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

Oranjestad, Aruba, 05 October 2023

### PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Seventeenth 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 05 October 2023 in Oranjestad, Aruba.
2. This Meeting proposes to review the achievements of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat during 2021- 2022 and to approve the Draft Workplan and Budget for the 2023-2024 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 2021-2022;
  - **Review** the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, held virtually, 28 to 30 July 2021;
  - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held on 03 October 2023 in Oranjestad, Aruba.
  - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Sixth 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 04 October 2023 in Oranjestad, Aruba.

- **Review** and **approve** the Draft Workplan and Budget for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the 2023-2024 Biennium, including activities of the Regional Activity Centres; and
  - **Decide** on the composition of the Bureau and any other Committees, where required, for the 2023-2024 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 Thursday, 05 October 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort in Oranjestad, Aruba. Opening statements will be made by representatives of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands including the Minister of Environment of Aruba as the host of the meeting. Other remarks will be made by the Honourable Minister Matthew Samuda of Jamaica as host of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Minister Adrian Forde, Ministry of Environment, Barbados as the Outgoing President and 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 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 Twentieth 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 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/1.

**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 documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.IG.48/2 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 Barbados will present their Report for the period 2021-2022 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/INF.5.

**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 (2021-2022)**

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 2021-2022.
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 2021-2022, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/INF.4. Emphasis will be on the response to the Decisions of the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. This presentation will include highlights by the Secretariat on the work carried out through the Marine Pollution and Marine Biodiversity Sub-programmes presented in detail to the Conferences of Parties to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocols respectively, 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.
13. The Secretariat will invite a representative from the Regional Activity Centre/ Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre RAC REMPEITC to make a presentation on the work done within the framework of the Oil Spills Protocol and in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). RAC REMPEITC will also be invited to present the Recommendations from the Oil Spills Steering Committee as provided in Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/INF.9
14. The Secretariat will provide specific updates relating to the website, the reporting online template, the new regional data and information management platform and the Barcelona Convention's policy relating to data and information sharing. This policy is provided in Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/INF.8.

**Action: The Meeting will be invited to**

- (a) 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.**
- (b) Endorse the Oil Spill Steering Committee's Recommendations and make any other recommendations and/or Decisions as deemed appropriate.**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: STRATEGIC ISSUES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE DRAFT WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2024**

15. The President will invite a representative of UNEP to make a presentation on the responses taken by UNEP to relevant provisions of Decision VIII of the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region relating to institutional Arrangements of the Secretariat.
16. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the revised document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.22 Rev.2, which is an updated version of the “Draft Strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Network 2021-2030” including incorporation of comments received during the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention.
17. The President will invite the Secretariat to present the documents Review of Operations, Functioning, and Financing of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks of the Cartagena Convention-Workplan 2022/2023 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.18.
18. The President will invite a representative from the Ecosystem Integration Branch to present on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2022-2025) and recommendations from the 2023 Branch Retreat for consideration by Contracting Parties. Additional information will be provided on possible implications of the recently adopted UNEP Medium Term Strategy Delivery Model, the Kuming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, the international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on the next meeting of Annual Regional Seas scheduled for the last quarter of 2023 in the Wider Caribbean Region (Barbados).
19. The President will invite a representative from the Ecosystem Division/Marine and Freshwater Branch to provide an update on relevant ongoing global processes (International Negotiating Committee for Plastics, Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) that may be relevant to the work of the Cartagena Convention for the 2023/2024 biennium.
20. The President will invite the Secretariat to introduce the representative from the UNEP Science Division to present a report on ongoing efforts to enhance data and information management including how GEMS Oceans can help build capacity for strengthened environmental monitoring, analysis and decision-making in the Wider Caribbean Region, building on work already done by the Secretariat.
21. The President will invite a representative from UNEP to present new project opportunities under GEF 8, including its new Integrated Programmes.

**Actions: The Meeting will be invited to:**

- (a) **Decide on further activities for the further enhancement of the work of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks including conducting an update to the existing RAC/RAN Guidelines and identifying new RACs and/or RANs.**
- (b) **Decide on a format and timing for the development of new State of Marine Pollution and State of Marine Habitat Reports taking into account ongoing efforts by GEMS Oceans among others.**
- (c) **Make additional observations on the implications of the presentations for the proposed work plan for 2023-2025 and seek clarification on any aspect of the Reports where necessary.**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION FOR THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM**

22. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.45/3, entitled “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Cartagena Convention for the 2023-2024 Biennium.”

**Actions: The Meeting will be invited to:**

- (a) **Make additional comments on the 2023-2024 Draft Workplan and Budget; and**
- (b) **Approve the Workplan and Budget as presented or as amended by the Meeting.**

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ROLE OF BUREAU AND ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS/ COMMITTEES FOR THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM**

23. The President will invite the Secretariat to highlight any issues they would like to bring to the attention of the meeting relating to additional support for the upcoming biennium that could be provided either from the Bureau and/or through the expansion of existing working groups and/or establishment of new working groups.
24. The Meeting will be invited to discuss and provide recommendations on new tasks for the Bureau and/or for new groups.

**Action: The Meeting will be invited to decide on any additional tasks they may wish to assign to the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2023-2024 Biennium and/or the establishment of any new Working Groups.**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: 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 include:

- Presentation by NOAA/Trinidad and Tobago on updates relating to the COSTA Project to Track Oil Spills UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/INF.3

**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 Twenty-First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighteenth 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 10: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

26. The draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/5) 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 Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and the Sixth 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 11: 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 representative of the Government of the Netherlands as Host of the Meeting, 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 05 October 2023.