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Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March 2017

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND
TRAINING CENTRE (REMPEITC) FOR 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.

Annex I. Recommendations of the Meeting

The Steering Committee:

Having convened the Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Making reference to the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Taking into account Decision III of the 16th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention;

Considering the Protocol Regarding Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills of the same Convention;

Further considering the statement of IMO that 30% of the world's oil either transits or originates within the Wider Caribbean Region and taking into consideration the implications arising from the imminent expansion of the Panama Canal.

Further taking into account the social and ecological value of the region's healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, including beaches, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds.

Noting with concern the changing risk profile of the Wider Caribbean Region with respect to oil spills both from ships and offshore oil and gas activities.

Further Noting with concern the discontinuation of the French Secondment of a Consultant to RAC REMPEITC after May 2016.

Having reviewed the Draft biennial Work Plan of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and other documents submitted to this Steering Committee by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recommends to the 17th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to:

1. Review and endorse these recommendations of the 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee;
2. Review and endorse the 2016 - 2017 biennium work plan;
3. Endorse RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's new Long-Term Strategic Plan (2015-2025), including the revised mission, vision and values, as well as the use of "key performance indicators" and consider disseminating the Plan for use as a model for other Regional Activity Centres.
4. Recognize the organizational benefits of a full-time Director for RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe who will lead the implementation of the Centre's new Long Term Strategic Plan, ensure proper direction is provided, and assist with negotiations to procure

sufficient staff to fulfil the Centre's mission, achieve its vision, while upholding its values.

5. Recognize the significant contributions of Curaçao, the United States, France and the International Maritime Organization to RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the Wider Caribbean Region.
6. Welcome the new Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Program and the Government of Curaçao, establishing a renewed hosting agreement for RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, establishing the Centre as a legal entity.
7. Reiterate the importance for the International Maritime Organization, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the United States Coast Guard to finalize and sign new agreements, ensuring the continued provision of technical and financial assistance to the Centre.
8. Urge all Contracting Parties to contribute to the activities of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe through secondments of consultants and/or the provision of resources.
9. Urge all donor countries to attend future meetings of the Centre's Steering Committee in order to ensure that the Centre's activities reflect the needs of donors to the Wider Caribbean Region.
10. Seek to ensure the Contracting Parties are represented at future RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee Meetings by a Member of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the President of the Monitoring Committee, as required by the Terms of Reference of the Centre's Steering Committee.
11. Note that RAC-REMPEITC-Caribe will continue to use virtual attendance technologies to facilitate the widest possible participation in future meetings of the Steering Committee.
12. Encourage the Centre, in collaboration with IMO and UNEP, to explore possible funding opportunities, in particular through GEF-funded projects, notably GloBallast, GloMEEP and the Caribbean Node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.
13. Note the Centre's progress and future plans to develop a Marine Traffic Database using Regional data collected from Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), with a view to providing a proposal outlining the potential costs and utility of its implementation at a future session.
14. Note the communication and outreach materials developed by the Centre (social media pages, brochure, banners, new website and promotional video) and welcome the offer of UNEP to translate the brochure into Spanish.
15. Consider the value of expanding the Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTO) to apply to all Contracting Parties by incorporating MTO into the existing Caribbean Island OPRC Plan and changing the name of the Plan to a more inclusive and representative title of "Wider Caribbean Region OPRC Plan".

16. Recognize the significant contributions of industry and non-governmental organization partners and note their pledge of continued support to the work of the Centre, in particular from ITOPF, Cedre, OSRL, Majestic Cruise Lines, Kosmos Energy, ARPEL and the Curaçao Maritime Association.
17. Thank those who attended and made contributions to the Steering Committee Meeting, including representatives from the Curaçao Port Authority, Rijkswaterstaat of The Netherlands, and the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard.
18. Note the decision by TOTAL/SA to suspend funding the secondee from France to the Centre as of June 2016 and the challenges that this reduction in personnel will present for the Centre to deliver its work programme.
19. Endorse the establishment of a working group led by UNEP-CEP CAR/RCU with participation of IMO, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, and other parties to further explore potential solutions presented by the Steering Committee, with a view to identifying one or more secondees from Contracting Parties, other nations, the United Nations, academic institutions and others.
20. Consider an appeal for the use of funding from the Caribbean Trust Fund to sponsor the secondment of one or more consultants to the Centre from within the Contracting Parties to the Centre.
21. Welcome the efforts of Jamaica to initiate a dialogue with other Caribbean States with a view to exploring the possibility of seconding senior level maritime officials on a rotational basis to the Centre to support its work.
22. Explore the possibility of partnerships with academic institutions, including maritime institutions, to support the work of the Centre.
23. Concur with the proposal of the Steering Committee to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee in 2017 to revisit the staffing issues currently faced by the Centre, and agree that efforts should be made to align this with the meeting of the Senior Maritime Administrators that is scheduled for 2017.