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**Fourteenth Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14)
to the Convention on Cooperation for Protection,
Management and Development of the Marine Environment and
Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the
West, Central and Southern African Region
(Abidjan Convention)**

Nouakchott, Mauritania, 21st to 23rd May 2025

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST, 2025

This annotated agenda is intended to facilitate the deliberations of the meeting. Every morning a meeting of the board is scheduled from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Expert Segment

1. Opening of the Expert Segment

The opening ceremony consists of four keynote addresses.

- Address by the Executive Secretary of Abjan Convention
- Address by the UNEP Executive Director representative
- Address by Congo Representative
- Address by the Minister of the Ministry of Environment and sustainable Development of – Mauritania

2. Organizational issues

The plenary session will be chaired by the President of COP13 or his representative to address practical organizational issues relating to:

a) The election of the officers of the meeting,

In accordance with article 21 of the Rules of Procedure of UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/. Ref.3. The meeting will elect its bureau on the basis of the proposals to be made.

b) Admission of observers:

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Executive Director of UN Environment will invite international bodies and national governmental and non-governmental organizations as observers.

c) Appointment of credentials committee

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties of UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP14. Ref.3, the meeting will set up a committee to review accreditations.

d) The adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting.

The Conference will consider the document "Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention" of UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/. Ref.3, and adopt it as the rules of procedure of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

e) Adoption of the agenda of the meeting – segment of experts

The provisional agenda prepared and finalized by the Secretariat in agreement with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties has been produced as UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/1. Subject to the rules of procedure referred to in paragraph 2(d), the meeting could adopt the agenda set out in the Annex to this document or those as amended as appropriate.

3. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the programme of work 2022-2024

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/3: Report of the UNEP Executive Directive. The Executive Director or her representative, in an oral presentation, will submit for consideration by the parties, the work carried out by the Secretariat and its partners on the implementation of the 2022 – 2024 work plan and the decisions of COP13.

4. Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the administration and budget of the Convention's trust funds.

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/5: 'Report on the Secretariat Administration and Trust Fund'. The Executive Secretary will present the situation and administrative and financial prospects of the Convention, as well as the challenges it faces.

5. Proposal for the 2025–2027 Programme of Work and Budget of the Abidjan Convention

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/4: Programme of Work 2025-2027. In a context where Parties are addressing global challenges such as of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change, the Secretariat will present for consideration the programme of work of the Convention for the years 2025 to 2027.

THEMATIC AND STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

6. Ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocols to the Abidjan Convention.

This item will consider a presentation on the Status of ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocols

On 2 July 2019, the Abidjan Convention held a meeting of plenipotentiaries at which four additional protocols were signed. These were the Calabar, Pointe-Noire, Malabo and Bassam protocols. Six years on, none of the parties have ratified these instruments, which could contribute significantly to ocean governance, reducing marine biodiversity loss and combatting marine pollution. At the upcoming meeting, the parties will discuss ratification, the difficulties encountered, and the concrete actions to be implemented to enable the entry into force of these protocols.

7. Ratification and implementation of the High Seas Treaty – BBNJ

This item will consider a communication on Ratification and Implementation of the BBNJ High Seas Treaty. The adoption in June 2023 and the opening for signature in September 2023 of the agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) highlights a number of challenges. This session will provide a better understanding of the benefits of this agreement, analyse the challenges encountered so far and identify measures to facilitate the implementation of solutions at the national and regional levels, within the framework of the Abidjan Convention.

8. Global Biodiversity Framework Implementation Strategies – GBF

This item will consider a presentation on GBF. In December 2022, the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework for the 2020–2030 period in Kunming-Montreal marked an important milestone in the overall process of planning, cooperation, and mobilising resources to achieve the targeted goals of biodiversity conservation. The parties will then need to discuss how to seize the opportunities created by the global framework and contribute to achieving the 2030 goals.

9. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - NBSAP

This item will consider a the communication on the engagement of Contracting parties on updating NBSAP. It will examine the challenges associated with integrating marine and coastal issues into national biodiversity and other strategies and action plans, as well as the difficulties involved in regularly producing documents.

10. Improving the cash flow of the Abidjan Convention

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/5: Report on the Secretariat Administration and Trust Fund.

The Contracting Parties adopted decision CP13/3 to address the adverse financial situation that significantly affects the activities and functioning of the Secretariat. Four years later, several parties have still not

implemented this decision, thus aggravating the situation. Parties are invited to review the current situation and its implications and then identify urgent solutions to address them. (Closed session)

THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 2025

11. Protocol on Marine Protected Areas

This item will consider a Presentation on the development of the Marine Protected Areas Additional Protocol. The Parties requested that the Secretariat of the Convention develop this additional protocol, with the aim of harmonising the definitions, concepts and management methods relating to marine protected areas and marine and coastal biodiversity (CP.10.15 and CP/13.5). Following consultation with the Parties, the protocol will be submitted for discussion and adoption.

12. UNOC 3

The Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) to be held in Nice from 9 to 13 June 2025 under the theme "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean". This session, held in the run-up to the conference, gives the parties to the Abidjan Convention the chance to consider and, if necessary, adopt resolutions on the three priorities of the Nice conference: (a) working towards concluding multilateral ocean-related processes to raise the level of ambition for ocean protection; (b) mobilising financing for SDG 14 and supporting the development of a sustainable blue economy; (c) strengthening and disseminating knowledge related to marine science to improve policy decision-making.

13. Collaboration, cooperation and partnerships for the development and implementation of new projects, for science and the facilitation of dialogue frameworks.

This item will consider communication by technical and financial partners about their collaboration with Abidjan Convention Partners UN Environment

A number of collaborations between the parties should be encouraged, on the one hand on transboundary issues and, on the other hand, on strategic partnerships developed to strengthen capacities for the implementation of decisions and seize project opportunities

14. Plastic pollution

This item will examine through a panel Presentation of INC5 Challenges. The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including Marine Pollution (INC-5.2), will be held from 5 to 14 August 2025. This session will address the challenges for the Abidjan Convention region and encourage Parties to sign and ratify the treaty.

Working Group on the Operation of the Convention

In view of the evolution of the thematic discussions, the COP President will have the opportunity to set up one or two working groups. The contacts group may consider the following:

15. Work Programme 2025-2028

16. Financial matters and strengthening the functioning of the Secretariat

Consideration of draft decisions and declaration

17. Consideration of draft decisions

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/6: Draft decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention, which contains all draft decisions. Draft decisions that are sponsored by Parties will be presented and discussed before adoption. These are:

- a) Draft decision CP14/1 on the implementation of COP14 decisions.
- b) Draft decision CP14/2 on the Programme of Work 2025-2027
- c) Draft decision CP14/3 on financial matters 2025-2027
- d) Draft decision CP14/4 Ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocols to the Abidjan Convention
- e) Draft Decision CP14/5 Ratification and Implementation of the High Seas Treaty - BBNJ
- f) Draft Decision CP14/6 on the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework – GBF
- g) Draft Decision CP14/7 Update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
- h) Draft decision CP14/8 for the adoption of the Protocol on Marine Protected Areas and the organization of plenipotentiaries
- i) Draft decision CP14/9 on the participation and contribution of Parties to UNOC3
- j) Draft decision CP14/10 on plastic waste, to support INC5 et signature and ratification of the treaty
- k) Draft decision CP14/11 on Collaboration, cooperation and partnerships for the development and implementation of new projects

18. Consideration of the draft declaration

This item will consider UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/10: Draft Nouakchott Declaration. The meeting will scrutinize the draft Nouakchott Declaration, finalize it for presentation and adoption at the ministerial meeting.

FINAL QUESTIONS

19. Other business

Parties will be invited to comment on any other non-agenda items under the various issues discussed during the session

20. Adoption of the report.

The meeting will consider the draft report and recommendations of the expert session prepared by the Secretariat for submission to the ministerial meeting.

21. Closing of the Expert Meeting

The expert session is expected to conclude its work at around 6 p.m. on 22nd May 2025.

HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

FRIDAY, 23rd May 2025

During this COP14 Ministerial Session, the Heads of Delegation will make statements. The functioning of the secretariat will also be analysed in the light of the financial difficulties faced by the Convention. Finally, the final version of the draft decisions, the Nouakchott Declaration and the report of the meeting will be considered.

22. Opening Ceremony Ministerial Segment

The meeting will open with statements from high-level officials. Firstly, the Executive Secretary of the Abidjan Convention will speak, These speeches will be followed by the President of the Bureau's address –(HE Minister of Environment and sustainable développement of Mauritania) . The Chairperson will then give the floor to the Heads of Delegation, who will give their introductory statements one by one.

23. Organizational matters and adoption of the agenda

The purpose of the review is to consider documents (a) UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC-WACAF/COP.14/1 on the draft agenda and (b) UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) /ABC-WACAF/COP.14/2 on the draft annotated agenda.

24. Functioning of the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary will present an overview of the administration and finances of the Abidjan Convention. The presentation will focus on the Convention's financial difficulties, which have now reached a critical level. The non-payment of annual contributions to the trust fund has resulted in a build-up of unpaid debts, despite the decision of COP13/3. The situation even jeopardises the survival of the Convention.

25. Adoption of the decisions of the 14th COP

The draft decisions, which were discussed and approved during the expert segment with the aim of reaching a consensus before the ministerial session, will be submitted for adoption. However, Contracting Parties may put forward new proposals at the meeting, provided they relate to one of the following :

- urgent matters arising from the debates at the meeting;
- new developments that could not be foreseen in advance.

26. Adoption of the Nouakchott Declaration

This political declaration by the parties reaffirms their shared vision and commitment to the sustainable management of coastal and marine areas and the conservation of ecosystems. It also demonstrates their willingness to adopt and implement regional and global instruments for the management and protection of the marine and coastal environment. Finally, it highlights their commitment to contributing effectively to the proper functioning of the Abidjan Convention secretariat, which they have agreed to establish.

27. Date and venue of the next COP

The meeting will decide on the date and venue of the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties. Parties are invited to express their interest in hosting the next edition.

28. Other business

Urgent non-agenda items and information will be discussed

29. Adoption of the report of the 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention

The Contracting Parties shall adopt the report of the meeting after considering it.

30. Closing of the meeting

The closing ceremony will include brief interventions by the Executive Director of UN Environment or his representative, the Chair of the Bureau, who will declare the meeting closed. The ministerial session is expected to conclude at around 6 p.m. on Friday, 23 May, 2025.