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Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (IGM16) and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (COP13),

Cartagena, Colombia, December 11-13, 2014

**DRAFT**

**DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**



## DECISIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

### The Meeting:

**Having convened** the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Taking into account** the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2013-2014) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.4;

**Having reviewed** the Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3);

**Noting** the Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 10 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4);

**Further noting** the Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Managua, Nicaragua, 10-13 June 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4;

**Further noting** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7); and

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre- Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC- Carib) Steering Committee, Curacao 20-21 May 2014 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.6.

### Decides:

## DECISION I

**Having reviewed** the draft Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2015-2016 contained in document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.36/3;

**Taking note of** the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2013-2014;

**Having examined** the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its Workplan for 2015-2016; and

**Having reviewed** the three suggested additional clauses to the Financial Rules for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/CRP.1.

### Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2015-2016 with the modifications approved by the SPAW COP8 and the LBS COP2 and subsequently by the Meeting;
2. **Request** the Secretariat continue to seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved Work plan and **urge** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard;
3. **Approve** Amendment 1 to the financial rules, integrating three clauses on: the working capital reserve, the administration of the payment of outstanding contributions, and the termination of the Trust Fund. Subject to responses from Parties, and if there will be no objection, this amendment shall enter into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015;
4. **Endorse** the organigram of the Secretariat, and the reclassification of the post of Administrative Clerk G4 to Finance Assistant G5 for greater administrative support and integration of procurement and financial functions;
5. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF in 2015-2016 as reflected in Annex VI of this report, noting the contributions will be maintained at the **same level** as in the previous biennium and this will be reflected accordingly in the approved Work plan and Budget for the 2015-2016;
6. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the States and Territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex VI of this Report;
7. **Strongly urge** all the governments to pay all contributions to the CTF in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity;
8. **Further urge** those governments that have not paid into the CTF in the past, to start doing so and for those with outstanding contributions, to settle the same promptly;
9. **Recognise** the support provided by the Government of Colombia in hosting the present meetings (SPAW STAC6, SPAW COP8, LBS COP2, IGM16/COP13), at a cost of US\$50,000 (subject to submission of the financial report) which would have otherwise been a cost to the Caribbean Trust Fund;
10. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect and to explore innovative financial mechanisms with Member States to facilitate payment of their outstanding contributions for example through support to meetings, workshops, etc.;
11. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary provisions to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2017.

## DECISION II

**Having reviewed** the Reports, Recommendations and Decisions of the Meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

**Noting** the interest of Contracting Parties to include activities relating to Ocean Acidification within the 2015-2016 workplan and budget;

Further noting the need for collaboration between the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes and the Regional Activity Centres in responding to recommendations and decisions of the Meetings:

### Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in, Cartagena, Colombia on 9 December 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 34/3; and
2. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Cartagena, Colombia on 10 December 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to include activities in its 2015–2016 work plan to raise awareness, mobilize resources, including the development of new project proposals, to enable assessment and monitoring of Ocean Acidification in the Wider Caribbean Region, making the necessary linkages to the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network currently being coordinated through the SPAW subprogramme.
4. **Request** the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with the Guiana Shield Facility in order to develop synergies between the two programmes.

### DECISION III

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, held in Willemstad, Curacao, 20-21 May 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 36/INF.6 );

**Having examined** the Strategic Plan for the 2014-2015 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Caribe (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG 36/ INF 6.);

**Noting with thanks** the continuous contribution of the Governments of France, Curacao (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and the United States to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

**Welcoming** the offer from the Government of Curacao to continue hosting RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe on the island of Curacao, autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands;

**Acknowledging** the need to finalize and sign the MoU between UNEP and the Government of Curacao for the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

**Noting** the major challenges faced in terms of having insufficient personnel and acknowledge the hard work put in by Consultants and staff, including those seconded by other governments;

**Acknowledging** the need for continued cooperation in developing and implementing joint multilateral action for responding to oil spills and other marine environmental threats from ships in the Wider Caribbean Region; and

**Welcoming** the establishment of the working group under the Chairmanship of Jamaica to oversee the development of a long term strategic plan to enhance the mission of the centre and future work plans.

#### Decides to:

1. **Review** and **endorse** the Recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee;
2. **Review** and **approve** the Workplan and Budget for the biennium 2014-2015;
3. **Recognize** the contribution of the Governments of France, USA and Curacao for their continued support to the Centre;
4. **Urge** all Contracting Parties, to similarly support the Centre through future secondments and/or provision of resources to sustain REMPEITC's activities;
5. **Request** the Secretariat to work with UNEP and the Government of Curacao to finalize and sign the MoU for the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe as soon as possible given that it will serve as the legal basis for development of additional MoUs involving the IMO, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the US Coast Guard;
6. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to attend future Ordinary Steering Committee Meetings of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe in order to ensure that the Centre's activities reflect the needs of the Wider Caribbean Region and all Contracting Parties;
7. **Endorse** the development of a 5-10 year strategic plan to enhance the mission of the centre and future work plans and note the establishment of an open/ended working group under the chairmanship of the government of Jamaica to oversee this development;
8. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to continue to develop and finalize oil/HNS spill national contingency plans and to provide input for the update of the Caribbean Island OPRC plan through the establishment of a working group;

9. **Encourage** the Secretariat (or CEP) to continue to cooperate with the IMO to promote the ratification of and compliance with the London Convention and London Protocol on the dumping of wastes and other matter at sea among the nation's of the Wider Caribbean Region.
10. **Further encourage** the Secretariat in collaboration with IMO to explore the possibilities of large scale funding opportunities, in particular through the GEF, for the implementation of oil spill and marine-related activities identified in the proposed strategic plan; and
11. **Welcome** the appointment of the new Director of the Centre, Benjamin Allee, acknowledge with thanks the contributions of the two departed secondments - CDR Felton Gilmore from the United States and Ms. Anne Réglain from France and also welcome their replacements CDR Paul Lattanzi and Vassilis Tsigourakos.

#### **DECISION IV**

**Recalling** the decision of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to approve the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5.Rev.1);

**Recognizing** the progress made by the Secretariat to finalize and/or update Host Agreements for the Regional Activity Centres; and

**Welcoming** the support by UNEP HQ in the finalization of these Agreements.

#### **Decides to:**

1. **Request** the Secretariat, in coordination with the Regional Activity Centres, to continue work to finalize outstanding Host Agreements with RAC Host Governments as soon as possible.



## DECISION V

**Having reviewed** the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2013-2014;

**Recognizing** the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 biennium and beyond;

**Welcoming** the progress made by other Parties towards ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols;

**Noting** the importance of obtaining reports from countries on the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols; and

**Recognizing** that the reporting template should be kept under periodic review by the Secretariat including requesting governments to provide additional information as part of their reporting obligations under the Convention.

### Decides to:

1. **Encourage** other governments in the Wider Caribbean Region to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
2. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols through the approved reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
3. **Encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development and implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat;
4. **Further request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and relevant Convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme workplan;
5. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period since the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;
6. **Encourage** all Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted national reports to do so no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and request the Secretariat to make all such reports available through the UNEP CEP website; and
7. **Encourage** governments to express their appreciation of, and support to, the Caribbean Environment Programme within their national institutions, as well as at relevant national, regional and global fora.

## DECISION VI

**Recognizing** the efforts by the Secretariat and by RAC CIMAB to produce the final report of the update of Caribbean Environment Programme Technical Report No. 33 now Technical Report No.52;

**Acknowledging** the achievements of the working group on environmental monitoring and assessment established by Decision XI of the Fourteenth IGM; and

**Further Noting** that further work is required to complete the proposed outline for the State of the Convention Area Report;

### Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the specific recommendation of the LBS COP2 to enable the continued work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment for the 2015/2016 biennium;
2. **Request** that the Working Group continue as an open-ended working group of experts from Contracting Parties and regional activity centres to the Cartagena Convention; and
3. **Further request** that the Chair of the Working Group reports to the 3<sup>rd</sup> LBS STAC and as appropriate, to the LBS COP3.
4. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilize resources that will assist countries to conduct national coastal and marine monitoring and assessments and in the further development of the State of Convention Area Report.

## DECISION VII

**Recalling** Decision IX of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

**Welcoming** the presentation on the UNDP/GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+): “*Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*”;

**Recognizing** that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention was a co-executing agency for the CLME Project and will continue to support the execution of the CLME+ Project;

**Acknowledging** that the objectives and mandate of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols are consistent with the long term objective of the politically endorsed CLME+ “*Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*”;

**Noting** that the CLME+ Project Document is expected to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for review and approval by the end of 2014; and

**Further noting** that upon approval, project implementation is expected to commence during the first half of 2015.

### Decides to:

1. **Encourage** Governments to support the implementation of the CLME+ Project and by extension the politically endorsed CLME+ SAP;
2. **Request** that the Secretariat explore opportunities for entering into a formal agreement with Brazil regarding mutual collaboration on activities relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
3. **Urge** the Secretariat to take advantage of resources to be provided through CLME+ to facilitate enhanced coordination among the AMEP and SPAW Programme Areas, including through the development of a roadmap for collaborative action and the convening of joint technical meetings and workshops;
4. **Request** that the Secretariat participate in the interim coordination mechanism for the implementation of the CLME+ SAP, which is to be established under the CLME+ Project, and to participate in the process to identify a coordination mechanism to support Ecosystem-Based Management/Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries (EBM/EAF) implementation within the CLME+;
5. **Request** that the Secretariat participate in the implementation of the CLME+ Project through the inclusion of the following activities in the 2015-2016 Workplan with required financial support from the Project:
  - i. **Facilitate** the development of Regional Strategies and Actions Plans for the protection of marine habitats and the reduction of impacts from nutrients on marine ecosystems in the CLME+;
  - ii. **Conduct** a baseline and (pre)feasibility assessment of the investment needs and opportunities to protect and restore key habitats, reduce the impacts of pollution on human well-being, and safeguard the goods & services provided by marine ecosystems;
  - iii. **Support** the development of investment plans for action on habitat protection and restoration and the reduction of land based sources of marine pollution;

- iv. **Coordinate** a Demonstration project on “*Piloting the transition to an Ecosystem-based management approach for the CLME+, with special attention to the North Brazil Shelf LME*”;
  - v. **Contribute** to the development of the “*State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Living Resources in the CLME+ region*” report and the development of a prototype CLME+ SAP monitoring and evaluation web portal including but not limited to the development of the State of Convention Area Report;
6. **Request** the Secretariat to facilitate the collaboration and coordination between the CLME+ Project and other related Projects being executed by the Secretariat in particular GEF Projects such as the GEF CReW and GEF IWeco.

## DECISION VIII

**Recognizing** the ongoing degradation and loss of critically important marine habitats such as coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds, and the associated losses in terms of the provision of ecosystem goods and services;

**Noting** the increase in ongoing and planned efforts towards the protection and restoration of such key habitats in several places across the Caribbean and that the success of these efforts will also require pollution prevention, reduction and control efforts;

**Acknowledging** the multiple benefits including optimization of resources to be obtained from improved planning, coordination and collaboration among related national and regional programmes, projects and initiatives as well as value of sharing lessons learned and best practices from these activities;

**Welcoming** the concrete opportunity provided by the GEF co-funded CLME+ Project to help address the previously expressed needs;

### Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to initiate consultations with relevant initiatives and organizations in the region conducting coral restoration with a view to develop mechanisms to share information, research and best practices on this issue and enhance collaboration and coordination among these and other relevant initiatives;
2. **Further request** the Secretariat to link, as appropriate, the above-mentioned effort to CEP activities to reactivate the regional coral reef monitoring network, as well as those relevant to the issue of ocean acidification in an effort to promote further coordination and maximization of resources;
3. **Encourage** the Secretariat to include the mechanisms mentioned in Decision VIII.1 within the context of the CLME+ Project which also aims to integrate and facilitate actions and investments on the restoration of key habitats and pollution reduction.