding of national and regional needs.
65. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Adrian for her intervention and emphasised that the action plans could act as an instrument for investment to facilitate a better understanding of a country's need.
66. The representative from RAC CIMAB, Ms. Hernandez pointed out the connection between the strategies and the previously discussed topic of the sub-groups of the OEWG. She encouraged all Contracting Parties to nominate experts to the sub-groups which would play an essential role in implementing the strategies.

(b) Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction, Marine Litter and Freshwater Strategies

67. The delegate of France, Ms. Thiesse, stressed that in order to effectively implement regional strategies. It would be necessary to evaluate all progress made so far and to work together with all related initiatives in this regard. She added that cooperation between the Cartagena Convention and the Barcelona Convention was important. She also emphasized the importance of appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks for each of the pollution related strategies.
68. The Chairperson noted that the issue of collaboration between the two Conventions was important and the appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework of all of the strategies would be critical to its success.
69. The Secretariat confirmed the importance of good data and information management, both in terms of managing existing data (for example, through regional platforms and databases) and generating new data, which required ongoing capacity building activities and support to strengthen national monitoring programmes and regional evaluations.
70. Mr. Corbin emphasised the importance of national experts and sub-groups to support the implementation of the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and to develop new regional targets, criteria and indicators that were currently not available. He emphasised the need for phased support in capacity-building and training, especially for remote sensing, and in determining how the measurements of nutrients could be improved in open waters.
71. Mr. Corbin explained that some approaches used over the biennium were guided by the Barcelona Convention and their experiences to strengthen and improve the governance of Regional Seas. He invited the Governments of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to provide recommendations to the Secretariat based on discussions within the Barcelona Convention.
72. The Head of Delegation of Barbados, Mr. Headley recognized the importance of nutrients, freshwater, and marine litter management for the work of the Convention and all countries in the Wider Caribbean Region. He further emphasized the importance of prioritizing specific activities

within the work programme during the COP that would ensure the effective use of the Secretariat's time and resources.

73. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Hinds pointed out the need for appropriate infrastructure and funding to implement the strategies and achieve long-term improvements.
74. The Secretariat thanked the delegates for their comments on the prioritization of its very limited financial and human resources. Mr. Corbin added that limited project funds were available to support implementation of the strategies at the national and regional levels in the short-term. Project funding was also available for capacity-building to assist Parties in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol.
75. Ms. Adrian mentioned the importance of recognizing each country's limitations as well as the Secretariat's limitations and emphasised the need for prioritization. She stated that the issues raised during the meeting, particularly on the Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy, should be considered long-term priorities and be worked on and discussed in the upcoming intergovernmental meetings and COPs, even if this meant introducing less new topics. She added that it was essential to stay focused on the core issues of the Cartagena Convention and LBS Protocol.
76. The delegate of Dominican Republic, Ms. Nina Lysenko, stated that she appreciated the interventions that were made and found them very useful. She noted that the strategies were excellent baseline documents that could be used by the Secretariat in moving forward. Ms. Lysenko added that the Dominican Republic was looking forward to working with the Secretariat and other Contracting Parties of the LBS Protocol.
77. The Chairperson supported Ms. Adrian's intervention, noting that the issue of collaboration was critical and that the work plan should be divided according to national and regional actions. He then thanked the Secretariat for their presentation and recommendations on the way forward.

Agenda item 8: Draft Work Plan and Budget for AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium

78. The Secretariat was invited by the Chairperson to present the draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2021- 2022 biennium in support of the LBS Protocol, as contained in document **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/3 Rev.1.** and the two Medium-Term Strategies and Work Plans for the Regional Activity Centers, RAC IMA (**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4aRev.1**) and RAC CIMAB (**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4b Rev.1**).
79. Mr. Corbin mentioned that the Secretariat had made an effort to improve the availability of information (case studies) to Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties. He urged focal points to take advantage of the materials available and share with the Secretariat the lessons learnt, experiences or any other activity undertaken at the national level in the area of marine pollution prevention.
80. He then presented to the meeting an overview of the draft work plan for AMEP Sub-Programme for the period 2021 to 2022, which he noted was developed through several consultations with Parties and LBS RACs and guided by their recommendations.
81. In his presentation, Mr. Corbin outlined the main strategic priorities including for project development and implementation, ratification of the LBS Protocol, implementation of regional

strategies and supporting the continued evolution of the Protocol and its Annexes.

82. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for the informative presentation and welcomed the new format with clear targets and indicators and linkages between outputs and specific projects. Mr. Headley mentioned that the listing of specific unfunded activities would enable the Secretariat to be more targeted in resource mobilization, and commended the Secretariat on its ongoing efforts to raise funds. He further noted the stark difference between the funding available from the CTF and from other external sources.
83. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian, thanked Mr. Corbin for his clear presentation on the draft work plan and budget and expressed appreciation for the level of detail and the historical perspective of the work being done by the Secretariat. The USA recognized that the budgetary issues being faced were restrictive and there was a need to consider ways to continue doing the work required with limited funding. A short-term solution was suggested to forego in-person meetings and convene the STAC and the COP meetings virtually in the 2021-2022 biennium to save resources and support staff and programmes.
84. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, Otto Cordero, thanked Mr. Corbin for his detailed presentation. The delegate expressed the need to develop more activities in Annex 5. He requested that the Secretariat take into consideration the redistribution of the budget and work with different areas that were more specific and concise. He suggested that the private sector should be engaged by the Secretariat for possible support.
85. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to comment and provide feedback on the suggestions made by the USA and Dominican Republic regarding the convening of virtual meetings and the redistribution of the budget. He agreed that the issue of private sector engagement was very important and governments should take responsibility to influence other stakeholders within the region.
86. Mr. Corbin thanked the Contracting Parties for their comments. In response to the USA, he noted that a Decision from the LBS COP would be welcomed in relation to the proposal to convene the upcoming intergovernmental meetings virtually. This Decision, he added, would help to reduce costs to the CTF.
87. He welcomed the suggestions from the delegate of the Dominican Republic and added that the way forward required greater integration across sectors. Mr. Corbin explained that pollution was a cross-cutting issue that required a holistic and integrated approach. He also explained that new projects and activities would provide key support to strengthening national policies, laws, strategies and action plans.
88. Mr. Corbin explained that external projects provided direct support to countries, with a small amount of project funds used to hire project staff. He added that this provided an opportunity to engage the RACs to be more involved in project execution with the Secretariat providing oversight. Mr. Corbin then requested non-Contracting Parties and Observers to offer recommendations on how best the Secretariat could improve its support to them in their ratification processes.
89. The Chairperson then opened the floor to Non-Contracting Parties to request any clarifications from the Secretariat regarding the ratification process.

90. The delegate of the British Virgin Islands, Mr. Mervin Hastings, requested technical assistance that could be rendered for the ratification of the Protocol. He noted that due to their status as an overseas territory of the United Kingdom (UK), all proposals would have to be sent to the UK for ratification. Mr. Hastings further enquired about the technical and functional capacities required to implement and address the LBS Protocol at the national level. He added that an assessment of the gaps in the current framework for the BVI in the implementation of the LBS Protocol was also needed.
91. The Secretariat encouraged Non-Contracting Parties to further consult within their respective government agencies on the topic. Mr. Corbin then highlighted that the Secretariat could provide assistance, for example, in the development of a cabinet memorandum as well as facilitate exchanges of experiences on the ratification process with Contracting Parties. He noted that the Secretariat might not be aware of the specific national challenges that Non-Contracting Parties were facing and encouraged provision of such challenges to the Secretariat.
92. Mr. Headley, delegate of Barbados, recommended that the Secretariat provide Non-Contracting Parties with an outline of the Secretariat's role in assisting with past ratifications which would allow Non-Contracting Parties to indicate their needs within a specific timeframe.
93. The work plan and budget was adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 9: Strategies for LBS Regional Activity Centres

94. Mr. Corbin began by highlighting the historical role of the LBS RACs in the implementation of the LBS Protocol, noting their significant contribution to the work of the Secretariat. He made reference to a Decision of the previous COP Meeting for LBS RACs to prepare Medium-Term Strategies that would provide a framework through which Contracting Parties could better identify how the RACs would support the work of the Secretariat. He also referred to the development of specific biennial work plans by the RACs that would be fully integrated into the work plan approved by Contracting Parties.
95. The Secretariat then invited representatives from the RAC IMA and RAC CIMAB to present a short overview of their Medium-Term Strategies as contained in the Working Documents **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4a/Rev.1** and **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4b/Rev.1**, respectively, for endorsement by the COP.
96. Mr. Banjoo presented on the IMA's cabinet approved strategic plan for the period 2019-2024 which included strategic priorities on Improved Long Term Stakeholder Value Through Trinidad and Tobago Government's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Vision 2030), Fostering of Interdisciplinary Research and Linkages to Industry, Growth and Diversity of Research Funding Through Grant funding and Corporate Sponsorship, Operational Cost Reduction and Optimization of Resources to Achieve Value, and Strengthening of External Engagement.
97. He indicated that due to the economic downfall in recent times and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, RAC IMA sought grant funding to account for the 40% drop in government funding. As part of the major financial strategic objectives, it was expected that grant funding would represent at least 60% of its research budget.
98. Dr. Banjoo then highlighted the list of projects and activities that would be implemented with support

from the RAC IMA. In closing, he indicated that the RAC IMA would continue to contribute to in-kind contributions in small-scale funded projects with the Secretariat and would seek grant funding from other sources.

99. The Chairperson thanked Dr. Banjoo for his presentation. He welcomed Mr. Corbin who proceeded to present on behalf of RAC CIMAB due to technical difficulties being experienced by the RAC's delegates.
100. Mr. Corbin noted that RAC CIMAB had designed the Strategy to be fully consistent and supportive of the strategic objectives of the newly updated Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) Strategy for the period 2021 -2030. He noted that in defining their strategic role as a RAC, the strategies were also consistent with their own (RAC IMA and RAC CIMAB) organizational strategies.
101. He further highlighted that RAC CIMAB's strategy complemented the pillars, objectives, targets and indicators of the recently developed Regional Strategy on nutrient pollution. He then indicated the areas of interest that RAC CIMAB could contribute to within the 2021-2022 work plan and budget of the Secretariat.
102. Mr. Corbin mentioned their role in promoting and assisting with ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol, particularly in Spanish-speaking countries. He further highlighted their technical capacity in monitoring the presence and impacts of marine pollutants on human health and coastal and marine ecosystems and the need for continued capacity-building in these areas to provide greater support to Contracting Parties

Agenda item 10: Review of Recommendations of the Fifth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC5) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean

103. Mr. Corbin thanked the delegates for their participation in the 5th LBS STAC Meeting and their inputs to the recommendations. He then presented an overview of the recommendations of the 5th LBS STAC Meeting. Mr. Corbin mentioned actions already taken in response to some of the recommendations and additional guidance and comments received from Contracting Parties. He explained that specific mention was made by Contracting Parties of the work being done by the International Atomic Energy Agency which were not highlighted during the STAC.
104. He presented the decision elements that were introduced by Contracting Parties throughout the meeting.
105. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian, thanked the Secretariat for the brief discussions on the recommendations and draft decisions. She requested clarity on a timeline to submit comments to the draft decisions.
106. Mr. Corbin stated that the COP could fully endorse the recommendations and/or provide additional amendments based on issues raised during the meeting. He added that additional comments on the draft decisions were welcomed and would be incorporated and shared with Contracting Parties for further review and endorsement during the final day of the Cartagena COP.
107. Ms. Adrian, delegate of the USA, proposed a Decision for the Secretariat to host the next LBS

STAC and COP meetings virtually in order to save resources. She suggested that further discussions be held during the 11th SPAW COP and the 19th IGM/16th COP meetings.

108. The Chairperson welcomed the suggestion of the USA and asked Contracting Parties if there were any objections. With no objections raised, the Chairperson recommended that the Secretariat draft the appropriate Decision for further consideration.
109. The Secretariat confirmed that based on the intervention of the USA, a specific Decision of the LBS COP would be drafted to support the need for financial prudence and convening virtual meetings. Mr. Corbin recommended that a similar Decision be drafted for further consideration by Contracting Parties during the SPAW COP and the IGM. He then thanked the delegate of the USA for the recommendation.

Agenda item 11: Any Other Business

110. The Chairperson invited the participants to raise any other issues not covered during the meeting but relevant for discussion.
111. Mr. Corbin encouraged the meeting participants that were Non-Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol participate as observers during the SPAW COP deliberations and urged all delegates to participate in the meeting of the Cartagena Convention COP.

Agenda item 12: Rapporteur's Report

112. Mr. Corbin mentioned to the meeting that the decisions would be presented during the upcoming Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. He then invited the Rapporteur to give a summary of the meeting.
113. The Rapporteur presented an overview of the Meeting and the draft Decisions for further consideration.

Agenda item 13: Closure of the Meeting

114. The Chairperson, Mr. Headley, thanked the Rapporteur for the report of the meeting and commended her for her guidance during the review of the Decisions. He then invited the Secretariat to facilitate the closure of the meeting.
115. Mr Corbin thanked the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Rapporteur, members of the Working Group and partners for their dedicated support to the AMEP Sub-Programme during the last biennium and further added that he was looking forward to working with them in the upcoming biennium. He also thanked members of the Secretariat, interns, interpreters and translators for their support.
116. The Chairperson endorsed the comments of the Secretariat and expressed his gratitude to Contracting Parties for allowing Barbados to chair the sessions. He further thanked the Secretariat for their tremendous work in preparing for the meeting and for the support during the sessions. He then invited the Secretariat to close the meeting.
117. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. Inness stated that the interns had been invaluable in the preparation for the intergovernmental meetings. She acknowledged the support provided by Ms. Adrian (USA), who had been a tower of support to the AMEP Sub-Programme and the implementation of the LBS

Protocol and she would be missed. She concluded by thanking the interpreters and Contracting Parties for their participation and support.

118. The meeting concluded at 4:41 p.m., on Monday 26th July 2021.

Annex I: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
 - a. Rules of Procedure
 - b. Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of the AMEP Sub-Programme Activities, Recommendations and Decisions for the period 2019-2020
6. Review of Recommendations of the Fifth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC5) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
7. Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy
8. Draft Work Plan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium
9. Strategies for LBS Regional Activity Centres
10. Other Business
11. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
12. Closure of the Meeting

For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.

Annex II: PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/1	Provisional Agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/3/Rev.1	Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2021-2022	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4a/Rev.1	Draft Strategy and Work Plan for LBS RAC IMA	9
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4b/Rev.1	Draft Strategy and Work Plan for LBS RAC CIMAB	9
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/3	<i>Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (CoP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	11
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/4	<i>Report of the meeting (to be prepared after the meeting)</i>	

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Information Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
	Information Note for Participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/INF.1	Provisional list of documents	All
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/INF.2	List of participants	
UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.25/Rev.1	Revised Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.7	Report on the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management (2019-2020)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.6	Report of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 2019-2020	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.5	Report of Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres – IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and CIMAB (Cuba) for 2019-2020	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.4	Status of Activities for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2019-2020	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.14	Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11	GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project – Final Report	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/5	Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/7	Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Roatán, Honduras, 5-6 June 2019	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/6	Decisions of the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3	Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region. Roatán, Honduras, 4 June 2019	6
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.19/Rev.1	Regional Marine Litter Strategy for GPML-Caribe	6
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.18	Compendium of case studies on solid waste management	6

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.10/Rev.1	Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan	7
UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/INF.21/Rev.1	Regional Project Proposal for Plastics Management in Caribbean SIDS.	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/INF.5	GEF PIF - Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach.	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/INF.4	GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.43/INF.3	Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for Sustainable Blue Socio-Economic development (UNDP GEF PROCARIBE+) PIF	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/4	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region	8
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.24/Rev.1	Technical Paper on incorporation of freshwater issues into the LBS Protocol	8
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.23/Rev.1	Technical Paper on proposed criteria for Nutrients discharges for domestic wastewater effluent	8
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.22/Rev.1	Draft Strategy for the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and Network 2021-2030	8

Reference Documents

UNEP, 2021	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
UNEP, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention	
UNEP, 2010	Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	
UNEP, 2016	Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)	
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF.9	Regional Seas Core Indicators Set	
UNEP MTS	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025	
CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme	
CEP Technical Report No. 72	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMaLi) for the Wider Caribbean Region 2014	
UNEP/EA.4/INF.7	Proposal for a new marine and coastal Strategy of United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2020– 2030	
UNEP, 2020	Regional Seas and SDG 14: The contribution of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to a Healthy Ocean	
UNEP XXII LAC-Desc, 2021	DECISIONS- XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	
UNEP XXII LAC-BDecl, 2021	BRIDGETOWN DECLARATION- XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	
UNEP, 2018	Caribbean Waste Management Regional Action Plan	

UNEP CEP & The Nature Conservancy 2021	Nature Based Solutions for Wastewater Management in the Caribbean – Barriers and Opportunities
GEF-IWEco, 2020	Regional Environmental Indicators Compendium
GEF-IWEco, 2020	Feasibility Study for the Establishment of a Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP)
GEF-IWEco, 2021	Development of a Public Private Partnership To Reduce Marine Pollution from Pleasure Vessels (Yachts) & Tourism Centres
GEF-IWEco, 2021	Laboratory Assessment Report for Caribbean Countries Participating in the GEF-IWEco Project

Annex III: 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.

Annex IV: List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
1.	Linroy Christian	Antigua & Barbuda	Director of Analytical Services Analytical Services Friars, Hill St. John's	Tel: +268-764-8338 E-mail: linroyc@gmail.com
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17.	Benoît Rodrigues	France	Policy Officer, General Commissariat for Sustainable Development Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition	Tel: Email: benoit.rodrigues@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
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20.	Diana Fernandes	Guyana	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinator Environmental Protection Agency Ganges Street, Sophia Georgetown, Guyana	Tel: Email: dianafernandes2300@gmail.com
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CONTRACTING PARTIES				
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