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

Kingston, Jamaica, 16 October 2025

**DECISIONS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (COP) TO
THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND
ACTIVITIES (LBS PROTOCOL) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

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.

Decisions of the Meeting

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP7) in the Wider Caribbean Region in Kingston, Jamaica on 13 October 2025;

Taking note of the Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2026-2027 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3/Rev.1 and the Draft Work Plans and Budgets for the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2026-2027 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4a/Rev 1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4b/Rev 1.

Recognizing the efforts 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 Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC 7) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5;

Decide to:

DECISION I WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

1. **Adopt** the LBS STAC7 Recommendations contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5 as applicable.
2. **Adopt** the 2026-2027 Draft Workplan and Budget as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3 Rev.1.

DECISION II MARINE POLLUTION

Nutrient Management and Wastewater Discharges

1. **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.
2. **Encourage** the LBS RACs to **continue** their work in the ongoing activities and report to the LBS STAC8 and LBS COP8 for further review, recommendation, and decision as appropriate.

Water Classification

1. **Request** the Secretariat, dependent on the availability of resources, and in collaboration with the RACs and the Nutrients and Wastewater Subgroup of the OEWG, advance a study to assess and document the effectiveness of national marine, coastal, and estuarine water classification schemes, with a focus on regulatory implementation and alignment with the LBS Protocol.
2. **Request** the Secretariat present the findings and recommendations, including proposed best practices to LBS STAC8 and COP8 for consideration.

DECISION III MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution

1. **Request** COP18 endorse the establishment of a sub-group of the OEWG to support the development of the integrated State of Convention Area report on marine pollution and marine habitats.
2. **Request** that the proposed sub-group be open to all Contracting Parties from the Cartagena Convention and its protocols and regional experts, as necessary.
3. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to submit requested data and information to be used to inform the integrated SOCAR on marine pollution and marine habitats.
4. **Request** the Secretariat identify potential partner organizations that could provide supplementary data on coastal water quality to inform the integrated SOCAR.

Sargassum Inundation

1. **Acknowledge** the contributions of the OEWG and the Pre COP to advancing the draft Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation.
2. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider endorsing **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27 Rev.3** draft Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation taking note of any additional amendments made during SPAW COP13 and Cartagena Convention COP18.
3. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider the recommendation as outlined in **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.14** in relation to the establishment of a Convention Working Group on Sargassum.
4. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to participate in the proposed Convention Working Group on Sargassum

DECISION IV

LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

1. **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.

DECISION V

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider the establishment of a new working group, open to the Convention Contracting Parties to further investigate how Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) could be addressed within the context of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols by December 2025.
2. **Request** the Working Group report its findings to the Cartagena Convention COP 19

DECISION VI

RAC/RAN GUIDELINES

1. **Request** the Secretariat to provide an updated version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines by December 2025 aligned with the comments shared during the Pre-COP, as well as written comments submitted by delegates after the Pre-COP discussions.
2. **Request** that an inter-sessional Open-Ended Convention Working Group be established by December 2025 to finalize the revision of the RAC/RAN Guidelines by March 2026.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to share the final version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines with Contracting Parties inter-sessionally for final review and convene an extraordinary meeting no later than the end of 2026 for possible endorsement, pending available resources.
4. **Request** that any new proposals for RACs and RANs in the short term be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by Contracting Parties.