



Distr.LIM  
ITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CARIG.47/3  
05 October

2023Original:ENG

LISH

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

Oranjestad, Aruba

04 October 2023

**DRAFT MEETING DECISIONS**



## Decisions of the Meeting

### The Contracting Parties:

**Having convened the** Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP6) in the Wider Caribbean Region in Oranjestad Aruba on 04 October 2023

**Taking note of** the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-programme for the period 2023-2024 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/3/Rev.1.

**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 2023-2024 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/4a and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/4b;

**Taking further note** of the opportunities provided through the participation of countries in ongoing projects such as the GEF IWEco, GEF CREW+, ACP MEA 3, GEF LAC Cities, Promar 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 Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work;

**Recognizing** the effort taken by the Secretariat to increasingly integrate the work of the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes,

**Further Recognizing** the importance of partner agencies 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 and Recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.6;

**Having also reviewed** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC6) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/5;

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

**Acknowledging** 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.

**Decideto:**

1. Adopt the LBS STAC 6 Recommendations as applicable.
2. Adopt the draft 2023-2024 Draft Work Plan and Budget including changes provided during the meeting.
3. Encourage continued integration of the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes in the implementation of the 2023-2024 work plan and budget including on strengthening linkages on issues such as Nutrient pollution and its impacts on Sargassum and Marine Biodiversity, as well as between the LBS Protocol and the work of all the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of the Cartagena Convention.
4. Encourage Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution to participate in ongoing activities by the LBS RACs relating to Nutrient Management and classification of receiving waters as required under the LBS Protocol.
5. Encourage the LBS RACs to continue their work and report to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further review, recommendation, and decision as appropriate.
6. Request the Secretariat, subject to availability of funding, to begin the development of an updated State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution (SOCAR) to focus on pollution issues facing our convention area. Subject to available resources and expertise, the SOCAR may also include the possibility of developing a more integrated portion of the environmental assessment report, in collaboration with the SPAW Sub-Programme and with technical oversight by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring and Assessment, to capture important horizontal Convention issues.
7. Recommend that the [Cartagena Convention]LBS COP, subject to available resources, and based upon SOCAR recommendations to monitor and evaluate emerging issues, direct the OEWG Monitoring and Assessment, to provide technical assistance in prioritizing action on previously unaddressed pollutants.
8. Support the inclusion of REMARCO, an informal network of regional laboratories, as a member of the Regional Activity Network and encourage the Secretariat, LBS RACs and Contracting Parties to continue their cooperation with INVEMAR and IAEA.
9. Support the continued expansion of the Early Detection System and use of Satellite and Remote Sensing through the IMA for the detection and monitoring of Marine pollutants and consider how the system could potentially be adapted to detect and monitor Sargassum, and harmful algal blooms.
7. Encourage the active engagement of Contracting Parties in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution launched following UNEA resolution 5/14, *End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument* and encourage the sharing of further research and study among contracting parties.
8. Urge Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to expand their efforts towards ratification and to take advantage of external project funding and outreach materials available to support national ratification processes;

9. Encourage the Secretariat to continue close collaboration and cooperation with other Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans on areas of mutual benefit.
10. Encourage the Secretariat, in collaboration with other regional bodies, to aid in the assessment and analysis of environmental data, subject to available resources.
11. Encourage Contracting Parties and Non-contracting Parties to provide the relevant information to the Secretariat and RACs to encourage data sharing that is beneficial to assessments and processes undertaken within and outside of this Protocol.
12. Request the Secretariat and LBS Protocol to improve the dissemination of knowledge management products and to assist Contracting Parties, as requested, with environmental education and promoting behaviour change.
13. Recommend to the Cartagena Convention COP the need to consider a possible extension of the work plan period for this biennium to the end of 2025 to enable effective implementation and uptake of project outputs during 2023-2024.