

مركز المساعدة المتبادلة للطوارئ البحرية
Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC)



REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

المنظمة الإقليمية لحماية البيئة البحرية

The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Regional Meeting

8th December 2020, Virtual Meeting

MEMAC Head Quarter– Kingdom of Bahrain

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Decision, 15-2 and 23-xiv of the Sixteenth ROPME Council Meeting convened in Jeddah, K. Saudi Arabia, on 28th November 2013. The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers' (OSRO) Meeting was called from MEMAC Head Quarter (HQ) Virtually – Kingdom of Bahrain via Zoom Application on the 8th December 2020. The Meeting was convening as a regular annual meeting to review and follow up the related Decisions to their duties. Mainly a revision of the status of the National and Regional Contingency Plans and its entire related item towards the preparedness towards the emergencies.

ATTENDANCE

The Meeting was attended by the Member States' designated Response Officers from K. Bahrain, IR. Iran, State of Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, K. Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as well as MEMAC's professional staff.

The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex I.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was opened at 09:10 a.m., Tuesday the 8th of December 2020, by Captain Dr. A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director. He welcomed all the Oil Spill Response Officers' Committee Members (OSRO). He highlighted the different activities within the Region that form stress on the marine environment. Also, he emphasizes on executing the ROPME Council Decisions on the National and Regional level.

In the end, he expressed the organization's appreciation and gratitude to the Member States OSRO members, wishing them a fruitful and successful meeting.

The Statement of Capt. Dr. A. M. Al-Janahi MEMAC Director attached to this Report as Annex VII.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

As the Meeting convened virtually for the first time, it's all agreed that MEMAC leads the meeting throughout the Agenda. Where MEMAC also to act as the Rapporteur of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Meeting reviewed and approved the Provisional Agenda.

The Agenda and the Programme are attached to this Report as Annex II.

The Working Documents of the Meeting were disseminated earlier and also has been made available within MEMAC Website, which is listed and attached to this Report as Annex III.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Review of the Tenth OSRO Meeting Progress

Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director, introduced and referred the meeting to the outcome and progress of the Tenth OSRO' Meeting. The Meeting took note of the outcome of the progress Report and proceeded on its work accordingly.

The Oil Spill Response Officers Duties and Responsibilities (OSRO) is attached to this Report as Annex IV.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Review of the Sixteenth ROPME Council Related Decisions

Captain A. M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director, introduced and referred the meeting to the Sixteenth ROPME Council Decisions related to the Meeting. The Meeting took note of the ROPME Council Decisions and proceeded on its work accordingly.

A Copy of the Sixteenth ROPME Council related Decisions is attached to this Report as Annex V.

AGENDA ITEM 6 : Review, Discussion and Update the Status of Member States' Oil and Chemical Spill National Contingency Plans and Related Elements

6.1 The Response Officers of the Member States introduced the status of their own National Contingency Plans and associated activities and as follow:

6.1.1 Kingdom of Bahrain

Eng. Hassan Marzooq, the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting through a presentation about the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

- In 2018, a team was formed to review and update the plan.
- The team completed the review and the update in 2019.
- The revised plan was approved by the Cabinet in 2020.
- The state nominates the OSRL Company to carry out the oil spill combating whenever needed.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

(No updated list of the Oil Spill Equipment Stockpile received by MEMAC)

The major oil spill equipment Stockpiles available in Bahrain:

- SCE Equipment in Sitra
- Bapco
- OSRL

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

As mentioned above in item 6.1.

- The plan was updated and approved by Cabinet in 2013.
- The updated plan covers oil spill and HNS spill incidents.

- There some equipment in the Civil Defense Directorate to deal with chemical spill on land.
- There is a unit in the SCE for controlling importing and handling chemical substances.
- A comprehensive database of chemical substances imported to Bahrain (Quantity, uses, impact on health, environment.)

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

(No Equipment List received by MEMAC)

They are some equipment in Civil Defense Directorate to deal with Chemicals Spill on land.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

- A unit in the SCE for controlling importing and handling chemical substances
- There is a comprehensive database of chemical substances imported to Bahrain (Quantity, uses, impact on health, environment.)

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

Already carried out 2013 by MEMAC.

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

The concerned authorities provide a rapid approval of visa to the personal arriving. Custom shall expedite the clearance for the temporary importation of the equipment. The Loaned equipment will be free of custom duties and subject for direct delivery to the site.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

The list is updated annually.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,

The Kingdom already ratified in Feb. 2010 (Law No. 4 of 2010)
The OPRC-HNS not ratified.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

The Convention ratified in July 2017. (Law no. 23/2017)

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,

Not Ratified

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

Stated previously that Article No. 211 of the proposed new Maritime Law.

MEMAC has checked the Law Article/s, and they were no signs in meeting the Council Decision.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

It's reported earlier that Article No. 19 of the Ministry order No. 6 of 2010. Also, Article No. 211 of the proposed new Maritime Law.

MEMAC has revised all the Law Articles and found non meeting the Council Decision requirements.

Eng. Hassan reported that the new Maritime law covers this item and has been Submitted to Shura Council for approval.

MEMAC has not received the Maritime Law for reference.

6.1.2 I.R. Iran

Mr. Mohammed Mirnejad, the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting through a presentation with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

The NCP frequently updated and seven Marine Pollution Response Center were established to cover the entire IR Iran coast.

In January 2020, the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has held a National Pollution Response Field Exercise in Amirabad Port. Moreover, two online table-top exercises in the Caspian Sea were designed and maintained by Iran in July

and October 2020, in cooperation with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan, as well as the Tehran Convention Secretariat in Geneva.

Note; The NCP will be translated to English and send to MEMAC within few months.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

The list has been updated and received by MEMAC.

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

The Draft of the Chemical and HNS Plan prepared and it has been merged with the Oil Spill National Contingency Plan. The amalgamated Plan is in process for the final approval.

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

All of the equipment has been identified and under process for purchase.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

Under consideration and to be developed.

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

The result of the Auditing Survey has been prepared and will be send to MEMAC soon.

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

All the requests for entering personal and equipment into the country should be coordinated between the Customs and immigration through the PMO. Moreover, PMO has concluded an MOU with the Iranian Customs Organization in 2020.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

The list already up to date.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,

All have been ratified.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

Ratified.

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,

Ratified.

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

Paragraph 5, Article 10 of the Iranian National Pollution Act (2010) provides that the Iranian Department of Environment and the Fisheries Organization shall investigate, analyze and gather evidence and information in regard to the extent of pollution, damage to the environment, and aquatic species reserves, and inform PMO accordingly.

Moreover, the Marine Casualty Investigation Code was approved by the Iranian Parliament in 2016. Based on that, the Marine Casualty Investigation Guideline was prepared by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) in 2019, approved by the PMO's Managing Board, and is being used for accidents involving marine pollution.

To be reconsidered as the Law is not covering this item.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

Article 14-13-20 and paragraph 5 Article 10 of Act on the Protection of Seas and Navigable Rivers against Oil Pollution 2010 impose a penalty and updated every three years.

To be reconsidered as the Law is not covering this item.

6.1.3 Republic of Iraq

Didn't attend, and no information provided.

6.1.4 State of Kuwait

Dr. Lujain Al Sayegh the Oil Spill Response Officer, briefed the Meeting with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

The new NCP under process and will be formulated in cooperation with MEMAC.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

The Oil Spill Equipment Stockpile will be identified as soon as the new NCP is completed. The KOC Oil Spill Equipment Stockpile available for state support which also due for an update and to be provided.

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

The new Plan will be formulated in cooperation with MEMAC.

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

Will be considered when preparing and developing the contingency plan.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

The Chemicals Data Bank has been formed and made available for state used and reference.

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

Will be considered upon the completion of the National Contingency Plan.

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

Will be arranged upon the completion of the National Contingency Plan.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

Updated list been provided for the Oil Spill the other contacts and already sent to MEMAC.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,

Still under process.

Eng. Abdulla Dawood Seleh from the Ministry of Transport stated that the ratification will take a long process, he will try to inform the Decision maker to take a faster action to his Director Mr. Jamal Al Kendari.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

Under process.

Eng. Musaab Al-Oud from the Ministry of Transport stated he will inform the Ministry about all of the treaties and entities which is subject for the Ratification.

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,

Under process by the Ministry of Transport.

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

To be reconsidered as the Law is not covering this item.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

Already within Law No. 42 of 2014 as amended by law No. 99/2015

Chapter 4

To be reconsidered as the Law is not covering this item.

6.1.5 Sultanate of Oman

Mr. Abdulhakim Al Harthi and Eng. Mouza Al Salami the Oil Spill Response Officers, briefed the Meeting through about the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

Due to the changes in the Administrations along with COVID-19 pandemic there will be some delay in submitting the new National Contingency Plan.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

It will be updated along with National Contingency Plan.

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

It is under consideration with the Public Authority for Civil Defense and Ambulance.

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

It is under the consideration with the Public Authority for Civil Defense and Ambulance and the Ministry of Defense.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

Already available with MECA.

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

It will be updated along with National Contingency Plan and will be available and carried out annually.

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

All requested support for the entering into the country need to be submitted to the National Committee for Civil Defense in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

Due to the changes in the Administrations there will be some delay in submitting the List of Contact the available OSRO names will remain in case of Emergencies until further notice.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,

OPRC 90 is ratified on 2008, where the OPRC-HNS is under consideration.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

Processing in the final stage.

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,

It is under consideration.

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

To be reconsider as the Law No. 114/ 2001 (Article 41) is not covering this item as reported earlier.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

To be reconsider as the Law of the Conservation of the Environment and Combating Pollution Royal Decree No. 114 / 2001, Article 23 and 39, is not covering this item as it is reported earlier.

6.1.6 State of Qatar

Mr. Ahmed Al-Malki from Ministry of Municipality & Environment started with the introduction. Following to that, Mr. Hamed Al Khater, the Assistant Manager Oil Spill and Emergency Response, briefed the Meeting through a presentation with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

New National Oil Spill and HNS Contingency Plan re-writing project in progress.
Completion expected by mid-2021.

Last National Level Exercise conducted in July 2019.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

The QP Stockpiles list is frequently updated and received by MEMAC.

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

In progress under the authority of Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

In progress under the authority of the Ministry of Defense and the Civil Defense.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

It is under progress.

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

The Programme supported and, assistance will be requested from MEMAC.

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

All of the procedures are in place.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

The updated list already provided.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,

Already ratified the OPRC 90, and the protocol under process.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

Not ratified

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,

Not ratified

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

In progress

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment.

To be reconsidered as the Law is not covering this item.

Environmental Law of 2002 – Articles 63 and 64

Article (63)

When the captain of the violating ship or its responsible desires to leave the harbor quickly, the commissioners of the judicial seizure, mentioned in the previous article, shall collect from him a cash insurance that covers the value of the fines and indemnities that may be imposed. This cash insurance shall not be less than the minimum decided for the violation and to it shall be added all the expenses and indemnities determined by the competent administrative authorities in order to remove the violation.

It is also allowed to present, instead of the cash insurance payment, a bank letter of guarantee or any other guarantee accepted by the competent authority and permitted by the rules of the international law issued in this concern, especially the provisions of the international agreement, signed in Brussels in 1969, concerning the civil responsibility for the pollution damages caused by the oil.

Article (64)

With respect to the provisions of the previous article, the competent administrative authority shall take the legal procedures to seize any ship whose captain, owner or responsible refuses to pay the instant fines and

indemnities decided in case of flagrant delicto or quickness mentioned in the previous article.

The seizure shall be raised if the due amounts have been paid or if an unconditional financial insurance has been submitted.

6.1.7 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ahmed Al Babateen- GAMEP, briefed the Meeting with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

The National Contingency Plan is under the process of update.

6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

It will be updated along with National Contingency Plan.

6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,

It will be updated along with National Contingency Plan.

6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,

It will be updated along with National Contingency Plan.

6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,

It will be established by Chemical Safety Department at GAMPE.

6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,

6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,

Already in use.

6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,

Will follow up and notify MEMAC.

6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,
Already ratified and the protocol under process.

6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,
Already ratified.

6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,
No information available.

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,
Under the process.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,
Under the process.

6.1.8 United Arab Emirates

Mrs. Fatima Ghuloom, the Oil Spill Response Officers, briefed the Meeting through a presentation with regard to the latest status and developments as follow:

6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has developed the National Contingency Plan for oil spills in cooperation with relevant federal and local authorities.

Note: The same statement was given during the Tenth OSRO Meeting earlier, where MEMAC did not receive the UAE NCP under the Regional Protocol. The Representative confirmed to follow up on this matter and provide MEMAC with the NCP.

- 6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,**
Will follow up with her Department and notify MEMAC.
- 6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,**
It is under progress.
- 6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,**
It is under progress.
- 6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,**
Already available in the federal law 24/1999 for the protection and development of the Environment. No further information provided.
- 6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,**
It will be coordinated with the relevant federal authorities
(NCEMA: National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority)
- 6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,**
It will be coordinated with the relevant federal authorities
(FCA: Federal Customs Authority) to provide the procedure shortly
- 6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,**
The updated list will be send to MEMAC shortly.
- 6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,**
Under progress (FTA: Federal Transport Authority)
- 6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,**
Under progress (FTA: Federal Transport Authority)
- 6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,**
Under progress (FTA: Federal Transport Authority)

6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

There is a binding clause in the National Contingency Plan of oil spill, which requires the concerned authority to conduct Impact Assessment Study after any incident.

6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

To be reconsider as the Federal Law No. 24/ 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment is not covering liability of the compensation for the Environmental damages under chapter VII.

The Regional Exercise:

The meeting proposed that that MEMAC should consider the Virtual Regional Table-Top Exercise during this Pandemic period.

Conclusion and Recommendations for the Member States' Status:

By the Protocol's Provision, the Meeting urges the Member States and the OSRO Members to communicate all the required updates about the NC, Chemicals, and HNS Plans along with their Manuals main elements. The elements should include the List of Contacts during the Emergency, oil spill Stockpile, Chemical, and HNS Stockpile, Status of the Conventions in progress, Laws and Regulations and Directives....etc.

The Member States Status given during the Meeting is attached to this report as Annex VI.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Enhancing the Preparedness level Through the Following:

7.1 Establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response and Salvage Co-operation Unit (MERCU) Project Process, Mandate and Terms of Reference (ToR)

MEMAC Director Captain Dr. Al-Janahi highlighted the importance of the MERCU Project and updated the meeting on the MERCU status.

7.2 The Regional Oil Contingency Plan and its Oil Pollution Manual

7.3 The Regional HNS Contingency Plan and its Manual

MEMAC Director emphasises the importance of revising the Contingency Plans and its manuals and provide the comments to MEMAC.

7.4 The Status of the Port State Control

The meeting emphasized the importance of implementing of the PSC system towards the protection of the marine environment. Thus that most of the pollution resulted from the sub-standard vessels visiting the RSA.

7.5 Identification of the Place of Refuge

The Sultanate of Oman is the only Member States that has designated a Place for Refuge.

It's essential to solve this issue since all of the Member States have ratified the MARPOL 73/78 Convention as one of its obligations.

7.6 Periodical Reports on Marine Emergency

Still, there is a lack of receiving incident information and data from the Member States, making an accurate and reliable report very difficult.

The meeting emphasizes the importance of notifying MEMAC about any incident for advance preparedness.

Captain A. M. Al-Janahi stated that MEMAC issuing annually the incidents Report with its analysis and lesson learned, usually disseminated to all Member States.

Eng. Hassan Marzooq (Bahrain) and Mr. Nader Pasandeh (Iran) recommended that MEMAC reconsider and study the Protocol regarding the reporting system and its mechanism.

7.7 Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRAS)

This data is of high importance to support the National and the Regional Contingency Plans as well as to identify the high-risk areas that are highly considered during oil spill incidents. MEMAC has disseminated a set of questionnaires to all the NFPs.

The Meeting requested MEMAC to urge the Member States to update the Data frequently, as it is highly critical and essential towards the strategy of the marine environment protection.

7.8 Status of the Master Plan Implementation

As the Master Plan is the umbrella for all of the International and Regional Conventions and Protocols and MEMAC activities programmes, the Meeting recommended the utilization and the implementations of the Master Plan Information and Data at the National and Regional level. The Meeting also recommends establishing the Master Plan Committees Members by the Member States.

7.9 The Draft of the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Regional Maritime Casualty Investigation Board

Captain Al Janahi reminds the meeting that MEMAC prepared the Draft Guidelines for the Regional Maritime Casualty Investigation Board, disseminated to the NFPs on several occasions.

Following the Seventh and Eighth OSRO Meetings, MEMAC, in cooperation with the INTERPOL, has prepared the Draft Guidelines and circulated them to all NFPs and OSRO members. Still, no feedback has been received yet to convene the INTERPOL 5-day dedicated Course. MEMAC would like to highlight this important initiative, as it is a part of the IMO Auditing System and capacity building.

The Meeting agreed with Mr. Ahmed Al Babteen to request the Member States to nominate the Investigations' officers as per the Council Decision to commence the INTERPOL training.

Note: The Guidelines are available at MEMAC's Website

7.10 The nomination of the States' Qualified Representatives to supervise any Incident occurs within their Jurisdictions.

MEMAC highlights the importance of supervising the company's working on the oil spill combating and salvage, as requested by the ROPME Council Decision. The salvage companies' work during any incident as it has been noted and learned over the years; they show recklessness that caused more damages to the marine environment. The state should observe the response and the works of the private sector.

7.11 Trajectory Model

MEMAC informed the meeting that the Trajectory Model still under development and should be ready within 2021, Also, alerts of the existing model in use, especially by the Oil Companies, i.e., OSCAR and Oilmap is not accurate and reliable.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Other Matters

MEMAC informed the meeting that all the listed companies under the MEMAC Qualified Companies are provided after passing successfully MEMAC strict auditing process.

Mr. Ahmed Al Babateen stated that the Ballast Water Issue is critical which to be addressed as RSA is a Special Sea Area and with the effect of the IMO Circular from November 1, 2009, all ships, regardless of flag, will be required to exchange and treat all Ballast water taken up outside the ROPME Sea Area for the Protection of the marine environment, taking into consideration the provisions of the regulation B-4 of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

Captain Al Janahi stated that the BWM issue is under another Regional Committee, never the less that the Ballast Water effect could be severe and much more than the Oil pollution and heavy penalties imposed in case of discharge of any ballast and states should include continuous monitors the RSA, Also, mentioned that they are several IMO approved Ballast Water System which could be installed by the vessels, or to discharge outside RSA.

Eng. Hassan Marzooq Bahrain OSRO brought to the meeting and stated that several programmes and projects had been repeatedly over the past ten years. We need to find a reason and obstacles that delay those programmes.

Captain Al Janahi totally agreed with the statement and stated the following:

- All those Programme and projects were prepared by OSRO Meetings and by MEMAC based on the lesson learned from the different incidents,

- From MEMAC point of view, that since the issue is not purely within the marine environment sectors, and it's widely connected with many other authorities. A need for enhancing the cooperation and coordination among the different authorities within the Member States to implement the various instruments.
- MEMAC already prepared earlier the Master Plan study, which was already approved by the Council for implementation. The Master Plan is a useful tool for cooperation, coordination and bridge the gap among the different parties within the authorities at the national and regional level.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Consideration and Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Meeting Report has been adopted and will be prepared and send by Email to all OSRO members for review and advice within one week before finalizing and disseminating to the Member States NFPs.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Closure of the Meeting

Captain A. M. Al-Janahi MEMAC Director, expressed his appreciation to the attendees for their presentations and valuable contribution. He also expressed his sincere thanks to all the OSRO Members and MEMAC staff for their deliverable to the Meeting.

**The Meeting Declared Closed by MEMAC Director at 13:50 hours on
Tuesday, the 8th December 2020.**

Annex – I

List of Participants

The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers' Meeting

8th December 2020, Virtual Meeting

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Annex – II

Agenda and Programme

The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Virtual Meeting

8th December 2020, MEMAC HQ – K. of Bahrain

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
 - Election of the Chairman and the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the Tenth OSRO Meeting
5. Report of the Sixteenth ROPME Council Meeting Decisions
6. **Member States Review, Update and Discussion the National Contingency Plans and its related item:**

(Representatives may give Presentations on Updating the Committee)

- 6.1 The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,
- 6.2 Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,
- 6.3 The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,
- 6.4 Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,
- 6.5 Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,
- 6.6 The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,
- 6.7 Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures,
- 6.8 Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,
- 6.9 Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,
- 6.10 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,
- 6.11 International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,
- 6.12 Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

- 6.13 Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

7. The Regional Exercise

8. Conclusion and Recommendations for the Member States' Status

9. Establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response and Salvage Co-ordination Unit (MERCU) Project Process

10. The Regional Oil Contingency Plan and its Oil Pollution Manual

11. The Regional HNS Contingency Plan and its Manual

12. Review, Update and Discussion of the:

12.1 The Status Port State Control

12.2 Identification of the Place of Refuge

12.3 Periodical Reports on Marine Emergency

12.4 Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRAS)

12.5 Status of the Master Plan Implementation

13. The Draft of the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Regional Maritime Causality Investigation Board

14. Other Matters

15. Next Meeting Date and Proposed Agenda

16. Consideration and Adoption of the Meeting Report

17. Closure of the Meeting.

The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Virtual Meeting

8th December 2020, MEMAC HQ – Kingdom of Bahrain

Agenda Programme

Tuesday, 8th December, 2020

- 08:45 – 09:00 : **REGISTRATION**
- 09:00 – 09:05 : Welcoming Statement by Captain Dr. A.M. Al-Janahi, MEMAC Director
- 09:05 – 09:10 : **Organization of the Meeting**
- Election of Chairman and Rapporteur
 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 09:10 – 09:20 : - Review of the Tenth OSRO Meeting Recommendations
- Report of the Sixteenth ROPME Council Meeting Decisions
- 09:20 – 10:45 : **Review, Update and Discussion the National Contingency Plans and its related item:**
- (Briefing and Presentation by the Member States)*
1. The Status of Member States’ Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,
 2. Update of Member States’ Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,
 3. The Status of Member States’ Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans,
 4. Member States’ Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment,
 5. Member States’ Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances,
 6. The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme,
 7. Member States’ Customs and Immigration Procedures,

8. Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency,
9. Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol,
10. International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,
11. International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007,
12. Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,
13. Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,
14. The Regional and the National Oil and Chemical Emergency Drill Exercises

10:45 – 11:00 : Conclusion and Recommendations for the Member States' Status.

11:00 – 12:00 : **Review the Status, Update and Discussion of the following:**

- Establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response and Salvage Co-operation Unit (MERCUCO) Project Process,
- Reviewing and updating the Regional Oil Contingency Plan and its Oil Pollution Manual
- The Development of the Regional HNS Contingency Plan and its Manual
- The Status Port State Control
- Identification of the Place of Refuge (POR)
- Periodical Reports on Marine Emergency
- Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRAS)
- Status of the Master Plan Implementation
- The Guidelines for the Establishment of the Regional Maritime Causality Investigation Board
- The nomination of the States' qualified representatives to supervise any incident occurs within their jurisdictions.
- Trajectory Model



12:00 – 12:10 : Other Matters

12:10 – 12:20 : Consideration and Adoption of the Meeting Report

12:30 : Closure of the Meeting.

Wednesday, 9th December, 2020

10:00 – 1230 : This Optional day allocated for the Member States discussions.

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Annex – III

List of Documents



**The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Virtual Meeting
8th December 2020, MEMAC – K. of Bahrain**

List of Documents

1. Provisional Agenda
2. Provisional Agenda Programme
3. Report of the Tenth OSRO Meeting
4. The Sixteenth ROPME Council Meeting Decisions
5. Review of the Member States' National Contingency Plan and related item
6. Member States Equipment Stockpile
7. Member States recommended Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment
8. List of Contacts in Case of Emergency.
9. Status of the Member States towards the Ratification of the Convention and Protocols
10. Master Plan Circular
11. The Master Plan Committee Term of Reference
12. The Regional Contingency Plan (MEMAC website)
13. The Oil Pollution Manual (MEMAC website)
14. The Regional HNS Contingency Plan and Appendix I (MEMAC website)
15. The Regional HNS Manual (MEMAC website)
16. OSRO Members Duties and Responsibilities, Term of Reference

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Annex – IV

Member States Oil Spill Response Officers **Duties and Responsibilities**



ROPME MEMBER STATES

OIL SPILL RESPONSE OFFICERS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. CONTACT DETAILS

The appointed Officer shall ensure that he is accessible at all times including weekends and holidays by means of direct available communication. He shall promptly advise MEMAC of any changes to his contact numbers.

2. ALTERNATE

The Officer shall ensure that an alternate is appointed whenever he is absent from his country on business or vacation. The alternate shall be full empowered and briefed to carry out appropriate duties. MEMAC shall be promptly informed of the name and contact details of the alternate.

3. OIL SPILL MONITORING/REPORTING

The Officer shall ensure that he is promptly informed of all oil spill incidents/marine casualties in waters adjacent to his country, by establishing and maintaining close contact with Port Authorities, shipping agents, National Coast Guard and Civil Aviation authorities as well as with Media (TV, Radio, etc). Immediately the Officer learns of an incident/casualty, he shall contact MEMAC, by phone, and follow up with a fax/e-mail preliminary report, amplified at regular intervals by later reports as the incident develops.

4. OIL SPILL RESPONSE RESOURCES

The Officer shall be fully aware of the access arrangements, location and content of all stock piles of oil spill response equipment and materials in his country, both Government and private sector owned. He shall also be aware of access arrangements for surveillance helicopters, and location/availability of appropriate marine craft and barges. It shall be part of his duties to regularly update his knowledge of all the above resources.

5. IMMIGRATION/IMPORT CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

The Officer shall be aware of the immigration clearance arrangements for entry of foreign technical experts in the event of a major pollution incident, and import procedures for oil spill response equipment/materials. He shall be personally responsible for expediting such processes accordingly.

6. EVIDENCE GATHERING FRO DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND CLAIMS.

The Officer will be responsible for overall supervision of evidence gathering for the preparation of Response and Damage claims.

7. DATABASE

MEMAC will be responsible for maintaining and circulating an updated list of all Oil Spill Response Officers with names, job titles, contact details, etc on a regular basis.

Annex – V

The Sixteenth ROPME Council Decisions

8th Dec. 2020

The Sixteenth ROPME Council Decisions related to OSRO

Jeddah – K. Saudi Arabia 28th November 2013

CM16/15 Regional Contingency Planning

Having reviewed the progress achieved under this activity and recognising the importance of institutional mechanisms and capacity building for National and Regional contingency planning, **the Council decided:**

1. Technical Assistance

- i) Providing technical assistance to the Contracting States in National Contingency Plans, including support and participation in observing oil spill exercises, conferences, etc, carried out by the Member States.
- ii) MEMAC to upload all of the Committee Meetings Reports and Activities within its website.

iii) The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Programme Survey

The Auditing Programme is always available for the Member States whenever requested under MEMAC's Technical Assistance Programme.

2. Organizing the Annual Response Officers' Meeting to review different elements of Regional and National Contingency Plan. (Priority A/B)
3. The Member States to accelerate the ratification process of the HNS Protocol (2000) of the OPRC Convention 1999, where the OPRC Convention has already been ratified by the majority of the Member States, and to urge Member States

that are not party to OPRC 1990 to accelerate the ratification process as early as possible. (Priority A)

4. Member States to develop the HNS Contingency Plan in order to integrate it within their Oil Spill National Contingency Plans and to provide it to MEMAC. (Priority A/B)
5. Acknowledge the effort of preparing the Draft Regional HNS Plan where the Member States were requested to provide their comments as an urgent need in order to finalize the draft for the adoption and commence its implementation. (Priority A)
6. MEMAC to develop and prepare the ROPME Sea Area Regional HNS Manual as soon as the Regional HNS Plan is adopted. (Priority A/B)
7. Member States to compile classify and build their own Data Banks for Chemicals and hazardous substances, utilizing the experience of the State of Kuwait. (Priority A/B)
8. The Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan Manual to be frequently updated, republished and disseminated to all NFPs. (Priority C)

9. The Region's Place of Refuge

- i. MEMAC in cooperation with the IMO to carry out an experts' mission to Member States in order to study the possibilities of identifying the Place/s of Refuge and the challenges Member States are facing for the implementation of the IMO resolution and to recommend modification of the IMO Resolution A. 949 (23) if it deems appropriate. (Priority A)
- ii. To convene a Regional Experts Workshop following the IMO experts

mission to study the results of identifying the Place/s of Refuge as a highly important matter and urgent need in the respected States. (Priority A/B)

10. Iraq Ports and Oil Terminals

- i. Iraq to expedite the development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan as an urgent matter. (Priority A)
- ii. MEMAC to support Iraq's efforts in establishing the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and initiate the capacity building process in this respect. (Priority A/B)

11. Organizing Training Workshops as follows (Priority A/B):

- i. The Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Combating Procedures Training Course to be convened in the I.R. Iran. (Priority A/B)
- ii. To convene a Training Workshop on Oil and OPRC-HNS in cooperation with IMO and IOPC Fund.
- iii. To convene a Training Workshop on the protection of the Desalination and Power Plants, Fish farms, Mangroves and other coastal installations from Oil and other Harmful Substances.
- iv. MEMAC to communicate with NFP of State of Qatar in order to conduct an oil spill emergency drill, exercising the National Contingency Plan and the Regional Arrangements. (Priority A/B)

12. Trajectory Model

- i. MEMAC to continue the preparation updating and distribution of the Trajectory Model. (Priority B/C)
- ii. To convene a training Workshop on the new version of the Trajectory Model.

CM16/16 Implementation of Regional Guidelines for Pollution Damage Assessment and Regional Manual for Compensation Claims

Emphasizing the importance of the Damage Assessment and the Compensation procedures as well as evidence and samples collection and the investigations following the incidents, **the Council decided:**

- i. Member States to nominate States' qualified representatives to supervise any incident occurs within their jurisdictions. (Priority A/B)
- ii. Member States to endorse that, in the event of any incident, a risk and damage assessment study should be carried out immediately as a regulation within the National Environment law. (Priority A/B)
- iii. MEMAC to convene a Training Workshop on the Damage Assessment, evidence and sample collection and the Claims procedures in cooperation with the IMO, IOPC Fund, ITOPF and the P and I Club Members (GARD). (Priority A/B)
- iv. In cooperation with the INTERPOL, MEMAC to convene a 5 day Training Course on investigation of ship pollution violations. (Priority A/B)
- v. MEMAC to update the Regional Compensation Claims Manual. (Priority A/B)

CM16/17 Establishment of the Marine Emergency Response and Salvage Co-ordination Unit System (MERCU)

Recognizing the need for an effective system for raising the marine emergency preparedness and response level to efficiently response to marine emergencies, and considering as a normal accepted practise of the “Polluter pays” principle, **the Council decided:**

- i. The adoption of the MERCU project. (Priority A)
- ii. The adoption of the establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response Centres (MERC), in Kuwait, Bahrain, Bandar Abbas, Fujairah and the Sultanate of Oman. (Priority A)
- iii. The MERC host Member States to nominate the Authority responsible for Implementing MERCU Project and to provide all the necessary arrangements and facilities (i.e. lands, offices, storages ...etc., what so ever can be provided in order to reduce the project costs), permissions and information prior to project commence in each state. (Priority A)
- iv. By the month of January 2014, Member States to announce to the shipping industry as well as the shipping agencies the service charges which are to be paid to the Regional Fund located at MEMAC not later than the end of 2014. (Priority A).
- v. Member States to announce to the shipping industry as well as the shipping agencies the service charges which are to be paid to the Regional Fund located at MEMAC. (Priority A)

- vi. Member States to address the Marine Emergency Response and Salvage Coordination Unit (MERCU) System within the National Legislation. (Priority A/B)
- vii. MEMAC to submit documents in this regard to the International Maritime Organization, Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO/ MEPC) as a follow-up, announcing the implementation stage of MERCU. (Priority A/B)
- viii. The Regional Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO) and MEMAC to commence developing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Companies' prequalification in order to undertake all the aspects of the establishment of the Maritime Emergency Response Centres (MERC) Project. (Priority A/B)
- ix. MEMAC to announce the advertisement for the Companies' prequalification process at the International and Regional levels. (Priority A/B)
- x. MEMAC to arrange for the Region experts' visit to the MERC host states to finalized all the necessary arrangements for the establishment stage. (Priority A/B)
- xi. The Regional Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO) to follow up the full process of the establishment of MERCU. (Priority A/B)
 - a. MEMAC and the Regional Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO) to invite the concerned official parties to their Regional Meeting in each of the MERC host state in the implementation phase.
 - b. MEMAC to convene Two Regional Meetings for the implementation of the MERCU. (Priority A/B)

CM16/18 Port State Control

Noting the importance of the Port State Control System as an effective tool for compliance and monitoring in the Region and to enforce necessary measures to provide the sanction in case of non-compliance for the protection of the marine environment, **the Council decided:**

- i. MEMAC to follow up the organization's request for obtaining an observer status within Riyadh MOU. (Priority A/B).
- ii. MEMAC to convene a Legal/Technical Expert Meeting consisting of the Regional Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO), the Region PSC members, including I.R. Iran and Iraq in cooperation with the GCC and IMO Secretariats. (Priority A/B)
- iii. Member States to emphasize the implementation of the Port State Control System by all necessary means, including but not limited to, close liaison, supporting and strengthening the cooperation with the Regional PSC System in order to strength the Regional Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement system.

CM16/19 Periodical Reports on Marine Emergency

Recognizing the importance of the Periodical Reports and the Incident analysis as lessons learned, **the Council decided:**

- i. MEMAC to continue its efforts in preparing the periodical reports on oil and HNS spill marine incidents and emergencies, studying each case in order to learn the lessons and to prevent future similar incidents. (Priority A/B)

- ii. Member States are requested to provide MEMAC with full incident details.
- iii. Recognizing the role of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in improving the National and the Regional Surveillance Capabilities, request the IR. Iran and the S. Oman to install and activate the AIS Systems which have already been provided by MEMAC as early as possible.
- iv. MEMAC to maintain the Regional Maritime Casualty Database. (Priority A/B)
- v. MEMBER States to nominate a Senior State Incident Representative, to control any incident occur within the states' territory, where term of reference for such post could be sourced from MEMAC. (Priority A)
- vi. Member States to avoid utilizing the SMIT International Services at all ports in RSA and to disseminate a circular to all concerned ports in this regard. (Priority A)
- vii. Member States to study different chemicals in use, particularly the MTBE and the similar product, rules and regulations for proper handling and storage. (Priority A/B)
- viii. Member States to ensure issuing new regulations or instructions or a directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly and in accordance with "Polluter Pays" principle. (Priority A/B)
- ix. Member States to ensure the issuance of regulations addressing detention of the ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment. (Priority A/B)

- x. MEMAC to charge a percentage amount of the total amount of the compensation against its follow-up of any incident and in accordance with the proposed formula set up.

CM16/22 The Marine Search and Rescue

Recognizing the importance of the Search and Rescue Mission to save human life and cater to its requirements whenever a marine incident occurs, while noting that the Search and Rescue is not under the normal operations of MEMAC, **the Council decided:**

- i. Express appreciation to NFPs IR. Iran and Qatar for their valuable efforts in the marine search and rescue operations.
- ii. MEMAC continues its efforts in receiving the distress messages and liaises them to the relevant Member States.
- iii. In view of the deep humanitarian concerns on the issue, request IR. Iran and Qatar to expedite establishment of the Regional SAR coordination centres (RMRCC) in order to provide the necessary SAR services in the inner and outer ROPME Sea Areas.
- iv. Member States to review and consider the Regional SAR MOU as a guideline which has been prepared earlier and to advice the Regional Oil Spill Officers through MEMAC with their comments.
- v. MEMAC to invite the Maritime SAR experts in the Region provided that the necessary feedback is received by MEMAC from the Member States to the Regional Oil Spill Annual Meeting. (Priority A/B)

CM16/23 The Regional Maritime Master Plan

Emphasizing the importance of the future strategy planning and recognizing different environmental challenges and the rapid increase on the shipping traffic and the need to raise the preparedness level to cater all the threats and protect and safeguard the marine environment, **the Council decided:**

- i. The adoption of the Master Plan and its full implementation
- ii. Member States to establish a close liaison among different governmental agencies and parties with the responsibilities for marine environment protection and maritime safety in order to be able to meet the requirements of different obligations set out in Master Plan. (Priority A/B)
- iii. To urge the Member States to clearly nominate party/parties (Authorities/Agencies) responsible for the effective execution of the Master Plan (Lead Agency) in their respective countries. (Priority A/B)
- iv. MEMAC to convene a Regional Technical and Legal Meeting in cooperation with the IMO and the GCC in order to study the development of the detailed implementation, drafting of operational and legislative guidelines and the development of practical steps for the implementation, enforcement and control of the Master Plan's Risk Reduction Package. (Priority A/B)
- v. MEMAC to commence the development of the detail Action Plan for the Master Plan, following the Regional Committee recommendations. (Priority A/B)
- vi. Member States to develop the National Master Plan in line with the provisions of the Regional Master Plan. (Priority A/B)

- vii. MEMAC to continue its efforts towards the execution of the study for the review and adjust the Traffic Separation Scheme and the establishment of mandatory ships reporting system of the Strait of Hormuz in order to minimize the risk of shipping collisions. (Priority A/B)
- viii. MEMAC to carry out the drafting of procedures for the establishment of the "VTMIS Strait of Hormuz" in collaboration with the Member States I.R. Iran and Sultanate of Oman and in accordance with the results of the above activities. (Priority A/B)
- ix. MEMAC to continue its efforts in carrying out the drafting of the regionally harmonized guidelines on sanctions to offenders as to safety and marine pollution (catalogue of infringement penalties). (Priority A/B)
- x. Member States to study the drafting of the guidelines for the establishment of the Regional Maritime Casualty Investigation Board and to provide their feedback to MEMAC and its Regional Oil Spill Committee within a six-month period. (Priority A)
- xi. Member States to nominate maritime casualty investigation board members or to mandate the Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO) as the board members. (Priority A)
- xii. To initiate an awareness campaign and mechanism to address the decision makers, the stakeholders and the public on the compelling need to raise pollution prevention and maritime safety by means of the Master Plan's Risk Reduction Package. (Priority A/B)
- xiii. MEMAC to convene a Regional Meeting to study all of the above Master Plan activities and the implementation of the Master Plan. (Priority A/B)

- xiv. To encourage Member States to establish National Environment Committee to follow-up the implementations of the decisions made by the Council and to establish a Regional Committee comprising of the heads of the National Committees

CM16/24 Marine Environmental High Risk Areas (MEHRAs)

Noting the importance of identifying the high risk areas and the coastal and marine sensitive areas, and taking into consideration the importance of the AIS tracking information needed during the incident as evidence, **the Council decided:**

- i. Member States to provide MEMAC with updated information with regard to the sensitive coastal and sea areas in order to incorporate them with the possessed information data within MEHRAs.
- ii. To update and extend the existing Regional AIS system by fitting a total of 12 stations including the software in order to possess a wider and comprehensive coverage. (Priority A)
- iii. Member States to facilitate the installation and to maintain the flow of data of the AIS tools.
- iv. Member States to utilize the MEHRAs Data in forming a template for assessing coastal sensitivities and incorporate the information within the National Contingency Plans.
- v. Member States to nominate a liaison officer for maintaining continuous communication on MEHRAs issues and to follow up and update on an annual basis.

- vi. Member States to utilise the MEHRAs data to identify Places of Refuge within their own jurisdiction.
- vii. MEMAC to update and incorporate the MEHRAs data and information within the Regional Contingency Plan; also, to utilize the Regional Air Emission Assessment in accordance with the MARPOL 73/78 Convention, Annex VI.(Priority A/B)
- viii. MEMAC to carry out a Collision Risk Assessment for the Oil Platforms in the Region as a priority need. (Priority A/B)
- ix. MEMAC to convene a Regional Meeting on updating the MEHRAs information and data.

CM16/27 International Maritime Conventions

Noting different incidents that might occur within the RSA and recognizing the importance of different International Conventions in term of the marine environment protection and in order to provide the necessary support to the Member States during the emergencies, **the Council decided:**

- i. Member States to consider the ratification of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001
 - ii. Member States to consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.
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Annex – VI

Member States' Presentation

Kingdom of Bahrain
Supreme Council for Environment



مجلس الاعلى للبيئة
البحرين

11th OSRO Annual Meeting

The Status of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Eng. Hassan A. Marzooq

Head of Air Monitoring Unit
National Oil Spill Officer

مجلس الاعلى للبيئة
البحرين

Outline

- **The Oil Spill National Contingency Plan**
- **Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles.**
- **Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plan.**
- **Building Data banks of Chemicals and Hazardous Substances.**
- **Custom and Immigration Procedure.**
- **Updating the List of Contacts in Case of Emergency.**
- **Ratification of the Related Conventions and Protocols.**
- **Carrying Out Impact Assessment Study Following and Incident.**
- **Detention of Ships Caused Damage to Marine Environment.**

Updating the Oil Spill National Contingency Plan

- In 2018 a team was formed to review and update the plan.
- The team completed the review and the update in 2019.
- The updated plan was approved by the Cabinet in 2020.



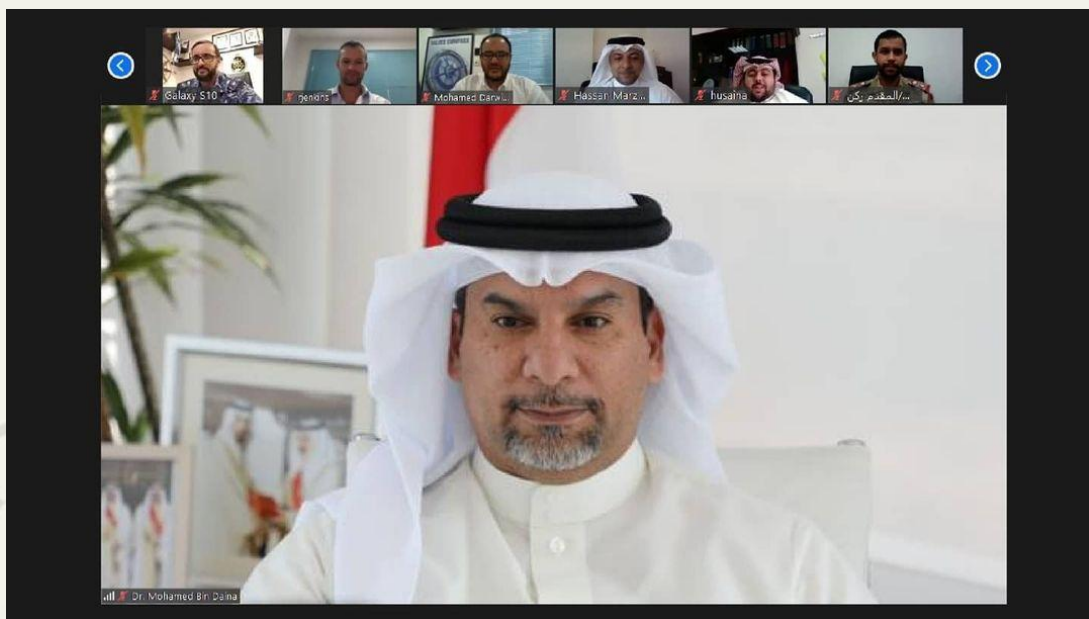
The Drill Exercise 2019

- A drill exercise was conducted in 2019 to test the updated plan.
- All the concerned parties in Bahrain participated in the exercise.
- The drill was observed by an expert assigned by MEMAC.



Workshops and Table Exercise

- A national workshop on IMS was organized in December 2020.
- Tabletop exercise could not be conducted because of Covid-19.
- The drill was observed by an expert assigned by MEMAC.



Membership with OSRL

- In 2020 SCE was renewed the annual membership with OSRL.
- According to the membership, OSRL is responsible to respond to any oil spill incident within Bahrain territorial water upon the request of SCE.



المجلس الأعلى للبيئة
Supreme Council for Environment

Tier-1 Oil Spill Plans for Coastal Facilities

- All coastal facilities are responsible to prepare Tier-1 oil spill plan.
- They are responsible to provide the required capabilities for Tier-1 Incidents.
- Joint site visits will be conducted to the facilities in 2021 to evaluate the available resources and capabilities.



Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles

- The major oil spill equipment Stockpiles available in Bahrain in 3 locations:



SCE Equipment in Sitra



Bapco Equipment



OSRL Equipment

Chemical and HNS Spill NCP



- The plan was updated and approved by Cabinet in 2013.
- The updated plan covers oil spill and HNS spill incidents.
- There some equipment in the Civil Defence Directorate to deal with chmical spill on land.

المجلس الأعلى للبيئة

Building Data Banks of HNS Substances

- There is a unit in the SCE for controlling importing and handling chemical substances.
- There is a comprehensive database of chemical substances imported to Bahrain (Quantity, uses, impact on health, environment.)

Custom and Immigration Procedure

- According to the NCP. :
 - Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs shall provide rapid approval of visas to essential response personnel arriving Bahrain to support the spill response effort.
 - Custom Affairs shall expedite customs clearance for the temporary importation of response equipment from outside Bahrain.
 - Loaned equipment will be free of custom duties.

Updating the List of Contacts

- The list is updated annually.
- Letters are sent to the competent ministries and authorities requesting them to nominate persons.
- The contact lists of the companies are updated through their OSCP.

Ratification of the Related Conv. & Protocols

- **OPRC 90:** Ratified in February 2010 (Law No. 4 of 2010)
- **Bunker Convention:** Ratified in July 2017 (Law No. 23 of 2017)
- **Removal of Wrecks Convention:** (Not Ratified)
- **OPRC-HNS Protocol:** (Not Ratified)

Detention of Ships Caused Damage

- Article No. 19 of the Ministerial Order No.6 of 2010, gives the Ports and Maritime Navigation Affairs the authority to detain the ship that caused damage to marine environment till receiving the amount to cover the cost of clean-up operation, damage to environment and rehabilitation of the impacted areas.
- This matter is also covered in the Article No. 211 of the proposed Maritime Law.

Carrying Out Impact Assessment Study

- According to Article No. 211 in the proposed Maritime Law, if ship caused oil pollution or damage to marine environment, SCE shall carry out the impact assessment study, and estimate the costs, including the response and cleaning costs.

Kingdom of Bahrain
Supreme Council for Environment



مجلسنا للبيئة
المجلس الأعلى للبيئة

Thank You

w.sce.gov.bh [▶ sce bh](https://www.youtube.com/scebh) [◉ sce.bh](https://www.instagram.com/sce.bh)

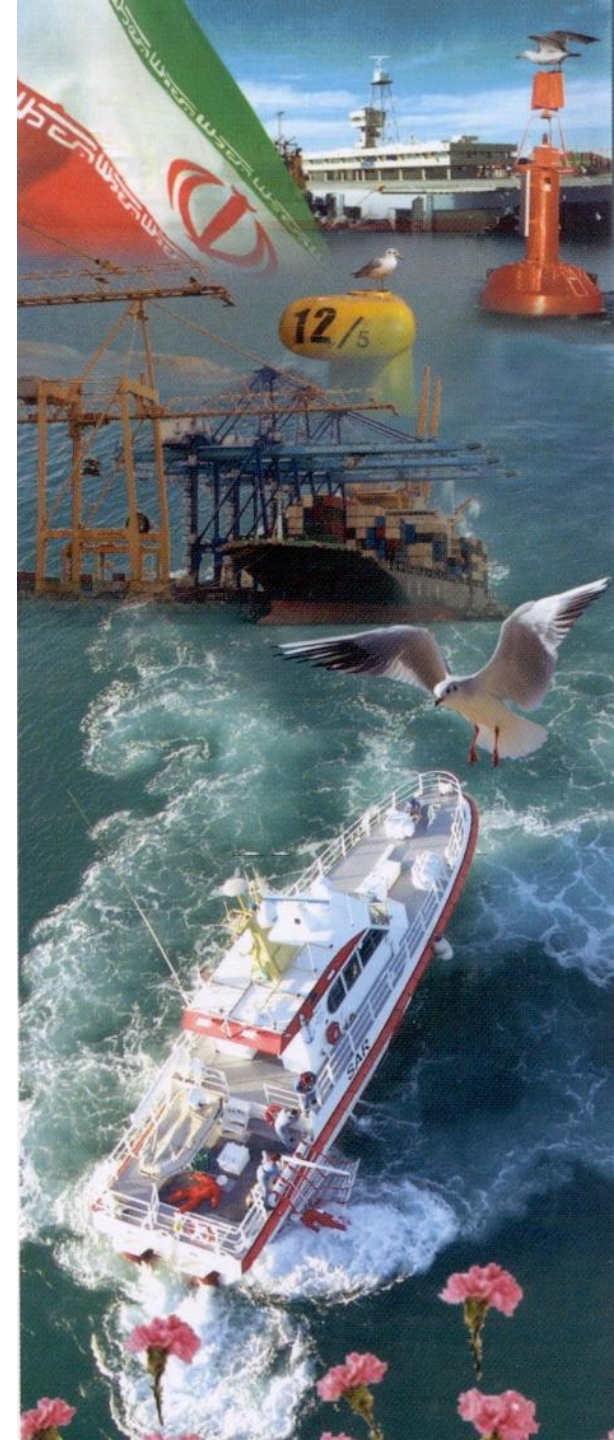
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The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Virtual Meeting

I.R. Iran

December 2020





Ports & Maritime Organization (PMO)

- Three major responsibilities:
 - Safety of navigation
 - Maritime security
 - Marine environment protection from ships and platforms





International Conventions: Response to Environmental Challenges

- Ratification of over 33 international maritime conventions, including the major environmental conventions on pollution prevention & response
- **Marine Pollution Prevention:**
 - MARPOL
 - BWM
 - Anti-Fouling
 - LC
- **Marine Pollution Response:**
 - OPRC
 - OPRC-HNS

- **Oil Spill Damage Compensation:**
 - CLC & Fund
 - Bunkers
 - Nairobi WRC





Cooperating and interacting with regional centers in the Caspian Sea and ROPME Sea Area

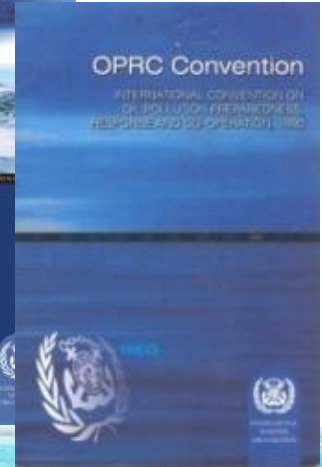




OPRC & OPRC-HNS National Administration's Measures



- Establishing marine pollution response centers in northern and southern Iranian ports (7 ports);
- Preparing the National Contingency Plan for Preparedness, Response & Cooperation against Oil Pollution, 2012
- Draft merged national plan on OPRC and OPRC-HNS is in the process for approval by the Iranian Cabinet;





OPRC & OPRC-HNS

National Administration's Measures

- All requests for entry of personnel and equipment into the country need to be submitted to the PMO.
- The PMO would later coordinate the issue with the Customs Organization and the Immigration Department
- PMO concluded an MOU with the Iranian Customs Organization in 2020.
- All pollution response centers and port reception facilities for ship wastes are regularly audited in accordance with approved checklists.





OPRC & OPRC-HNS

National Administration's Measures

- A Marine Emergency Response and Salvage Coordination Unit (MERCU) is being constructed and equipped in the Iranian Hormozgan Province (Qeshm Port)
- Iran is prepared to establish a second MERCU in the Gulf of Oman (in Chabahar Port)





OPRC & OPRC-HNS

National Administration's Measures

- Equipping ports with various marine pollution response equipment (worth around million US \$)
- Operational & personal safety equipment for chemical pollution response has been defined and designated for purchase
- Risk assessment studies are conducted for transporting chemicals, and feasibility studies base on HNS Protocol.
- HNS data base is under consideration to be developed



OPRC & OPRC-HNS National Administration's Measures

- Conducting aerial & surface monitoring by 8 helicopters, two airplane & 21 special vessels
- Establishing places of refuge to prevent and contain pollution from ships (12 Areas)
- Holding training courses and programs on marine pollution response (2 Courses)





OPRC & OPRC-HNS

National Administration's Measures

- Holding pollution response exercises at provincial, national and regional levels;
 - Holding a National Pollution Response Field Exercise in Amirabad Port, January 2020.
 - Holding (design and conduction) of two online table-top exercises in the Caspian Sea in July and October 2020, in cooperation with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan, as well as the Tehran Convention Secretariat in Geneva.





Act on Protection of Seas and Navigable Rivers against Oil Pollution, 2010 (Iranian National Act)



- Any discharge or leakage of oil or oily materials into the sea is prohibited
- **Article 14:** Polluters shall cover the operational costs of pollution response and cleanup at sea and shore, and
 - Violators shall be referred to judicial authorities.
 - Penalties determined by the 2010 pollution Act are updated every 3 years
- 11 cases of marine pollution have been referred to the judicial authorities of the relevant Iranian provinces in the second half of the year 2020.



MARPOL Convention National Administration's Measures

- Providing waste reception facilities to ships in Iranian ports

Years	Bilge (M ³)	Sludge (M ³)	Swage (M ³)	Garbage (No.)
2019	5916	3161	334	5746



- Enforcing the requirement to conduct and implementing waste management plans and oil pollution contingency plans on platforms, as well as coastal and offshore installations





MARPOL Convention

National Administration's Measures

- Enforcing the requirements of special areas, and the prohibition of waste discharge at sea
- Conducting flag/port State control inspections to minimize pollution specially air pollution from ships
- Monitoring and controlling sulfur content in marine fuels, as per MARPOL provisions





MARPOL Convention National Administration's Measures

- Monitoring the implementation of MARPOL Annex VI requirements regarding energy efficiency management, in order to minimize emission of GHGs;
- Supplying power to ships at berth through cold-ironing in the process, in order to minimize air pollution (planned)

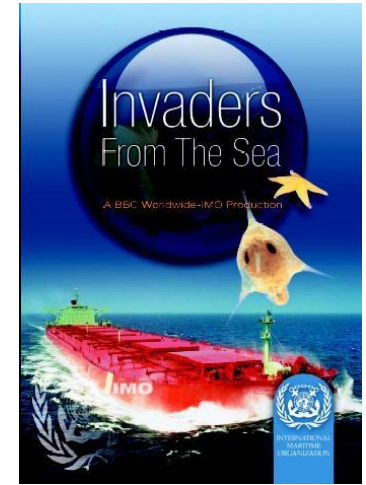




BWM Convention

National Administration's Measures

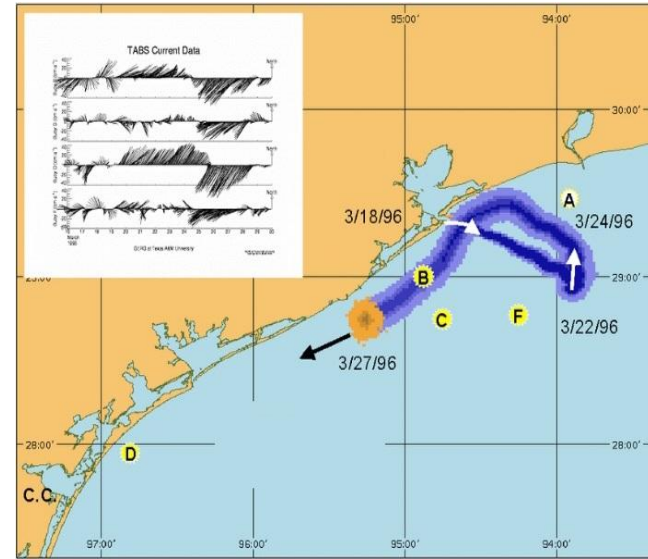
- Equipping ports with minimum sampling ballast tank equipment (10 ports)
- Sampling ballast water tanks on ships, if necessary
- Conducting flag/port State control inspections on ships and certificates as required by the convention;
- No. of inspection (2019): 285 vessels





Proposals

- Developing a database of regional oil samples, in order to determine the oil fingerprint and facilitate identification of spill sources;
- Developing a website for coordinating pollution response officers with regard to receiving, sending, analyzing and training on information about oil spills;
- Updating the software for predicting oil spill trajectories; and
- Designating the Ports of ROPME Sea Area as a Same Risk Area (Base on BWM Convention).



**Thank you for
your attention**

**Nowshahr, Caspian Sea
Dec. 2020**





The 11th Oil Spill Response Officers Meeting

08th of December 2020

National Update - Qatar

Item#1

Oil Spill National Contingency Plans, Field exercise and Table-top exercise

Observations

New National Oil Spill and HNS Contingency Plan re-writing project in progress. Completion expected by mid 2021.
Last National Level Exercise conducted in July 2019.



National Update - Qatar

Item#2

Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles

Observations

No	Equipment	Type	Q.P	National	Total
1	Booms/ meters	Offshore	3300	1520	4820
		Nearshore, Coastal	6620	1470	8090
2	Skimmer Systems / Numbers	Offshore	15	3	18
		Nearshore, Coastal	49	6	55
3	Storage / Tons	Offshore	785	50	835
		Onshore	500	50	550
4	Dispersant / M ²	All Types	19	56	75
5	Vessels	All Types of Vessels & Boats	32	9	41

National Update - Qatar

Item#3

Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National Contingency Plans

Observations

In progress under the authority of Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

Item#4

Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment

Observations

In progress.

National Update - Qatar

Item#5

Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances

Observations

In progress.

Item#6

The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Program

Observations

Program supported. Assistance from MEMAC will be requested when COVID 19 preventive measures allow.

National Update - Qatar

Item#7

Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures

Observations

All procedures are in place.

National Update - Qatar

Item#8

Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency

Observations

The list of QP Focal Points remains the same as no changes have occurred since 2019 meeting.

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National Update - Qatar

Item#10

Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol

Observations

OPRC 90 (Ratified 2009).
HNS Convention 96 (Not ratified)
OPRC/HNS 2000 (Not ratified)
HNS PROT 2010 (Not ratified)

Item#11

International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001

Observations

NAIROBI WRC 2007 (Not ratified)

National Update - Qatar

Item#12

Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly.

Observations

In progress.

National Update - Qatar

Item#13

Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment

Observations

Environmental Law of 2002 – Articles 63 and 64

Article (63)

When the captain of the violating ship or its responsible desires to leave the harbor quickly, the commissioners of the judicial seizure, mentioned in the previous article, **shall collect from him a cash insurance that covers the value of the fines and indemnities that may be imposed.** This cash insurance shall not be less than the minimum decided for the violation and to it shall be added all the expenses and indemnities determined by the competent administrative authorities in order to remove the violation.

It is also allowed to present, instead of the cash insurance payment, a bank letter of guarantee or any other guarantee accepted by the competent authority and permitted by the rules of the international law issued in this concern, especially the provisions of the international agreement, signed in Brussels in 1969, concerning the civil responsibility for the pollution damages caused by the oil.

Article (64)

With respect to the provisions of the previous article, **the competent administrative authority shall take the legal procedures to seize any ship whose captain, owner or responsible refuses to pay the instant fines and indemnities decided in case of flagrant delicto or quickness mentioned in the previous article.**

The seizure shall be raised if the due amounts have been paid or if an unconditional financial insurance has been submitted.

Exercises & Drills

Exercises and Drills from January 2016 until February 2020			
	Exercises / Drills	Demonstrations	Table-Top
Doha Office	-	-	6
RLC	42	24	-
MIC	34	18	-
HAL	48	1	2
DKN	5	1	-
Total	129	44	8



Thank You

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity and Marine life Sector

The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers Virtual Meeting

08 December 2020



**The Status of Member States' Oil Spill National Contingency Plans,
including the last update, field exercise, table-top exercise,**

- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has developed the National Contingency Plan for oil spills in cooperation with relevant federal and local Authorities.

Update of Member States' Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles,

- The list of Oil Spill Equipment Stockpiles already provided

**The Status of Member States' Chemical and HNS Spill National
Contingency Plans,**

- Under progress

Member States' Chemical and Biological Emergency Spill Equipment

- Under progress



Member States' Status towards Compiling, Classifying and Building their Own Data Banks of Chemicals and hazardous substances

- Already available in the federal law 24/1999 for the protection and development of the Environment

The Oil Pollution Combating Auditing Survey Programme

- It will be coordinated with the Relevant federal authorities (NCEMA: National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority)

Member States' Customs and Immigration Procedures

- It will be coordinated with the Relevant federal authorities (FCA: Federal Customs Authority) to provide the procedure shortly



Update of the List of Contacts in case of Emergency

- Already updated

Status towards the Ratification of the OPRC 90 and OPRC-HNS Protocol

- Under progress (FTA : Federal Transport Authority)

International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001,

- Under progress (FTA : Federal Transport Authority)

International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007

- Under progress (FTA : Federal Transport Authority)



Issuance of new Regulations or Instructions or a Directive addressing the need of carrying out an Impact Assessment Study following any incident immediately and promptly,

- There is a binding clause in the National Contingency Plan of oil spill, which requires the concerned authority to conduct Impact Assessment Study after any incident.

Issuance of Regulations addressing Detention of ships which have caused damage to the marine environment till receiving full amounts to cover the costs of clean-up operations, damage to the environment, rehabilitation and carrying out the necessary study of the Impact Assessment,

- The Federal Law No. 24/ 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment cover the liability of the compensation for the Environmental damages under chapter VII.

Thank you for your attention

Annex – VII

The Statement of
HE Captain Dr. A M Al Janahi,
MEMAC Director



The Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers' Virtual Meeting

8th December 2020, MEMAC – K. of Bahrain

Statement

of

**Captain Dr. A. M. AL-Janahi
MEMAC Director**



In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Your Excellency,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Regional Response Officers,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you all to this Eleventh Oil Spill Response Officers' Virtual Meeting, and to welcome also those members who are participating with us for the first time. This Annual Meeting is being convened today in accordance with the Sixteenth ROPME Council Decision No. 15-2.

This important Meeting which we are convening is part of our preparations towards raising the preparedness level to respond to imminent challenges that our environmentally delicate Region may face.

As you are aware, your role in following up the different subjects related to the protection of our Region's marine environment and enhancing the preparedness level is of high importance, where all of your previous meeting recommendations have been approved by the ROPME Council and translated to programmes and projects. Accordingly, you have a task in processing and executing those programmes for the benefit of our marine environment which could be done through our meeting dialogue and exchanging our views to overcome any obstacle. So, the Agenda of this Meeting has been designed and setup to meet with your ambitions and your Regional work has become well recognized as a proactive task. So, your task has become now to execute these programmes.



Distinguished delegates,

The Region is facing too many challenges such as the heavy shipping traffic, the development of the projects taking place such as the land reclamation for new cities, new ports and the exploration and exploitation of the oil and gas fields, beside different habitats, water desalination plants, and tourism facilities ...etc. beside the climate change. Over the past few years, we learnt several hard lessons than before, which indicated that we have to move forward and well ahead towards the implementation of those projects such as the MERCU and the Master Plan beside the ratification and implementation of many International and Regional Conventions and Protocols.

Besides, we and all the world encountering Covid-19 problems, since January 2020. During this period, MEMAC prepared itself for the worst scenario and communicated with several Companies and contractors, where have been made on Stand-by.

Furthermore, our Region witness a serious of sequential incidents and illegal discharge; over the years and continue from the shipping, offshore oil field installations, and pipelines. Our analyses and the lessons learned from those incidents resulted in lacking the implementation mainly of the Port State Control MOU, MARPOL 73/78, and the offshore oil installations usual oil industries standard. Besides, we have to remind ourselves of our fragility towards the assessment and documenting the incidents. Also, let me remind the meeting that we have to solve the issue of the Port of Refuge and the installations of the AIS within our Region. Besides, to inform you that MEMAC is now progressing well ahead of the Companies and the Services' provider pre-qualification following the Regional Protocol and this Committee earlier request.



Dear Colleagues,

Today we are expecting your efforts towards translating those Decisions which were your recommendations previously to work and mechanism to execute them as there were no more places for any further recommendations. Although the time constraints would not allow us to discuss many different items, MEMAC will expect to receive communications in following up the different Programme.

All your views and recommendations will be accordingly delivered to their Excellencies, the ROPME Council, to translate your thoughts and ideas into action and to support your daily works. Shortly also you will receive MEMAC suggestions for the new upcoming Programme, especially after the Covid-19.

In the end, we would like to thank you all, wishing you a very successful and fruitful Meeting

Wa Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatuallah Wa Barakatuh