

## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)*

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## VIRTUAL INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

18–19 August 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Jamaica Time, EST/UTC–5)

Fully Virtual Meeting (Zoom link to be circulated by the Secretariat)

### PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

This Virtual Intersessional Meeting is convened by the Secretariat to update National Focal Points on key strategic and operational matters ahead of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and to provide an opportunity for delegations to raise any outstanding comments on documents currently under revision. As a Secretariat-convened intersessional consultation, this Meeting is not a formal Decision-making session of the Contracting Parties and will not adopt any document. Rather, the Meeting will aim to reach consensus or provisional endorsement on the Updated RAC RAN Guidelines and the Updated Draft Regional Strategy, with a view to their formal adoption thereafter – either through a subsequent virtual or written (no-objection) procedure, or at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

#### KEY OBJECTIVE

Review and provide final comments on the Updated RAC/RAN Guidelines and the Draft Regional Strategy 2026–2030 with a view to achieving consensus or provisional endorsement prior to formal adoption.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting will be held fully virtually via Zoom on 18–19 August 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Jamaica Time, EST/UTC–5) each day. The Zoom link and connection details will be circulated by the Secretariat to all invited Focal Points and Observers ahead of the Meeting.

A dedicated meeting webpage has been established, hosting all documents for the Meeting. Clean versions of the documents under review are available in the three working languages of the Secretariat (English, French and Spanish). A tracked-changes version showing responses to individual delegation comments is available in English only. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish will be provided for the plenary sessions.

Invitations have been extended to all Focal Points of the Convention and its Protocols, and to accredited Observers, with priority given to those entities that have expressed interest in serving as, or hosting, a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) and/or Regional Activity Network (RAN).

**Action:** *Focal Points are encouraged to consult the meeting webpage in advance and to direct any queries on document access or connection details to the Secretariat.*

*Indicative timings are provided against each Agenda Item below to assist Focal Points with planning. These timings are approximate and subject to adjustment by the President in the conduct of the Meeting.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

*Day 1 – 08:00–08:15 (indicative)*

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Welcome remarks will be delivered by Mr. Alberto Pacheco Capella, Chief of the Regional Seas Branch, UNEP, on behalf of the UN Environment Programme, and by Mr. Christopher Corbin, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention. The Secretariat will outline the objectives and expected outcomes of the Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATED GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONS OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RACS) AND REGIONAL ACTIVITY NETWORKS (RANS)**

*Day 1 – 08:15–10:15 (indicative)*

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The Secretariat will present the Updated Guidelines for the Establishment and Operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Networks (RANs), reflecting comments received intersessionally from delegations, followed by plenary discussion. A clean version is available in English, French and Spanish on the meeting webpage, together with a tracked-changes version in English showing the Secretariat's response to each individual comment received. Delegations that submitted specific language requests that remain unresolved are encouraged to take the floor.

**Action:** *The Meeting is invited to provide any outstanding comments on the Updated Guidelines with a view to reaching consensus or provisional endorsement on the text, for subsequent formal adoption either through a virtual (no-objection) procedure or at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.*

**BREAK – 10:15–10:30**

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: UPDATED DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY 2026–2030 FOR THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

*Day 1 – 10:30–12:00, continuing Day 2 – 08:00–08:30 (indicative; 2 hours total)*

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The Secretariat will present the Updated Draft Regional Strategy 2026–2030 for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, followed by plenary discussion. A clean version is available in English, French and Spanish on the meeting webpage, together with a tracked-changes version in English

showing the Secretariat's response to each individual comment received. Delegations that submitted specific language requests that remain unresolved are encouraged to take the floor. Discussion under this item is expected to continue from Day 1 into the opening of Day 2.

**Action:** *The Meeting is invited to provide any outstanding comments on the Updated Draft Regional Strategy with a view to reaching consensus or provisional endorsement on the text, for subsequent formal adoption either through a virtual (no-objection) procedure or at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.*

*End of Day 1 – discussion on Item 3 to resume at the start of Day 2*

## DAY 2

*Day 2 opens with the continuation and conclusion of discussion under Agenda Item 3 (Updated Draft Regional Strategy), Day 2 – 08:00–08:30 (indicative), before proceeding to Agenda Item 4.*

### AGENDA ITEM 4: UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON KEY DECISIONS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

*Day 2 – 08:30–09:30 (indicative; 1 hour, including discussion)*

The Secretariat will provide updates on:

- (a) the status of REMPEITC-Caribe;
- (b) outcomes of the first Bureau Meeting of the current intersessional period; and
- (c) preparations for the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Cartagena Convention (1986–2026).

**Action:** *The Meeting is invited to note the updates provided.*

### BREAK – 09:30–09:45

### AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM UNEP HEADQUARTERS / OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

*Day 2 – 09:45–10:45 (indicative; 1 hour, including discussion)*

Mr. Alberto Pacheco Capella will brief the Meeting on: (a) transition arrangements and the recruitment process for the incoming Coordinator; and (b) the future direction of UNEP Regional Seas and the work of the Secretariat.

**Action:** *The Meeting is invited to note the update and raise any questions.*

### AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Day 2 – 10:45–11:45 (indicative; 1 hour)*

Delegations will be invited to raise any other matters relevant to the scope of the Meeting not covered under the preceding items. This may include matters related to the Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (MMRAN).

**Action:** *The Meeting is invited to note any interventions and agree on appropriate follow-up.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

*Day 2 – 11:45–12:00 (indicative)*

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The Meeting will be closed with brief remarks by Mr. Alberto Pacheco Capella and Mr. Christopher Corbin.

**Note:** *Items 2 and 3 concern documents that remain in draft/updated form and will not be formally adopted at this Intersessional Meeting. The Meeting is invited to reach consensus or provisional endorsement on the texts, with formal adoption of the RAC/RAN Guidelines and the Regional Strategy to follow either through a subsequent virtual (no-objection) procedure or at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.*