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Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Panama City, Panama, 18 to 20 July 2018

**STATUS AND CHALLENGES OF RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING
POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES
(LBS PROTOCOL)**

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.

Status of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)

Country/State/Territory	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification	Entry into Force
Antigua and Barbuda		13 July 2010	13 August 2010
Bahamas		24 June 2010	13 August 2010
Belize		4 February 2008	13 August 2010
Colombia	2 October 2000		
Costa Rica	6 October 1999		26 May 2016
Dominican Republic	3 August 2000	6 September 2012	5 October 2012
France	6 October 1999	4 May 2007	13 August 2010
Grenada		5 March 2012	4 April 2012
Guyana		14 July 2010	13 August 2010
Jamaica		5 November 2015	4 December 2015
Kingdom of the Netherlands	6 October 1999		
Panama		9 July 2003	13 August 2010
Saint Lucia		30 January 2008	13 August 2010
Trinidad and Tobago		28 March 2003	13 August 2010
United States of America	6 October 1999	13 February 2009	13 August 2010

Status and Challenges of Ratification of the LBS Protocol

Decision VII (i) refers to the Secretariat's efforts to:

“Encourage other governments in the Wider Caribbean Region to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols”

1. Pursuant to the Decision VII (i) as quoted below of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (IGM17) and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (COP14), **15-17 March 2017**, the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention kindly requested an update from Non-Contracting parties on March 9, 2018 regarding the status of country's ratification to the LBS Protocol and any information on the possible timeframe of said ratification. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention offered support to Governments in this process if required. A formal signed letter was sent on the said date in English and Spanish.
2. An email reminder was sent on April 23, 2018 with a deadline of May 4, 2018. Reminder followed on May 1, 2018. Subsequently, emails were also sent on May 31, 2018 and June 4, 2018 requesting a response to the status of ratification request.
3. The responses from member states is as follows and major areas identified for the Secretariat to provide assistance is included:

Member States and Territories	Status and Challenges of Ratification to the LBS Protocol
The Kingdom of the Netherlands (Curacao)	Technical assistance required to finalize the national legislative framework in order to implement the provisions provided by the LBS protocol by 2020. The timeframe of ratification would be in keeping with this process. Guidance required to establish a technical team consisting of local legal experts.
Colombia	The process for the incorporation of this instrument into their legal system has advanced in the last year, and the Bill is expected to be presented before the Congress of the Republic in 2018. This will be informed by the national consultations with the different entities and sectors.
Honduras	The Government of Honduras submitted the instruments of ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols to the Official Depository in Cartagena, Colombia on 16 May 2018.

Member States and Territories	Status and Challenges of Ratification to the LBS Protocol
Haiti	The Government of Haiti symbolically approved the ratification of the Convention and its three Protocols in a signing ceremony that took place in Nairobi during the <i>3rd United Nations Environment Assembly</i> held in <i>Nairobi, Kenya</i> from <i>4 to 8 December 2017</i> .
¹ Barbados	Written update not yet received
² Saint Kitts and Nevis	Written update not yet received

ACTION:

THE 4TH LBS STAC IS REQUESTED TO:

- **NOTE THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE LBS PROTOCOL IN NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES.**
- **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FUTURE RATIFICATION EFFORTS.**

¹ Verbal Communication with the Government of Barbados indicates that ratification was approved by the Cabinet and the process has begun for formal deposit of instruments of ratification.

² Following discussions during a high-level mission by the Coordinator, a draft Cabinet memorandum has been prepared recommending ratification of the Convention and its protocols.