

## Admission of observers

### Actions requested:

The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraphs 3 and 6 of the present document to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties<sup>1</sup> foresee the participation of observers in two categories:
  - the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention; and
  - any body or agency qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

### United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-party States

2. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that observers representing the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention may participate upon invitation of the President, “unless at least one-third of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting object”.
3. For observers in this category, the Secretariat had received the following registrations for the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) as of 21 August 2023.

#### United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

#### States not party to the Convention:

- The State of Qatar - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

---

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-rules-procedure-cop14>. Rule 25.5: “Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies.”

## **Bodies and agencies qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands**

4. Rules 7.1 and 7.2 address the “Participation of other bodies or agencies” as follows:

*7.1. Any body or agency, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties may be represented at the meeting by observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.*

*7.2 Bodies or agencies desiring to receive recognition as observers for the purposes of attending meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall submit appropriate documentation to the Secretariat for consideration three months prior to any ordinary meeting and one month prior to an extraordinary meeting.*

### Bodies or agencies previously approved

5. The following bodies or agencies that have been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate at SC62.

#### Intergovernmental

- International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN

#### Non-governmental

- Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
- BirdLife International
- Centre de Formation en Gestion de Ressources Naturelles pour le Développement Agricole et Coopératif de Badja (CFGRN/FAZAO)
- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- Fundación Global Nature
- Group on Earth Observations Secretariat
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Mahidol University
- Malaysian Nature Society
- Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
- ONG Volontariat Pour L'Environnement “VPE”
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- Ramsar Regional Center - Central & West Asia (RRC-CWA)
- Redmanglar Internacional
- Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation
- Sustainable Environment Food and Agriculture Initiative
- Terra Cypria The Cyprus Conservation Foundation
- The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Japan

- WWF International
- Youth Engaged in Wetlands

Bodies or agencies seeking approval which have met the criteria

6. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers in accordance with Rule 7.2:
- International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
  - ONG APES
  - Programme de Développement Humainitaire et Logistique (P.D.H.L.)

Bodies or agencies seeking approval which have not met the criteria

7. The following bodies or agencies informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, but did not provide the information required in accordance with Rule 7.2 and are therefore not submitted for approval:
- Environmental Management For Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility (EMLI BWAISE Facility)
  - Front Aid Foundation
  - Community Transformation Foundation Network (COTFONE)
  - Superior Heights
  - New Vision Point Pvt. Ltd /Akhabarnepal.com
  - Global South Initiative
  - Convention pour le Bien Être Social
  - HIREC Consult
  - Association Generation Ecologie
  - AKO Foundation
  - World Welfare Association
  - Fouban Council
  - Mujeres Restaurando el Ecosistema 2023 – 2025
  - Ekushey Sangbad
  - Wildlife Future Solutions

**Recommendation**

8. The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraphs 3 and 6 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.