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Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection and Development
of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean
Region

Kingston, Jamaica 13-16 October 2025

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region is convened on 13 October 2025 in Kingston, Jamaica.
2. This Meeting proposes to review the achievements of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat during 2023- 2025 and to approve the Draft Workplan and Budget for the 2026-2027 biennium.
3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the Member Governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, has convened the Meeting to:
 - **Evaluate** the projects and activities implemented during the period 2023-2025;
 - **Review** the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Aruba, 5th October 2023;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held on 14 October 2025 in Kingston, Jamaica.
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held on 13 October 2025 in Kingston, Jamaica.
 - **Review** and **approve** the Draft Workplan and Budget for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the 2026-2027 Biennium, including activities of the Regional Activity Centres; and

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

- **Decide** on the composition of the Bureau and any other Committees, where required, for the 2026-2027 Biennium.
4. National focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union are invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, UN and non-UN regional and international organisations, NGOs, donors, and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme are also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. Regional and international experts may also be invited to make special presentations to the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Meeting will be opened on Monday, 13 October 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Kingston, Jamaica. Opening statements will be made by representatives of the Government of Jamaica and the European Union. Other remarks will be made by the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme or their representative.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

6. The 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) will apply *mutatis mutandis* for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

7. The Meeting shall elect from amongst its participants the following officers: the President, two Vice- Presidents and a Rapporteur. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention is convened.

Action: The Meeting is being asked to approve by acclamation the members of the Bureau.

2.3 Organisation of Work

8. English, French and Spanish will be the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided by the Secretariat for the plenary sessions. The working documents of the Meeting will be available in all working languages. The Meeting will also adopt its hours of work and such other arrangements of a procedural or organisational nature as may be deemed necessary. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting is presented in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.1.

Action: The Meeting will be asked to adopt the hours of work and other procedural and organisational matters.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda and Annotated Agenda that have been

circulated by the Secretariat as working documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.IG.49/2 and introduce such changes as it deems appropriate.

Actions: The Meeting will be asked to (a) Note any amendments proposed to the Agenda by Delegates (if any); and (b) Adopt the Agenda as presented or as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

10. The outgoing President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will present their Report for the period 2023-2025 as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.4.

Action: The Meeting will be invited to seek clarification and/or make comments on the President's Report as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN AND BUDGET OF THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (2023-2025)

11. The President will invite the Government of Colombia as depositary for the Cartagena Convention to provide the Meeting with a report on any ratifications and/or accessions that took place during the period 2023-2025. UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.15
12. The President will then invite the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of the Work Plan for 2023-2025, as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.3. Emphasis will be on the response to the Decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. This presentation will include work carried out through the Marine Pollution and Marine Biodiversity Sub-programmes which are presented in detail in information documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.4: Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-Programme for 2023-2025 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.4: Status of Activities of the AMEP Sub-Programme 2023- 2025 as well as , work on Knowledge Management and Communications, and details on resource mobilization budget expenditure and human resources. The presentation will also include work carried out through the Regional Activity Centres of the Secretariat.

Action: The Meeting will be invited to provide comments and seek clarifications on the report of the Executive Director. Based on the presentations including any lessons learned, the meeting may wish to also make recommendations and/or propose decisions for further discussion and possible adoption.

The President will call for an adjournment of the Cartagena Convention COP 18 to enable the LBS COP 7 to be formally convened on the 13th October and the SPAW COP 13 on the 14th October.

The President will then reconvene the Cartagena Convention COP18 on the 15th October and continue with Agenda Item 6.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: STRATEGIC ISSUES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE DRAFT
WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2026-2027**

13. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the revised information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.22 Rev.3, which is an updated version of the “Draft Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat 2023-2030” including incorporation of comments received intersessionally.

Action: The meeting will be invited to comment on the Strategy with a view to possible final adoption.

14. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the documents Resource Mobilization Strategy as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.10 and the updated Communications and Marketing Strategy as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.7 Rev.1: Communications Strategy of the United Nations Environment Caribbean Environment Programme for 2025-2027.

Action: The meeting will be invited to provide comments and additional recommendations for these documents which will be used as an internal guide for the Secretariat during the implementation of the 2026-2027 Work Plan.

15. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the updated Guidelines for the Establishment and Operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Networks (RANs) as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.4 including updates received during the LBS and SPAW STACs and the Pre-COP.

Action: The meeting will be invited to provide comments and consider endorsing these Guidelines for use by the Secretariat.

16. The President will invite the Secretariat to present a summary of the Analysis and Recommendations for the functioning of Working Groups of the Cartagena Convention as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.9.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments and consider endorsing the recommendations and proposing Decisions as appropriate.

17. The President will invite the Secretariat to present on the future development of State of Convention Area Reports on Marine Pollution and Marine Biodiversity Reports and the role of the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.6. This summary as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 49/INF 5: Proposal toward an integrated State of Convention Area Report for marine pollution and marine habitats will consider how this effort will be linked to broader regional assessments.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments and propose decisions for possible adoption.

18. The President will invite the Secretariat to present on the Draft Sargassum Action Plan including comments received during the Pre COP as contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27 Rev.1.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments and consider possible adoption of the proposed plan.

19. The President will invite the Secretariat to introduce the discussion on the proposed online reporting template for the Secretariat and a presentation by a representative of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat. UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.16

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments and consider possible adoption of the proposed reporting template.

20. The President will invite the Secretariat to provide an update on the status of RAC REMPEITC Caribe including presenting the recommendations of the RAC REMPEITC Steering Committee UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.11 and other relevant presentations relating to the work in support of the Oil Spills Protocol during the upcoming biennium. UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF 6
21. The President will further invite any expressions of interest and/or presentations from Contracting Parties interested in hosting the Centre and who wish to make a formal proposal.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments and consider possible adoption of the Steering Committee Recommendations. The meeting will further consider any proposals made for hosting of RAC REMPEITC Caribe and decide whether to accept any proposals received.

22. The President will invite the Secretariat to introduce the presentation to be made by the Chair of the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) for the Wider Caribbean Region UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.13. The MoU for this mechanism was signed by UNEP on behalf of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat with endorsement of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments including activities that they may wish to see reflected in the COP Decisions and/or in the 2026-2027 Workplan and Budget.

23. The President will invite a representative(s) from UNEP Headquarters to present on the new UNEP Regional Seas Strategy Directions (2026-2029) and other developments of relevance to Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

Action: The meeting will be invited to make comments including activities that they may wish to see reflected in the COP Decisions and/or in the 2026-2027 Workplan and Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIUM

24. The Secretariat will present the working document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/3, entitled “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Cartagena Convention for the 2026-2027 Biennium.”

Actions: The Meeting will be invited to:

- a) **Make additional comments on 2026-2027 Draft Workplan and Budget; and**

(a) Approve the Workplan and Budget as presented or as amended by the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. The Meeting will be invited to raise any other matters not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting. Invited observers may also be invited to make short presentations of relevance to the Meeting. These may include, subject to confirmation, the following organizations:

- a) Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- b) Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
- c) Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)
- d) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- e) Project Tangorua on polluting shipwrecks (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.8)

Actions: The Meeting will be invited to:

- a) Note the various interventions and to decide on appropriate follow-up actions.
- b) Set a date and venue for the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention or to agree that arrangements will be determined based on future consultations by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

26. The draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/4) will be presented by the Rapporteur for the Meeting's review and adoption with amendments and corrections as appropriate. These will include the Decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Actions: The Meeting will be invited to:

- (a) Endorse the verbal summary of the Meeting provided by the Rapporteur.
- (b) Review and adopt the Decisions with amendments and/or corrections as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

27. Upon the conclusion of discussions on the preceding Agenda items, the Meeting will be brought to a close with statements by the President of the meeting, representative of the Government of Jamaica, and the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention. The Meeting is expected to close by 5:00 p.m. on 16 October 2025.