

**Wetland City Accreditation:
Establishment of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC)**

Submitted by: IAC co-chairs

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to confirm the membership of the Independent Advisory Committee, as described in Table 1 of the present document, for the 2023-2025 triennium.

1. The new membership of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) is to be presented to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) as agenda item 26.1. Decisions that bear reference include:
 - **Decision SC61-08:** The Standing Committee appointed the Republic of Korea as the contact point to coordinate with support from the Secretariat the establishment of the new Independent Advisory Committee membership.
 - **Decision SC61-09:** The Standing Committee deferred the decision on the new membership of the Independent Advisory Committee to SC62 and acknowledged expressions of interest for membership of the Independent Advisory Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Rwanda, representing the Africa Region; China and Iran (Islamic Republic of), representing the Asia Region, and the Republic of Korea as the Technical Advisor; Czechia, representing the Europe Region; the United States of America, representing the North America Region; and Colombia, representing the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.
2. Paragraph 16 in Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.10 on *Updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention* prescribes the composition of the IAC as follows:
 - a) A Standing Committee member representative from each of the regions of the Convention;
 - b) A representative of the Convention's International Organization Partners;
 - c) A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
 - d) A representative from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI);
 - e) A representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention;
 - f) A representative of the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Convention;
 - g) Representatives of any concerned Ramsar Regional Initiatives; and
 - h) The Secretary General of the Convention or his/her designated representative (observer).

3. Paragraph 17 in Annex 2 of the same Resolution also adds that technical advisors may be co-opted to the IAC as required, subject to approval by the Standing Committee.
4. In addition, Annex 1 of Resolution XIV.3 on *The effectiveness and efficiency of the Convention* requires all Groups to designate a Chair and a Co-Chair who will serve as the group's rapporteur over the triennium. According to the IAC's terms of reference in Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.10, the Chair and Co-Chair of the IAC will be elected by IAC members within two months of determination of the full IAC membership.
5. Table 1 below shows the IAC membership nominations received, to be confirmed by the Standing Committee during SC62.
6. Since preparing the last IAC report to the Standing Committee (February 2022), the IAC held eight virtual meetings to further its activities on the Wetland City Accreditation process.

Table 1. IAC membership nominations received to date for the third triennium of the WCA

IAC Composition as set out in Resolution XIV.10	Individual Representatives
Standing Committee member representing Africa : Rwanda (Alternate: Botswana)	Theogene Ngaboyamahina (Alternate: Jobe Manga)
Standing Committee member representing Asia : China (Alternate: Iran)	Xinxin Hu (Alternate: Amir Akhlaghi)
Standing Committee member representing Europe : Czechia	Libuše Vlasáková
Standing Committee member representing Latin America and the Caribbean : Colombia	María Angélica Mejía Pimienta
Standing Committee member representing North America : USA	Lauren Kasperek
Standing Committee member representing Oceania : Australia	Ariana Magini
A representative of the Convention's IOPs : WWF	Wenwei Ren
A representative of UN-Habitat	Andrew Rudd
A representative of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)	Ingrid Coetzee
A representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)	Matthew Simpson
A representative of the CEPA Oversight Panel	Chris Rostron
Representatives of any concerned Ramsar Regional Initiatives: RRC-East Asia	Seung Oh Suh
The Secretary General or his/her designated representative (Observer)	
Technical Advisors	Denis Landenbergue Gert Michael Steiner (former IAC Chair) Joon-woo Seo (Republic of Korea)