

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

Final Act

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) was held pursuant to the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention in Moscow, 10-12 December 2012, and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
2. The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention took place in Ashgabat from 28 to 30 May 2014, at the kind invitation of the Government of Turkmenistan.
3. The following States participated in the Conference:

The Republic of Azerbaijan,
The Islamic Republic of Iran,
The Republic of Kazakhstan,
The Russian Federation,
Turkmenistan.
4. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations also participated:

United Nations Environment Programme;
United Nations Development Programme;
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations;
European Union.
5. In the course of the inaugural ceremony, the Meeting heard a welcoming address by His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabayramov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.
6. The following representatives of the Contracting Parties also addressed the meeting:

His Excellency Mr. Rauf Hajiev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
On behalf of Her Excellency Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Her Excellency Ms. Parvin Farshchi, Deputy Head of the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
His Excellency Mr. Bektas Mukhamedzhanov, Vice-Minister of Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
Mr. Nuritdin Inamov, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.
7. On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Regional Coordinator of UNEP Regional Office for Europe, Mr. Mahir Aliyev, addressed the Conference and introduced the video message by Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and UNEP Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner.

8. The Conference elected by acclamation the following officers to serve as its Bureau:

Chairperson: His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabayramov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. It was agreed that in his absence the Meeting would be chaired by Mr. Murad Atadjanov, Head of the State Enterprise for the Caspian Sea under the President of Turkmenistan.

Rapporteur: Mr. Frederik Schlingemann, Senior Advisor to the interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention.

9. The Conference decided that its Bureau serves also as the Credentials Committee.
10. The Conference adopted its Agenda, attached as Annex 1. The list of documents is contained in Annex 2.
11. The Conference approved the recommendation of the Credentials Committee to recognize the credentials of the representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Tehran Convention.
12. The Conference adopted on 30 May 2014 the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. The Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity was opened for signature by the Caspian littoral States on 30 May 2014. It will remain open for signature at the office of the Depository in Tehran for one year and afterwards will be open for accession by the Caspian littoral States. The text of the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea appears in Annex 3 to this Final Act.
13. The Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea was signed by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.
14. The Conference adopted and the Contracting Parties signed on 30 May 2014 the "Decision on the Location and Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)". The "Decision on the Location and Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)" appears in Annex 4 to this Final Act.
15. The Conference adopted the Ministerial Statement and Decisions as contained in Annex 5.
16. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
17. The Conference accepted with gratitude the offer of Azerbaijan to host in 2015 the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention.
18. The Conference was closed by His Excellency Mr. Babageldy Annabayramov, Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

30 May 2014, Ashgabat