

RAC/REMPEITC-CARIBE
STEERING COMMITTEE
Eighth Meeting
Agenda item 14

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**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND
TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE
ON ITS EIGHTH MEETING**

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Introduction

1. In accordance with Decision No. 28 of the 9th IGM on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 6th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and Article 9 of its Protocol Regarding Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) was convened in Willemstad, Curaçao on June 26, 2001. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Curaçao and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was signed on April 1, 2016, thus officially re-establishing RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, although it was established in 1995 and bilateral and trilateral MOUs were previously established. The Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was held on January 12-14, 2004, the Third was held on July 24-25, 2006, the Fourth was held on June 30-July 1, 2008, the Fifth was held on May 11-12, 2010, the Sixth was held on May 09-10, 2012 and the Seventh held on May 20-21, 2014. The present meeting was convened in Willemstad, Curaçao from May 19-20, 2016, as the Eighth Meeting of the Ordinary Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe with the following objectives:
 - 1.1. Approve the revised mission, vision and values of the Centre;
 - 1.2. Approve RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's long term strategic plan;
 - 1.3. Close on the 2014-2015 work plan and expenditure report;
 - 1.4. Develop the 2016-2017 biennium work plan and budget; and
 - 1.5. Develop recommendations to be presented at 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
2. RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe invited delegates from all the countries in the Wider Caribbean Region to the Meeting. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting as observers. Virtual participation to the meeting was also available through the virtual attendance software GoToMeeting.

Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was opened with a short welcome from CDR Paul Lattanzi (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) who recognized Mr. Benjamin Allee, Director of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, who provided a welcoming address.
4. CDR Paul Lattanzi presented the logistical arrangements for the meeting and then recognized Mr. Bertrand Smith (Jamaica), the Steering Committee Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Government of Curacao, welcomed the delegates from UNEP, International Maritime Organization (IMO), the country delegates, as well as the representatives from industry and intergovernmental organizations and those participating online. He then introduced the Honorable Suzanne Camelia-Römer, Minister of Traffic, Transport and Urban Development of Curaçao, and invited her to make the opening speech.
5. The Minister welcomed all to the Eighth Ordinary Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe. The Minister renewed Curaçao's commitment to the Centre and highlighted the importance of environmental protection and preparedness for the Wider Caribbean Region. See Annex IV for the full speech.

6. Dr. Inniss, Coordinator of the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit of UNEP (UNEP CAR/RCU) also welcomed all the delegates to the meeting. She stated the importance of regional cooperation and UNEP's commitment to its regional partners. See Annex IV for the full speech.
7. Ms. Patricia Charlebois, Head Carriage of Chemicals in Bulk, Marine Environment Division of the IMO welcomed all and extended greetings and best wishes from the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim. She affirmed IMO's commitment to the work of the Centre in the Wider Caribbean Region. See Annex IV for the full speech.
8. Mr. Smith invited CDR Lattanzi to present the participants. CDR Lattanzi presented those participating online and then invited the participants of the meeting to introduce themselves.
9. The Chairman declared the Eighth Ordinary Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe open and called CDR Lattanzi to present the Agenda for the meeting.
10. .

1. Adoption of the Agenda

11. CDR Lattanzi presented the proposed agenda to the Steering Committee for adoption.
12. The Steering Committee approved the provisional agenda for the Eighth Ordinary Steering Committee Meeting. The adopted agenda is included in this report as Annex III.

2. RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's history, mission, vision, values

13. CDR Lattanzi presented the legal framework of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention) and the implementation of The Protocol Concerning Co-operation and Development in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, (the Oil Spills Protocol). He then explained the reasons of updating the Mission, Vision and Values of the Centre as part of the new long term strategic plan.
14. ITOPF recommended the addition of the word "preparedness" be added to the new Mission of the Centre.
15. The Steering Committee noted the information and approved the revised mission, vision and values as proposed by the Centre's long term strategic plan and as to be amended per ITOPF's comment.

3. Status of institutional arrangements

16. CDR Lattanzi presented the past, present and future institutional arrangements of the Centre.
17. The Government of Curacao and UNEP noted the execution of the new MOU on April, 1st, 2016, and expressed their long term commitment to the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe in Curacao.

18. IMO informed the Steering Committee of their current work in determining the type of legal agreement which will govern the arrangement between IMO and the Centre as well as the IMO and the USCG.
19. USCG also confirmed the work being done in establishing a long term arrangement with IMO to support the objectives and mission of the Centre. The Chair thanked Paul and called the members for comments. Curacao no comments.
20. The Steering Committee noted the information provided.

4. Long-term strategic plan review and adoption

21. CDR Lattanzi: presented the long term strategic plan for the Centre prepared by a working group chaired by Bertrand Smith of Jamaica. The long-term strategic plan establishes specific strategic outcomes that include improvements in communications, training results, staffing and funding. Of particular note was the introduction of Key Performance Indicators (metrics), used to evaluate the efficacy of the Centre.
22. The value of a “full time” Director for the Centre was discussed considering that the current position is filled by the Deputy Director of the Maritime Authority of Curacao who is allowed by the Government to dedicate only 20% of his time for this role. Despite this change could be very valuable for the Centre, it was reported that it would be very difficult to make it happen. The Steering Committee also discussed the example of the RAC/SPAW’s Director which is a full time position covered by the Government of France and proposed to check what agreement was made by France with UNEP in that case.
23. The Chairman thanked the two consultants as well as the members of the correspondence group for their work to develop the long term strategic plan.
24. The Steering Committee noted and approved the long term strategic plan and inquired as to the next steps that the plan would be submitted to the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Cartagena Convention for an endorsement and to serve as model for other activity centers to follow.

5. Country profiles and key performance indicators

25. Mr. Tsigourakos offered an overview of the process and results of the effort to update the country profiles during the 2014-2015 biennium. It was noted that 21 (58%) of states of the Wider Caribbean provided updates to their profiles. These profiles are available on RAC REMPEITC’s website (www.racrempeitic.org) and were shared with key stakeholders including IMO, UNEP, ITOPF, ARPEL and others.
26. He then presented the different metrics, established as part of the Long Term Strategic Plan, that were developed to gauge the effectiveness of the Centre and to direct the limited resources to those efforts that will bring the greatest positive results within the Wider Caribbean Region.
27. The Steering Committee put forward the possibilities to improve the response rate from each state on the Country Profiles update. Mr. Tsigourakos explained that the content of the survey is broad, often requiring information that may be beyond the responsibilities of our Focal Point, requiring that our Focal Point is required to obtain that information from other governmental agencies or need of governmental approval to submit the information.
28. UNEP CEP offered that they could assist in linking RAC REMPEITC’s Focal Points with the Focal Points of the CAR/RCU.

29. The Steering Committee noted the information provided.

6. Strategic communication developments

30. Mr. Tsigourakos offered a presentation of all of the significant improvements to the strategic communications of the Center, to include a new Twitter Account, Facebook page, brochure, website page and promotional video, and urged Steering Committee members to follow and share the work of the Centre with these media.

31. The Chairman commended Mr. Tsigourakos for the results of his singular efforts to improve the face of the Center and communication of data valuable to the Wider Caribbean Region and RAC REMPEITC's stakeholders.

32. The Steering Committee noted the information provided.

7. Cost benefit analysis of updating the Caribbean marine traffic database

33. Mr. Tsigourakos introduced the subject paper with a presentation on the genesis and evolution of the Caribbean marine traffic database. A comprehensive survey was completed to measure the benefit of the database, first published by the Centre in 2012. These benefits were then weighed against the approximate \$10,000 USD cost to integrate new set of data in the existent system. He then recommended that future opportunities to harness dynamic AIS data should be explored as the system developed by the Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket), especially since they are willing to share their knowhow with a non for profit organization.

34. The Kingdom of the Netherlands expressed the opinion that this seems a good opportunity that could be beneficial for several parties. If RAC REMPEITC is looking for parties to (co)finance this it would help if more information would be issued regarding output, logistics and costs of such an effort.

35. UNEP CEP discussed some opportunities to coordinate with the GEF funded Marine Litter project and expressed their willingness to support the Centre preparing an explanatory paper.

36. IMO commented that traffic patterns can be directly related to oil spill risks. However, other areas that could be tied into a potential system could be ballast water, air emissions, and marine litter. It was noted that these are areas where a case could be made for funding and/or coordination with current and future funded projects from the GEF.

37. The Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard commented that such data would be valuable to law enforcement and search and rescue officials. They also informed the Steering Committee of the existence of their own AIS server that could be used as a base in case of future project developed by RAC REMPEITC.

38. The Steering committees noted the information provided and concurred that the Centre should not purchase static data or try to incorporate them in the actual system. The Steering Committee also agreed that the Centre should coordinate contacts with the Norwegian Coastal Administration and pursue to receive more detailed information on the development of such system.

8. Status of IMO consultants

39. CDR Lattanzi presented a timeline with the different Countries that provided secondments to the Centre over the years. He then informed the Steering Committee that his replacement from the USCG will be CDR Keith Donohue and informed them of the actions conducted by IMO, UNEP and the Centre after the announcement that the Group TOTAL will suspend the funds for the secondment of the French Consultant.
40. IMO informed the Steering Committee that the informal meeting on the future of the Centre, conducted during the last MEPC 69, brought some fruitful discussions and ideas on ways to address the departure of the Group TOTAL. IMO continued by noting that France informed them that they are pursuing national possibilities for continuing the secondment. Another opportunity would be to contact the Oil Company Rubis, which has headquarters in France, as well as economic developments in the Caribbean. It was stated that in general it would be important to work in bridging the gap between the industry, the Centre and Member States of the Cartagena Convention. IMO further informed that funding opportunities could also be provided through other Member States of IMO interested in providing support for technical cooperation. Another potential approach would be for the Member States to support the Centre through a joint fund and thus share the support of an additional consultant to the Centre. IMO finally expressed that they will continue to support RAC REMPEITC in their missions and activities.
41. UNEP CEP expressed the importance to continue the train-the-trainers approach described in the long term strategic plan and build experts in the region that could eventually support the Centre during this transition time. They will try to bring the issue on the upcoming meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in July 2016, but it was noted that the window of opportunity for the submission of documents may be already closed. Further it was proposed to contact locally implemented industries, as the Sol Group based in Barbados, and to reach regional organizations as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) or similar organization within the Central American Countries to catalyze support.
42. The USCG delegation confirmed the demonstrated value of the Centre but expressed their concerns in case there is no other partner. They informed the Steering Committee that such limited involvement by Member States of the region could make it difficult for the USCG to justify their involvement.
43. Kosmos Energy raised the question on how to position the Centre at the industry level, and proposed that it would be very valuable if the Centre had more data on ESI maps in the region. The representative also highlighted the importance of developing a mapping system as discussed earlier.
44. CDR Donohue proposed that it would be useful to develop partnerships with international universities. He also suggested that a more formal working group be established to address this issue to ensure that a coordinated effort is made between the key stakeholders at IMO, UNEP and the Center.
45. The Chairman informed the Steering Committee that Jamaica will try to initiate a dialogue with other Caribbean States through their Chief of Staff, with a view of exploring the possibility to second, on a rotational basis, senior level maritime officials knowledgeable on marine pollution preparedness and response, to support the work of the Centre. He also suggested to approach large hotel branch complexes that can have direct impact in case of oil spills.

46. UNEP CEP seconded the proposal of establishing a working group and concurred with the Chairman's idea as sustainable tourism is directly linked with these aspects. Additionally, it was suggested that Ministries of Energy be approached in that regard.
47. Majestic Cruise Lines suggested that a job description and position requirements should be forwarded or described, so that potential donors would know if they have a qualified candidate.
48. The Kingdom of the Netherlands raised the question why the position of the consultant should be depending on the good will and contribution of one single country or entity. If for instance (other) partners and/or beneficiaries would be willing to co-finance a consultant's place in order to safeguard future activities, a more sustainable foundation would be created. If such a setting would be created a contribution by NL is open for discussion.
49. The Steering Committee discussed the advantages of a (financial) structure that would make it possible to hire or contract an expert from the region itself as a consultant instead of a consultant who is not familiar with the region and its circumstances.
50. Kosmos Energy volunteered to participate in the working group and facilitate the involvement of the petroleum industry. Majestic Cruise Lines also volunteered to participate in the working group.
51. The Chairman suggested that Country profiles and more precisely the activities benefitting each Member State could be shared in future appeals to demonstrate the value of the Centre for the Countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. He also suggested that IMO's Regional Maritime Administrator should be invited to participate in the working group.
52. Ms. Bikker suggested holding an Extraordinary Steering Committee meeting in 2017 to coincide with the Senior Maritime Administrators meeting in order to revisit the staffing issues currently faced by the Centre.
53. The Steering Committee agreed to the formation of an Open-Ended Working Group, noted the information provided, and highlighted the importance of pursuing the development of the above mentioned courses of direction to solicit countries or industry for seconded consultants to the Centre.

9. Report on activities under the 2014-2015 work program

54. Mr. Tsigourakos introduced documents 8/9/1, 8/9/2, 8/9/3, and 8/9/4. These documents report the activities progress and Financial Reports of the 2014-2015 biennium. He provided an overview of the activities under four main categories: Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation (OPRC) activities, Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Activities, Globallast Activities and Consultancies/Meetings.
55. The Centre noted that during the past biennium, 42 activities were completed, with 223 persons from the Caribbean Countries attending the various training and workshops. Also noted were the graphs which provided a breakdown of the activities in terms of funds allocation (direct and in kind), operational expenses, and the implementation effort for the programme areas of the Centre.
56. The Steering Committee noted the information provided and endorsed the key goals for the 2016-2017 biennium.

10. RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe contributions to IMO's missions

57. CDR Paul Lattanzi presented document 8/10/11. He demonstrated the value of the Centre to support the mission and objectives of IMO and UNEP in the Wider Caribbean region. He then presented the activities accomplished under the GloBallast Partnerships Projects and the involvement of the Centre for the coordination of the review of the Section II of IMO's OPRC manual on contingency planning. He highlighted the importance of this Section for countries like Curacao that haven't developed a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Further he presented the top priorities of IMO's Secretary General "that could be greatly beneficial to the Wider Caribbean Region. Finally he noted the value and importance to continue participating at IMO's meetings such as Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) or Pollution Prevention and Response Sub-Committee (PPR).
58. The Chairman: recognized the leadership of Paul Lattanzi in the development of the Section II manual and invited the Steering Committee to note the information provided.
59. The Steering Committee noted the information provided.

11. Presentation of the 2016-2017 work program

60. Mr. Tsigourakos presented the subject papers which led to discussion regarding budgeting and priorities of the Center as well as how best to encourage implementation.
61. The Steering Committee proposed to amend the objectives of the 2016-2017 Biennium to include the Cartagena Convention and change "improve ratification to Support improvement in ratification. Furthermore the Committee discussed the need to tie the activities of the Centre with climate change.
62. The Steering Committee approved the draft work program for the 2016-2017 biennium, with the amended Objectives.

12. Election of Officers

63. CDR Lattanzi explained the Terms of Reference of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee.
64. The USCG and Majestic Cruise Lines proposed the re-election of Mr. Bertrand Smith as Chairman
65. Curacao proposed as First Vice Chairman Mr. Eric Newton from Curaçao
66. CDR Lattanzi proposed, with the support of IMO and UNEP, as second vice-chairman CDR Thomas Ottenwaelder from the USCG
67. The Ordinary Steering Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman: | Mr. Bertrand Smith | (Jamaica) |
| First Vice Chairman: | Mr. Eric Newton | (Curaçao) |
| Second Vice Chairman: | CDR Thomas Ottenwaelder | (United States) |

13. Any other business

68. Mr. Carlos Sagrera offered a presentation titled “The Progress of Offshore Oil Exploration in Central America”, stressing that prevention, preparedness, and response for offshore activities needs to be advanced in the region.
69. The meeting discussed the changing risk profile within the region, especially with the growth of offshore activities as well as the opening of the enlarged Panama Canal. Further to discussions regarding the need for an international instrument for regulating offshore industry, the meeting noted the information provided by IMO regarding past discussions within IMO bodies for creating a convention to address offshore installations, but that this proposal was not supported by the Member States and the offshore industry continues to be largely subject to national laws and regulations and to a large extent is self-regulating. As a result, there is no specific funding for activities related solely to the offshore activities from IMO.
70. CDR Paul Lattanzi: then presented the value of expanding the Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTOPO) to the Caribbean Island OPRC plan and changing the name of the plan accordingly to the “Wider Caribbean Region OPRC Plan”.
71. A presentation was offered by Mr. Miguel Moyano, who attended the meeting virtually and presented “*The IOGP – IPIECA Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project*” and the “*Perspective of ARPEL on RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe*”.
72. A presentation was offered by Mr. Johannes Kooijman, on the work of the Curacao Maritime Association.

14. Report of the meeting

48. The Ordinary Steering Committee reviewed the draft report of the Eighth Ordinary Steering Committee meeting and approved it.

Closing

73. The Committee approved the draft report of the meeting and was adjourned by the Chairman at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2016.

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.

Annex II. Meeting Participants

PARTNERS TO THE MOU

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Annex III. Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**for the eighth ordinary meeting of the Steering Committee to be held at
the Renaissance Curacao Resort and Casino, Willemstad, Curacao
from Thursday, 19th to Friday 20th May 2016
(Meeting commences at 08:30 on Thursday, 19th May 2016)**

- Opening of the meeting
- 1 Adoption of the agenda
- 2 RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's history, mission, vision, values
- 3 Status of institutional arrangements
- 4 Long-term strategic plan review and adoption
- 5 Country profiles and key performance indicators
- 6 Strategic communication developments
- 7 Cost benefit analysis of updating Caribbean marine traffic database
- 8 Status of IMO consultants
- 9 Report on activities under the 2014 - 2015 work program
- 10 RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe contributions to IMO's missions
- 11 Presentation of the 2016 - 2017 work program
- 12 Election of Officers
- 13 Any other business
- 14 Report of the meeting
- Closing of the meeting

Annex IV. Opening Remarks of Curacao, UNEP and IMO

Opening speech offered by Suzzane Romer, Minister, Minister of Traffic, Transport and Urban Development of Curaçao:

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I extend a warm welcome to all, particularly those who are visitors to Curaçao. I hope that you will find time enjoy our island and a few of the many unique things to see and do here.

I would like to recognize our distinguished partners in the operation of the Center:

- a) The representative of the UN Environment Programme, the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme, Dr. Lorna Inniss and*
- b) the representative of International Maritime Organization, Mrs. Patricia Charlebois.*

I also would like to recognize the committee chairman, Mr. Bertrand Smith from Jamaica, who will be presiding during these sessions.

Furthermore we should not forget our distinguished representatives from the United States Coast Guard, Captain Joseph Loring, Commander Thomas Ottenwaelder, and our future Technical Expert and Consultant, Commander Keith Donohue. Of note, aside from Curaçao, the United States has been the Center's longest standing partner, providing a technical expert from the Coast Guard for over 21 years. This long-term support represents a very significant investment in the mission, vision, and values of RAC REMPEITC. Thank you!

As you have no doubt heard, France will no longer be able to support a consultant here at the Center. Citing the low price of oil, the Group TOTAL has decided to suspend its funding for this important position. This was not an easy decision for TOTAL or France, who have made their own significant investment in the Center. On behalf of the Government of Curaçao, I extend our sincere gratitude for their support these past 14 years, and look forward to welcoming them back should future funding become available.

Of course, the success of this Center is dependent upon the support and guidance provided by industry organizations like ITOPF (pronounced "EYE tof") ARPEL (pronounced "ARE-pel"), and Kosmos Energy; the work of independent consultants like International Marconsult and Marine Pollution Prevention and Preparation; and the logistic support of partners like Majestic Cruises.

I would also like to welcome my fellow citizens of Curaçao who support the Center in myriad of ways. Many of you here have held leadership positions within the Center during its long history here on Curaçao. I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Mr. Benjamin Allee, Ms. Carla Bikker, Commander Paul Lattanzi (pronounced "la-TAN-zee"), and Mr. Vasillis Tsigourakos (pronounced "VA-sill-iss SIG-go-RA-cos" for organizing this 8th Ordinary Meeting of this Steering Committee.

Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone.

The government of Curaçao regards it a privilege to host the Center, now for over 20 years. Since the Center's opening in 1995, I believe it has been a great asset for all the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region.

We are grateful to the members of the Steering Committee for their consistent efforts in increasing the level of technical capacity for pollution prevention and response in the region, and we are very pleased to host important meetings, like this one, here in Curaçao.

The issues of oil spill preparedness is of particular significance to small island developing states (or SIDS), because as SIDS we are especially vulnerable to environmental disasters, whether they be natural or man-made.

The risk to Caribbean states and territories is made greater by the extensive exploration, production and transportation of oil in and through our region. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, a member of this Committee, describes the Wider Caribbean as a major oil producing area, with a significant number of offshore installations and an intricate network of shipping routes. This risk is only increasing with time as more nations conduct offshore drilling and the Panama Canal opens to more and larger ships of all types.

All of this vessel traffic brings air pollution, sewage, waste, and increased risk of oil pollution and exotic species introduced to our waters from ballast waters. Our coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangroves and fisheries, are all at risk and need to be protected. It's not just to protect nature, but we need to protect these shared resources to protect our economies as well.

As the tourism becomes an ever increasing percentage of the economies of our Caribbean countries, even if damage can be minimized and mitigated, the associated media coverage could impact potential visitors and their decision to make the Caribbean their destination of choice. The associated losses, both in environmental and economic terms, could be enormous.

Fortunately, organizations like IMO and UNEP are improving safety and response standards for international shipping and these standards have led to a considerable decline in the occurrence of major pollution incidents around the world. Nevertheless incidents do occur, and we need not look any further than the Macundo Well in the Gulf of Mexico just 6 years ago to be reminded of what is at risk.

Given the limited individual capabilities of each Caribbean Nation, it is vital that we take a regional approach for the prevention, mitigation and management of major environmental disasters. The Center's mission is to encourage and support cooperation among member states in combating pollution. The strategies taught by the Center's consultants, for quick exchange of information, establishment of rapid response agreements and resource sharing, are of benefit to all member countries.

In the next two days you will be given an opportunity to learn of the many achievements of the Center since the last Steering Committee meeting. Further, you will help the staff of the Center to develop the strategic work plan for the next biennium. I ask for you to share your expertise, your unique perspective, and the values of your organization. I am sure you will also take the opportunity to meet old and new colleagues and counterparts from other islands and regions, to share information, exchange ideas, to discuss challenges faced and approaches to overcome them.

I would like to thank all of you again for your presence here today, and I wish you a successful, productive and enjoyable meeting.

Opening speech offered by Dr. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator, UNEP Caribbean Environment Program, Regional Coordinating Unit:

Honourable Minister Suzanne Camelia Romer, Minister of Traffic, Transport, and Urban Planning of Curaçao and other Government Officials, Mr Bertrand Smith, representative of Jamaica and chairman of this 8th Ordinary Meeting of the RAC Rempeitc Steering Committee, Director of the Centre, Mr Benjamin Allee and the excellent team of hard-working officials at the Centre, Representatives of Member States to the Cartagena Convention and its Oil Spills Protocol, Ms Patricia Charlebois, IMO representative, representatives of other non-governmental organizations, members of the media, invited guests. Good morning.

It is a pleasure for me to be here for a number of reasons: I have enjoyed your wonderful hospitality in the past, and I am very glad to be here again. Thank you for hosting us here. But this time, I also have the opportunity to thank you, Minister, and the Government and people of Curaçao, for your unswerving commitment and support to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol, for the benefit of countries that border the Caribbean Sea and Western Atlantic Ocean. I would also wish to celebrate the sterling work of this Regional Activity Center and as we look back through the years to the vast numbers of initiatives successfully completed by the RAC Rempeitc you have an impressive record.

With Curaçao, I would also like to thank the Governments of the United States and France for your support and commitment to the work of the center, which is evident in so many tangible ways, not least of which is the provision of secondment of experts to the RAC. For the past two years since the last steering committee, I understand that there has been a time of reflection and visioning. The Government of Curaçao, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and IMO, as well as some contracting parties, have worked to review the strategic direction of the centre, but we have also worked to achieve a more formal institutional arrangement through the historic signing of an agreement between the Government of Curaçao and UNEP for the hosting of the centre. Minister, our thanks to you and your Government for staying the course with us until we reached a final agreement. You have set the bar high as we at UNEP work on agreements with our other RACs to support the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the Spaw protocol) and the Protocol on Land-based sources of marine pollution (the LBS Protocol). We note the increased collaboration between the SPAW RAC which is hosted by the Government of France in Guadeloupe and the RAC Rempeitc on Invasive Alien Species, and we envision the RACs working more collaboratively in the future, and in tandem, to achieve the objectives of the Cartagena Convention.

The United Nations Member States have also been reviewing the direction of development, with the new agreement on the Sustainable development goals. The RAC Rempeitc's work is key to the implementation of a number of these goals, not just Goal 14 on oceans as we might expect. With a mandate that contributes to the protection of the ocean's resources, UNEP, IMO and our partners around the table, together with the RACs, will contribute to the achievement of Goals 1 and 2 and 3 on poverty and hunger and good health and well-being, by protecting the ocean-based food and livelihoods of the world's population. Responsible consumption and production, goal 12, is also part of our focus, and we trust that our established partners will continue to work with us for the attainment of these goals by 2030, for the benefit of our peoples.

The Caribbean Environment Programme is strongly committed to increasing the visibility of the centre and its work, and one way we would like to achieve that is to link with some of our other initiatives, such as the new programme on Marine Litter, and on more of the work of the IMO with respect to Marpol. These are just some thoughts for your further consideration and debate during the meeting here.

I wish you every success and look forward to very practical and attainable outcomes of this 8th Steering Committee. Thank you

Opening speech offered by Ms. Patricia Charlebois, Head, Carriage of Chemicals in Bulk, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization:

Honourable Minister of Traffic, Transport, and Urban Planning; representatives of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles Curaçao, colleagues from the UNEP-RCU, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to be with you here today participating for the first time in this meeting of RAC/REMPEITC Caribe on this beautiful island. I take this opportunity of also extending the greetings and best wishes of the Secretary General of IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim.

Mr. Chairman

Oceans, seas and adjacent coastal areas – all form part of an integrated support system and a positive asset that is an essential component of global life. There is no doubt that “prevention” of pollution of the marine environment “is better than cure”. Whereas much is done to prevent maritime related accidents occurring through the implementation of the IMO rules and regulations, there is always a risk of an incident especially when you consider the amount of sea borne traffic and that 90% of goods are transported by sea. In this part of the world alone, the Wider-Caribbean region, about 30% of the world’s oil supply pass or originate in the region with a parallel high volume of cargo shipping, cruise shipping, bunkering operations and other support shipping services.

Regrettably, incidents can occur with the dramatic images we are accustomed to see on our TV screens when these involve major oil spillages. We therefore have an obligation to prepare for such eventualities.

In this respect, both IMO’s OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS protocol focus on enhancing global preparedness through national action and recognize the importance of regional cooperation and mutual assistance among governments and government-industry cooperation. IMO has always participated actively in regional programmes such as the one in the Wider Caribbean and views such a programme as an integral part of its global strategy for capacity building in the field of marine environmental protection.

Since its inception REMPEITC has accomplished much in this area and has demonstrated that it is a useful resource and mechanism for the countries in the region. With the assistance of the Centre, countries from the region have had their personnel trained in aspects of prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution resulting in the strengthened capacity at local, national and regional levels. Countries in the region have acceded to and made great progress in implementing the various international IMO conventions governing

the protection of the marine environment, notably MARPOL and the OPRC Convention, certainly due in no small measure to the assistance and support provided by REMPEITC. The Centre has also been an important partner in the delivery of technical cooperation related to ballast water management, under the GEF-funded GloBallast project. It will also be an important partner in the delivery of the new GloMEEP project, also funded by GEF and launched this year by IMO, which is aimed at reducing atmospheric pollution through improved energy efficiency of ships – with Jamaica and Panama being two of the pilot countries in this region for the delivery of this important new project.

As the Centre diversifies its activities so will the expectations grow and many regional arrangements continue to look upon REMPEITC as a model for the facilitation of regional cooperation.

The achievements of REMPEITC would not have been possible if not also for the considerable support and commitment to the Centre by the United States, the Netherlands, Venezuela, the Government of France and TOTAL in particular through the secondment of staff. The financial and in-kind support offered by the Caribbean Trust Fund, regional and industry organizations such as COCATRAM, CCA, ARPEL, ITOPF, IPIECA have all been instrumental in making REMPEITC a success story.

Our special recognition goes to the Curaçao as the hosting nation, and its Government in particular, for providing so generously for the Centre's Headquarters. However, we now face a critical resource issue with the imminent departure of the secondee from TOTAL, with no replacement envisaged and this will require some thought as to how we develop a more stable regime for seconding officers to ensure sufficient capacity for REMPEITC to deliver its mandate and continuity in the institutional memory of the Centre. This needs to be underpinned by a self-sustaining financial mechanism if we are to have a robust system of regional cooperation to tackle not only the present environmental challenges but also those which are emerging.

The success of REMPEITC depends also on the collective support of the Contracting Parties and I can assure that you can continue to rely on IMO's commitment to assist, within its capacities, to the realization of the Centre's goals.

There is much to discuss in the next two days and solutions to be found on some very important issues. I am confident that through the spirit of cooperation that this region is renowned for and with the support of a very efficient and capable secretariat, you will be able to forge ahead successfully. Here is to wishing us all a very successful meeting.

Thank you.

Annex V. List of Meeting Documents

- OSC 8/1/1 Provisional agenda
 - OSC 8/2/1 RAC REMPEITC-Caribe History, Mission, Vision and Values
 - OSC 8/2/2 Legal Framework
 - OSC 8/3/1 Status of Institutional Arrangements
 - OSC 8/4/1 Long Term Strategic Plan Review and Adoption
 - OSC 8/4/2 Long Term Strategic Plan
 - OSC 8/5/1 Country Profiles and Key Performance Indicators
 - OSC 8/5/2 Status of Country Profiles and Conventions in the Wider Caribbean Region
 - OSC 8/5/3 RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe 2004-2015 Second Decade of Protecting the WCR
 - OSC 8/6/1 Strategic Communications Developments
 - OSC 8/7/1 Cost Benefit Analysis of Updating the Caribbean Marine Traffic Database
 - OSC 8/8/1 Status of IMO Consultants
 - OSC 8/9/1 Report on Activities under the 2014-2015 Work Program
 - OSC 8/9/2 Progress Report on activities under the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan
 - OSC 8/9/3 Activity - Reference listing
 - OSC 8/9/4 Detailed Activity report 2014-2015
 - OSC 8/10/1 RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Contributions to IMO's Missions
 - OSC 8/10/2 Section II of IMO Manual on Oil Pollution
 - OSC 8/11/1 Presentation of the 2016-2017 Work Program
 - OSC 8-11-2 Work Program 2016-2017
- MOU signed April 1, 2016 between Curacao and United Nations Environment Program

Annex VI. Group Picture



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