

**Review and consolidation of current Resolutions:
Consolidation of Resolutions on
Water, water-related and water-management-related matters**

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to approve the attached draft consolidation of current Resolutions on “Water, water-related and water-management related matters” to be submitted for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.

1. At its 14th meeting (COP14), the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution XIV.5, on *Review of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*. Annex 1 of that Resolution contains a *List of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and their status*. Annex 2 of that Resolution specifies the agreed *Categories of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands* as a basis for the preparation of draft consolidated resolutions.
2. Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.5 indicates that, at present, there are eight Resolutions and Recommendations dealing specifically with water, water-related matters, and matters related to water management, as follows:
 - Resolution VI.23 on *Ramsar and water*;
 - Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management*;
 - Resolution VIII.1 on *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*;
 - Resolution VIII.34* on *Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management*;
 - Resolution VIII.40* on *Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands*;
 - Resolution IX.3* on *Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water*;
 - Resolution X.19 on *Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance*; and
 - Resolution XII.12* on *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future*.

* Indicates that the Resolution includes text also identified for consolidation in other subject categories.
3. The Conference of the Parties has decided, in Annex 1 of Resolution XIV.5, that Resolution VII.18 is defunct and should be excluded from the list of Resolutions and Recommendations in effect.

Resolution VII.18 is therefore excluded from the attached draft consolidated Resolution on water, water-related matters, and matters related to water management.

4. With regard to Resolution VIII.34, the close examination of the text required for the process of consolidation indicates that the references to water are difficult to separate from the references to the main subject of the Resolution, which is agriculture. In fact the preamble states that the Resolution “is intended to focus specifically on the relationship between agriculture and wetlands”. For this reason, and in order to avoid the need to amend the text, Resolution VIII.34 has been omitted from this consolidation.
5. Regarding Resolutions VIII.40, IX.3 and XII.12, although they contain text that is relevant to other subjects, it seemed that the references to water and water management was sufficiently well focused to justify their inclusion wholly in the present consolidation.
6. Taking the above into account, Annex A of the present document contains a draft consolidated resolution on “Water, water-related and water-management-related matters” based on the Resolutions listed above. In the table in that Annex, the left-hand column shows the existing texts with proposed amendments. The right-hand column indicates the source of the text, together with a comment regarding any proposed change. Some very minor changes that were purely editorial have not been indicated. The valid Annexes to the Resolutions that are being consolidated are to be annexed to the draft consolidated resolution.
7. Annex B to the present document contains the clean version of the draft consolidated resolution, taking into account the amendments indicated in Annex A.

Annex A

Annotated draft consolidated resolution on Water, water-related and water-management-related matters

Explanatory version

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT FROM EXISTING RESOLUTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Proposed new text is underlined</i> <i>Proposed deletions are marked with strikethrough.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NOTES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[including original source]</p>
<p><u>RECALLING Resolution VI.23 on Ramsar and water, Resolution VII.18 on Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management, Resolution VIII.1 on Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, Resolution VIII.40 on Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands, Resolution IX.3 on Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water, Resolution X.19 on Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance, and Resolution XII.12 on Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future, adopted at the 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 12th meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;</u></p>	<p>Proposed new text to recognize the Resolutions being consolidated.</p>
<p>REALIZING that a number of related decisions have been adopted previously which provide guidance for the Contracting Parties on wetland policy formulation (Resolution VII.6), reviewing laws and institutions (Resolution VII.7), involving local communities and indigenous people in wetland management (Resolution VII.8), promoting communication, education and public awareness related to wetlands (Resolution VII.9), incentives (Resolution VII.15), impact assessment (Resolution VII.16), wetland restoration as part of national planning (Resolution VII.17), and international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19), all of which are relevant to the process of the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.11 of Resolution VIII.1]</p>
<p>REALIZING ALSO that, <u>at its eighth this meeting, of the Conference of the Contracting Parties has adopted</u> further guidance that is relevant to the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, notably the New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (Resolution VIII.14), Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16), impact assessment (Resolution VIII.9), Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management (Resolution VIII.34), The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems (Resolution VIII.35), and Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands (Resolution VIII.40); and</p>	<p>[para.12 of Resolution VIII.1]</p> <p>Proposed amendment to refer to COP8.</p> <p>An alternative is to delete this paragraph.</p>
<p>RECOGNIZING the important hydrological functions of wetlands, including groundwater recharge, water quality improvement and flood alleviation, and the inextricable link between water resources and wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.1 of Resolution VI.23]</p>
<p>FURTHER RECOGNIZING the paucity of hydrological data which exists for the determination and quantification of the hydrological functions of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.2 of Resolution VI.23]</p>

REALIZING the need for planning at the river basin scale, which involves integration of water resource management and wetland conservation;	[para.3 of Resolution VI.23]
RECALLING the Themes for the Future paper from IUCN entitled “Reconciling water management and wetland conservation: a key challenge for Ramsar in the 21st century” presented in Plenary Session at the present meeting on 20 March 1996; and	[para.4 of Resolution VI.23] Proposed deletion as out of date.
FURTHER RECALLING the following Operational Objectives in the Strategic Plan 1997-2002: — 2.2 to integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands into decision-making on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning; 2.4 to provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes; 2.7 to encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands; 4.2 to identify training needs, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions; 6.3 to keep under review the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance; 7.2 to strengthen and formalize linkages between Ramsar and other international and/or regional environmental conventions and agencies;	[para.5 of Resolution VI.23] Proposed deletion as out of date.
AWARE of the Preamble to the Articles of the Convention, which recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;	[para.1 of Resolution VIII.1]
RECALLING Resolution VI.23, which identified reconciling water management and wetland conservation as a key challenge for the Convention in the 21st century;	[para.2 of Resolution VIII.1] Deleted as Resolution VI.23 is already cited in the new first para. of the consolidated resolution.
ALSO RECALLING Resolution VII.18, which requested the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to review the current state of knowledge in the area of allocation and management of water to maintain wetland ecosystem functions, and to report to COP8 on its findings, and if possible to provide guidance for the Contracting Parties on this subject;	[para.3 of Resolution VIII.1] Deleted as Resolution VII.18 is already cited in the new first para. of the consolidated resolution; the rest is timebound and outdated.
NOTING Decision IV/4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which identified the Ramsar Convention as its lead partner for actions concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and particularly inland water ecosystems, including actions concerning the allocation and management of water for the maintenance of inland waters biodiversity;	[para.4 of Resolution VIII.1]
NOTING ALSO the development, under the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2000-2002, of the River Basin Initiative (RBI), which is designed to provide improved exchange of information and experience in the incorporation of wetlands and biodiversity issues into river basin management, and which is establishing linkages between wetlands,	[para.5 of Resolution VIII.1] Deleted as Work Plan 2000-2002 is no longer valid.

biodiversity and water management bodies that promote integrated water resource management;	
AWARE of the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which includes information on the evaluation and assessment of water allocations, and specifically on environmental flow releases from dams, in the decision-making process for large dams, and of Resolution VIII.2 on the same subject adopted by this meeting at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Valencia, 2002);	[para.6 of Resolution VIII.1] Update of reference to time of adoption.
RECOGNIZING the vital contribution made by wetlands on many occasions to ensure the allocation of water required for human well-being, including food and water security, and in flood control and poverty alleviation; but ALSO AWARE of the increasing demands being placed upon freshwater resources in many parts of the world and the threat this poses for maintaining wetland ecosystem functions and their biodiversity;	[para.7 of Resolution VIII.1]
FURTHER AWARE of the importance placed on freshwater resources in the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, and in the subsequent Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in May 1998, which as part of its report relating to Strategic Approaches to Fresh Water Management recommended support for the implementation, inter alia, of the Ramsar Convention;	[para.8 of Resolution VIII.1]
RECOGNIZING that, in Technical Session 1, this meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties has considered and discussed the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands;	[para.9 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as this relates to a technical session at COP8.
NOTING that additional technical guidance, including case studies, on the use of tools and methodologies for the allocation and management of water for maintaining wetland ecosystem functions has been prepared by the STRP and was available to this meeting of the Conference as an information document (COP8 DOC. 9);	[para.10 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as this relates to availability of documents at COP8.
GRATEFUL to the Government of the United States of America for its financial contribution to the work of the STRP which allowed, inter alia, the preparation of the guidelines and background document on water allocation and management;	[para.13 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as this relates only to COP8, and the expression of gratitude remains on the record.
RECOGNIZING the importance of the whole water cycle and the link existing between ground and surface water for their use and management, not only in arid and semi-arid regions but also in humid regions;	[para.1 of Resolution VIII.40]
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the urgent need to decrease the loss and degradation of aquatic ecosystems through policies of sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity;	[para.2 of Resolution VIII.40]
ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that maintenance of the ecological integrity of most wetlands, especially those located in arid and semi-arid zones, is closely linked to the supply of groundwater;	[para.3 of Resolution VIII.40]
AWARE of the importance that the use of groundwater has had for the economic development and improvement of welfare in many regions (mainly because of irrigated agriculture);	[para.4 of Resolution VIII.40]
EQUALLY AWARE of the negative impact that can be caused to wetlands because of uncontrolled development and lack of planning for groundwater; and RECOGNIZING the value of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, adopted in Resolution VIII.1;	[para.5 of Resolution VIII.40] Deletion of reference to Resolution VIII.1 as the contents of that Resolution and the

	“Guidelines” are now contained in this draft consolidated resolution.
EMPHASIZING that examples of the solution of conflicts between the use of groundwater and conservation of wetlands (for example, in the Mediterranean basin) can serve as exportable models for other areas facing the same problems;	[para.6 of Resolution VIII.40]
RECALLING that the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 of the Convention (Operative Objective 2.2) stresses the conservation of water and the need to protect wetlands dependent upon groundwater;	[para.7 of Resolution VIII.40] Proposed deletion as reference to the Strategic Plan of 1997-2002 is no longer relevant.
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that on occasions some regions suffer from inefficient management and regulation in the use of groundwater;	[para.8 of Resolution VIII.40]
AWARE of the difficulties of rendering the interests of the users (primarily farmers) compatible with conservation criteria for those areas, due to the fact that <u>because</u> environmental problems are not taken into account;	[para.9 of Resolution VIII.40]
RECOGNIZING that many of these conflicts may be stimulated by certain subsidies for agriculture and other types of economic incentives, including for tourism;	[para.10 of Resolution VIII.40]
STRESSING that the analysis of these issues and the solution of conflicts require a completely transparent environment, scientific rigour and, above all, participation of all actors involved in the management and use of water resources;	[para.11 of Resolution VIII.40]
ACKNOWLEDGING the United Nations “World Water Development Report” <u>of 2003</u> , showing the worsening water crisis due to water mismanagement and RECOGNIZING that global climate change and variability are likely to exacerbate this crisis;	[para.1 of Resolution IX.3] The year is inserted to separate this report from the subsequent reports with the same title.
RECALLING the commitments made by governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce by half by the year 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation; to develop by 2005 integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans; and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity;	[para.2 of Resolution IX.3]
ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the vital contribution that wetlands make to the protection, purification, retention and provision of water resources for water and food supplies and their key role in groundwater recharge and flood control on which the well-being of people and their livelihoods depend, and AWARE of the decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 13 th session (CSD13) in April 2005, which emphasized the same themes;	[para.3 of Resolution IX.3]
FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that CSD13 decided on a follow-up on water and sanitation by devoting, in 2008 and 2012, a separate segment of CSD review sessions to monitoring and following up the implementation of decisions taken at CSD13 on water and sanitation and their interlinkages;	[para.4 of Resolution IX.3]
AWARE of the Global Water Partnership and the range of tools and technical guidance it provides on integrated water management;	[para.5 of Resolution IX.3]
WELCOMING the outcome of the FAO-Netherlands conference on “Water for Food and Ecosystems – Make it Happen” on the implementation of actions for an integrated approach to balancing water resources for food production and proper ecosystem functioning, which highlighted the necessary components of such an	[para.6 of Resolution IX.3]

approach, viz namely scientific knowledge base, enabling environments, and valuation methodologies for water ecosystem benefits/services;	
AWARE of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) that global wetlands account for almost half of the total value of all ecosystems combined, but that wetland ecosystems seem to be deteriorating at a faster rate than any other ecosystem, and aware of the MA conclusions that the survival of wetlands and related ecosystems and their important contributions to global development depend upon the achievement of a balance between the human need for ecosystem benefits/services and the need for continued functioning of wetland ecosystems;	[para.7 of Resolution IX.3]
RECOGNIZING that wetland ecosystems play a critical role in water management;	[para.8 of Resolution IX.3]
RECOGNIZING the crucial role wetlands play in relation to poverty reduction and natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and adaptation as reflected in Resolutions IX.9 and IX.14;	[para.9 of Resolution IX.3]
RECALLING the analysis of all regional COP9 preparatory meetings of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention of the possibilities and limitations for regional cooperation in the management of transboundary / cross-border water resources and of Ramsar Sites and the migratory species and populations which depend upon them;	[para.10 of Resolution IX.3]
RECOGNIZING the momentum provided by the international organizations associated globally with the Ramsar Convention, whose initiatives aim at achieving the wise use of wetlands with the involvement of all sectors; and	[para.11 of Resolution IX.3]
ALSO RECOGNIZING the contributions to the global and regional water debates/meetings/sessions of the three World Water Forums held in Marrakech, Den Haag and Kyoto, and PLEASED by the prospective celebration of the Fourth Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006;	[para.12 of Resolution IX.3] Proposed deletion of preambular text that is the background for para. 19 of Resolution IX.3, which the COP has agreed is to be deleted.
AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;	[para.1 of Resolution X.19]
NOTING that, at the 9th meeting COP9 , of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP10, focusing on the immediate and high priority tasks set out in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2;	[para.2 of Resolution X.19]
THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to the present this Resolution, as well as for the supporting technical reviews and reports being made available to Contracting Parties and others as COP Information Papers and Ramsar Technical Reports; and	[para.3 of Resolution X.19]
ALSO THANKING the government of Sweden for its financial support to the Panel and Working Groups for the preparation of this advice and guidance and the technical reports, and EXPRESSING GREAT APPRECIATION to the many organizations and individuals that have provided significant in-kind support to the work of the Panel, including through supporting the time and work of its members and observers and through providing to the Panel information and case studies related to river basin management;	[para.4 of Resolution X.19]

<p>RECALLING the Preamble of the Convention, which recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic fauna and flora, especially waterfowl;</p>	<p>[para.1 of Resolution XII.12]</p> <p>Deletion of this paragraph as a near-exact repetition of para.1 of Resolution VIII.1, which is included in the consolidated resolution.</p>
<p>RECOGNIZING that wetlands have vital ecosystem functions and provide a wide range of ecosystem services, which contribute to human well-being and the state of the environment, and that consequently their conservation and wise use are fundamental in order to continue to offer these services;</p>	<p>[para.2 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>BEARING IN MIND that the report <i>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands</i> highlights that ecosystems, in particular wetlands, are essential in providing water-related ecosystem services and SIMILARLY, that it urges a major shift in attitudes to wetlands, to recognize both their value in delivering water, raw materials and food which are essential for life, and the crucial role they play in maintaining people's livelihoods and the sustainability of the world's economies;</p>	<p>[para.3 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>NOTING Decision X/28 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on <i>Inland waters biodiversity</i>, and, in particular, AWARE of the concern regarding major anthropogenic changes that are ongoing in the Earth's water cycle on global, regional and local scales, due to the excessive and inefficient use of water and land-use change; that the limits of sustainability of both surface water and groundwater resources have already been reached or surpassed in some regions; that these trends are becoming more pronounced in some areas through climate change; and that the water-related stresses on biodiversity and ecosystem changes are rapidly escalating;</p>	<p>[para.4 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>RECALLING the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands (Resolution X.3), which recognizes explicitly that the increasing demands for, and over-use of, water jeopardize human well-being as well as the environment, and that there is often not enough water to meet our direct human needs or to maintain the wetlands we require, and ALSO RECALLING the issues of fundamental importance for the future of the Convention indicated in Resolution X.1, which identifies the lack of water resources for wetlands and the increasing demand for water extraction as the main factors that generate continuous change and lead to the deterioration and disappearance of wetlands and their services;</p>	<p>[para.5 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>AWARE of Resolution XI.10, which that revealed concern over the globally increasing number of energy development plans that, by changing water fluxes and sediment transport, interrupting connectivity, and creating barriers for species migration, could have adverse effects on the ecological character of wetlands, including on wetland species and ecosystems, on the potential for wetlands to produce a wide range of ecosystem services, on their biodiversity, and on the status of water quantity and quality;</p>	<p>[para.6 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>RECOGNIZING the need to balance the multiple functions provided by water which include human consumption, food production, energy services as well as the support of wetland ecosystems, fisheries and biodiversity conservation;</p>	<p>[para.7 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>RECALLING the Outcome of the Rio +20 Conference (Brazil, 2012) which recognized that energy plays a critical role "in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide</p>	<p>[para.8 of Resolution XII.12]</p>

for basic human needs”, and which emphasized the need to take further action to provide these services in a “reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner in developing countries”;	
ALSO CONSIDERING Resolution VIII.1, which explicitly recognizes that wetland ecosystems require water of adequate quantity, quality and timing in order to maintain their ecological characteristics and establish guidelines for the process of allocating and managing water resources to this end, and ALSO AWARE of Resolution VIII.40, which recognizes that maintenance of the ecological integrity of most wetlands, especially those located in arid or semi-arid zones, is closely linked to the supply of groundwater;	[para.10 of Resolution XII.12] Deletion of this paragraph as the two specified Resolutions are both included in this consolidation.
NOTING the fact that ensuring the availability of the water required by wetlands will promote both their biodiversity and the sustainable use of their components, in addition to achieving the targets of the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (Aichi Targets); and STRESSING, in particular, that knowing wetlands’ water requirements will favour the integration of biodiversity values into development planning processes and strategies, contribute to the sustainable management of water in agricultural areas, and maintain the impacts of the use of natural resources within ecological limits in order to guarantee biodiversity conservation;	[para.11 of Resolution XII.12] As the text is about the future effect of an action, it is proposed to delete text regarding a target in the past.
RECOGNIZING that the allocation and protection of the water requirements of wetlands can help improve the integrated management of water resources (Resolution VII.18⁺), and in particular river basins, by harmonizing water-use and land-use strategies, maintaining the renewal of the water cycle and the link existing between ground and surface water, both enabling their management, and helping to establish adaptation conditions that allow climate variability; [[Footnote 1: Replaced by Resolution X.19 as the guidance in the annex wholly supersedes VII.18.]]	[para.12 of Resolution XII.12] Proposed deletion of references to Resolutions that are included in this consolidation.
RECALLING that Resolution X.24 on <i>Climate change and wetlands</i> (2008) recognizes the potentially serious impacts of climate change for ensuring the continued conservation and wise use of wetlands and similarly, that it calls on the Contracting Parties to manage their wetlands in such a way as to increase their adaptation to climate change and extreme climatic events, and to ensure that in their climate change responses, such implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands;	[para.13 of Resolution XII.12]
NOTING Resolution VII.7 on <i>Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote conservation and the wise use of wetlands</i>, which URGES each Contracting Party to review its laws and institutions to ensure they are aimed not only at the wise use of wetlands and eliminating obstacles to conservation, but also at adopting measures that can serve as positive incentives for the effective implementation of the wise use obligation, such as the allocation of water to wetlands;	[para.14 of Resolution XII.12]
ALSO RECOGNIZING the need for the Contracting Parties to replicate successful examples of the determination, allocation and protection of wetlands’ water requirements in order to maintain their ecological, food production and energy functions, enhance cooperation on water issues, improve the resilience of wetlands to climate change, and to safeguard the ecosystem services that wetlands offer society;	[para.15 of Resolution XII.12]
NOTING Resolution IX.3 on the <i>Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</i>, which AFFIRMS that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is	[para.16 of Resolution XII.12]

critical for the provision of water for people and nature, and that wetlands are a source, as well as a user, of water, as well as supplying a range of other ecosystem benefits/services;	Deletion of this paragraph as Resolution IX.3 is included in this consolidation.
NOTING that the Post-2015 Development Agenda is currently under discussion and aware of the role water will likely play in the Goals eventually agreed for improving the sustainable use and development of water resources and the conservation of wetland ecosystems, in order to promote decisions and actions that take into account both human and environmental water requirements, as well as the need to increase the long-term viability of natural supply systems;	[para.17 of Resolution XII.12] Proposed deletion as out of date as the post-2015 development agenda is already in place.
NOTING that the need to allocate a sufficient volume water of adequate quantity, quality and timing to enable the sustainable functioning of ecosystems is established in the laws of several of the world's nations and is being increasingly considered an issue that requires coordinated action at the international level; and	[para.18 of Resolution XII.12]
ECHOING the Changwon Declaration's call to action, which presents an overview of the priority action steps that together show how to deliver some of the world's most critical environmental and sustainability goals, including the wise use and protection of our wetlands – seeking to ensure that the latter have water of adequate quantity, quality and timing to support biodiversity, food production, drinking water and sanitation;	[para.19 of Resolution XII.12]
THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES	Standard text to introduce the operative part of the Resolution.
<u>Regarding Ramsar and water</u>	New subheading based on the title of Resolution VI.23
EMPHASIZES the need to ensure that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel includes or has access to hydrological expertise and develops links with organizations with technical skills in hydrological science and management; and	[para.6 of Resolution VI.23] Proposed for deletion as out of date, as agreed by the COP in Resolution XIV.5.
CALLS on the Contracting Parties: (a) to link with organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization, to support the development of hydrological monitoring networks on wetlands throughout the world, to ensure the availability of reliable data; (b) to encourage the study of traditional systems of water management to investigate their relevance to the concept of wise use of wetlands; (c) to encourage more studies of the economic value of water within wetlands, through dissemination of the forthcoming Convention publication on Economic valuation of wetlands: guidelines for policy makers and planners; (d) to ensure that National Ramsar Committees are involved in national water planning and the development of river basin management strategies; (e) to ensure that wetland users, as well as management authorities and technical experts, participate directly in the decision-making process; (f) to continue and strengthen support under Article 4.5 of the Convention for multidisciplinary training, with a major focus on hydrological science and management; (g) to ensure, through partnerships with water-related organizations such as the World Water Council, that the Ramsar Convention becomes an audible voice in water debates;	[para.7 of Resolution VI.23] The word “forthcoming” is deleted as the document referred to was published.

<u>Regarding the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</u>	New subheading based on the title of Resolution VIII.1
ADOPTS the “Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands”, as annexed to this Resolution, and URGES all Contracting Parties to give priority to their application, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances;	[para.14 of Resolution VIII.1]
ALSO URGES all Contracting Parties to utilize the additional guidance on tools and methodologies for the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions available as an information document for this <u>the eighth</u> meeting of the Conference (Ramsar COP8 DOC. 9), and to take into account the relevant guidance and information, particularly on the environmental flow releases from dams, including information contained in the Report of the World Commission on Dams;	[para.15 of Resolution VIII.1]
STRONGLY URGES all Contracting Parties to bring the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies to the attention of their national ministries and/or agencies (at different levels of territorial organization) responsible for water resource management, to encourage these bodies to apply the guidance in order to ensure appropriate allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands in their territory, and to ensure that the principles contained in the Ramsar Guidelines are incorporated into their national policies on water and on wetlands;	[para.16 of Resolution VIII.1]
FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to include representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies in the membership of their National Ramsar/Wetland Committees;	[para.17 of Resolution VIII.1]
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties with wetlands lying in shared river basins to work cooperatively to apply the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands within the context of the management of water allocations in transboundary basins, making use of the Ramsar Guidelines for international cooperation under the Convention (Resolution VII.19);	[para.18 of Resolution VIII.1]
REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to review the role of wetlands in groundwater recharge and storage and of groundwater in maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, as well as the impacts of groundwater abstraction on wetlands, and to report to COP9 including, as appropriate, with guidelines for Contracting Parties on these matters;	[para.19 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as out of date as stated in Resolution XIV.5.
DIRECTS the Ramsar Bureau, working with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to bring the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands to the attention of other water management organizations, relevant regional institutions, river basin authorities and commissions, and other interested parties and organizations, using the partnership mechanisms established through the joint Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative (RBI) for this purpose;	[para.20 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as out of date as stated in Resolution XIV.5.
REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau to work with the secretariat of the Third World Water Forum (Japan, 2003) to ensure that the critical importance of the goods and services provided by wetlands for water management, and the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, are fully recognized and debated during the Third World Water Forum;	[para.21 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as out of date as stated in Resolution XIV.5.

<p>FURTHER REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau to make available the guidance adopted by this Resolution to the subsidiary bodies and Contracting Parties of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and in particular to the CBD's Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) with regard to the maintenance of the biodiversity of inland waters, and to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's Committee on Science and Technology (CST) with regard to the critical issue of water management for wetlands in drylands;</p>	<p>[para.22 of Resolution VIII.1] Proposed deletion as out of date as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p>URGES multilateral and bilateral donors to ensure that the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions and production potential of wetlands is fully addressed in the design, planning and implementation of river basin and water resource management projects, taking into account the special circumstances and constraints of the concerned countries; and</p>	<p>[para.23 of Resolution VIII.1]</p>
<p>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other interested organizations to develop projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, <u>and</u> to make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative, and to report to COP9 on the successes achieved and lessons learned from these activities</p>	<p>[para.24 of Resolution VIII.1] Time-bound text is deleted as out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p><u>Regarding Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</u></p>	<p>New subheading based on the title of Resolution VIII.40</p>
<p>URGES the Contracting Parties to study the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of their wetlands in those territories where <u>there is a conflict between such use and wetland conservation</u> these conflicts exist;</p>	<p>[para.12 of Resolution VIII.40] Clarification proposed as this paragraph no longer directly follows the relevant preambular text.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDS that this analysis be carried out from an interdisciplinary point of view and with the participation of civil society;</p>	<p>[para.13 of Resolution VIII.40]</p>
<p>INVITES Contracting Parties to review their respective programmes of subsidies in order to ensure that they do not have negative consequences for the conservation of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.14 of Resolution VIII.40]</p>
<p>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue their efforts aimed at implementing existing provisions in this field; <u>and</u> REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat Ramsar Bureau to support these efforts as much as possible; and PROPOSES that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel advance in the study of the interaction between groundwater and wetlands, as requested in Resolution VIII.1, paragraph 19, and to develop guidance on the sustainable use of groundwater resources to maintain wetland ecosystem functions for discussion at COP9, in line with Action 3.4.7 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008;</p>	<p>[para.15 of Resolution VIII.40] Deletion of the section that is out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5</p>
<p>URGES the promotion of initiatives, supported by both the public and private sectors, for the participation of civil society in the management of groundwater, within the framework of integrated management of water resources;</p>	<p>[para.16 of Resolution VIII.40]</p>
<p>ALSO ENCOURAGES recognition of the importance of the associations of users for the management of groundwater, and the creation of such associations where they do not exist, and the dedication of efforts towards the objective that these associations contribute to the sustainable development of this resource in order to make possible the efficient use of groundwater and the conservation of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.17 of Resolution VIII.40]</p>

<p>URGES public institutions to ensure that a more decisive effort is made, within the framework of <u>activities regarding wetland-related communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness education, communication and public awareness</u> (CEPA) activities, with regard to groundwater, placing emphasis on its hydro-geological, social, economic and environmental aspects;</p>	<p>[para.18 of Resolution VIII.40]</p> <p>Amended to use the current full title of CEPA.</p>
<p>INVITES Parties to give more attention to the role of groundwater in maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, in line with Operational Objective 3.4 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008.</p>	<p>[para.19 of Resolution VIII.40]</p> <p>Deletion of text that is out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p><u>Regarding engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</u></p>	<p>New subheading based on the title of Resolution IX.3</p>
<p>AFFIRMS that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is critical for the provision of water for people and nature, and that wetlands are a source, as well as a user, of water, in addition to supplying a range of other ecosystem benefits/services;</p>	<p>[para.13 of Resolution IX.3]</p>
<p>ALSO AFFIRMS that priorities for water management should reflect the goals of safekeeping and maintaining water resources, as well as maintaining the ecological character of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.14 of Resolution IX.3]</p>
<p>CALLS on Contracting Parties to bring Resolutions VI.23, VII.18, VIII.1, and COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex C and its appendices and the "Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands" (Ramsar Handbook 12) to the attention of national, regional and local authorities in charge of water management for their integration into, and their multisectoral implementation through, national Integrated Water Resources Management plans so as to include an ecosystem approach consistent with the Ramsar Convention;</p>	<p>[para.15 of Resolution IX.3]</p> <p>Text deleted as the listed Resolutions are consolidated in the present document.</p>
<p>UPHOLDS the principle that governments should commit to informing and organizing the meaningful participation of all sectors of society in decision-making on the conservation, distribution, use and management of water at local, regional and national levels;</p>	<p>[para.16 of Resolution IX.3]</p>
<p>RENEWS its call to governments and institutions at all levels to ensure that the maintenance of wetlands and their functions are fully taken into account in the design, planning and implementation of water-related projects, poverty reduction strategy papers, and coastal zone planning;</p>	<p>[para.17 of Resolution IX.3]</p>
<p>CONFIRMS the need to consider an enhanced focus on collaboration amongst Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on the issue of wetland conservation for the wise management of water resources;</p>	<p>[para.18 of Resolution IX.3]</p>
<p>REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006) and other relevant global and regional water initiatives in the future in order to ensure that the importance of wetland ecosystem benefits/services is recognized in the Forum outputs as a key element to effectively managing water resources whilst maintaining the ecosystem functioning of wetlands;</p>	<p>[para.19 of Resolution IX.3]</p> <p>Deletion of a paragraph that is now defunct as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p>INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to promote and implement, with Contracting Parties, relevant and key elements of the decision taken at CSD13 on Integrated Water Resources Management, including <i>inter alia</i> enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and benefits/services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing their protection; protecting and rehabilitating catchment areas for regulating water flows and improving water quality, taking into account the critical role of ecosystems; and supporting more effective water demand and</p>	<p>[para.20 of Resolution IX.3]</p> <p>Deletion of a paragraph that is now defunct as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>

water resource management across all sectors, especially in the agricultural sector; and ALSO INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report to the 34 th meeting of the Standing Committee on an action plan for the Convention in promoting these themes in order for the Standing Committee through the Secretary General to provide input to the CSD report back session in 2008; and	
FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to prepare a report for COP10 on the Convention's activities in promoting these themes.	[para.21 of Resolution IX.3] Deletion of a paragraph that is now defunct as stated in Resolution XIV.5.
<u>Regarding wetlands and river basin management</u>	New subheading based on the title of Resolution X.19
NOTES the "Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management" provided in the Annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments, in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with national institutions and legal frameworks;	[para.5 of Resolution X.19]
CONFIRMS that the "Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management" in the Annex A to this Resolution updates and wholly supersedes the earlier guidance on this matter in adopted as the annex to Resolution VII.18 and as Annex Ci to Resolution IX.1;	[para.6 of Resolution X.19] Deletion of reference to Resolution VII.18 as redundant because it is repealed by this consolidated resolution.
INVITES Contracting Parties to draw this "Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management" to the attention of all relevant stakeholders, including <i>inter alia</i> government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, and FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to encourage these stakeholders to take these guidelines into account, together with those of the Ramsar Toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, in their decision-making and activities that relate to the delivery of the wise use of wetlands through the maintenance of their ecological character;	[para.7 of Resolution X.19]
INSTRUCTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to undertake, as a priority task during the next two triennia, a review of the operative paragraphs of all adopted Resolutions concerning water and wetlands interactions; to make recommendations concerning consolidation, updating and retirement of aspects of these Resolutions in relation to recent developments; and to prepare for COP12 consideration a new draft Resolution concerning water and wetlands issues;	[para.8 of Resolution X.19] Paragraph deleted as out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.
INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely the "Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management" annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks as well as through a proactive approach towards other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNECE Water Convention, as well as the secretariats of regional and sub-regional bodies involved in management of shared river basins¹, and to build the capacity, especially in developing countries, of National Focal Points to use and widely mainstream this guidance in their countries; and	[para.9 of Resolution X.19] Paragraph deleted as out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.

<p>[[footnote 1 Note: The terms “shared river basins” and “transboundary river basins” have both been used in previous Ramsar Resolutions and are both in wide usage in different parts of the world. For the purposes of this Resolution and its annexed guidance, the term “shared” is used to refer to river basins in which groundwater and surface water flow across or between two or more countries. However, the term “transboundary” river basins is also commonly used to describe river basins whose management is shared by different administrative units, for example between two or more local authorities, within the same country. In this guidance, it is used in this sense. The use of these expressions and the aforementioned explanation do not imply acceptance by all Parties. The reading of this Resolution and its annexed guidance shall be in accordance with Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration.]]</p>	
<p>REQUESTS the Secretariat to invite the relevant MEAs, subregional and regional bodies mentioned in paragraph 9 above to report on actions taken in relation to this Resolution and the annexed guidance.</p>	<p>[para.10 of Resolution X.19] Paragraph deleted as out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p><u>Regarding action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</u></p>	<p>New subheading based on the title of Resolution XII.12</p>
<p>RECOGNIZES AND REITERATES that the lack of water in wetlands is a far-reaching global problem with serious consequences for ecosystems and people’s livelihoods, in particular in vulnerable communities that depend on wetlands, and NOTES that this problem will tend to be aggravated in the future due to the growing demand for water and other natural resources and the effects of climate change;</p>	<p>[para.20 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>WELCOMES the process carried out in Mexico for the creation of water reserves for wetlands, described in the Annex B to this Resolution;</p>	<p>[para.21 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of using Mexico’s approach, as appropriate, to identify the opportunities to act preventatively, and adapting it as necessary in order to address national and regional conditions and circumstances, within the framework of existing regional initiatives and commitments and within the context of sustainable development;</p>	<p>[para.22 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties, and invites other governments and other stakeholders, to increase their efforts in order to address water requirements of wetlands, in particular identifying opportunities to anticipate the negative impacts of human activities on the amount of water devoted to wetlands; and</p>	<p>[para.23 of Resolution XII.12]</p>
<p>REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness Oversight Panel consider drawing up, in cooperation with existing networks and initiatives, guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans, to conserve the water necessary to maintain the wise use of wetlands, which may be implemented at the regional and/or national level, in line with the 4th Strategic Plan, and INVITES interested Contracting Parties to adopt national action plans, taking in to account:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Integration with other global initiatives, in particular on the contribution of wetlands to any Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eventually agreed; b. Assessment of the situation regarding wetland water requirements; 	<p>[para.24 of Resolution XII.12]</p>

<p>c. Strategies and tools for the determination and allocation of water to wetlands on a national scale;</p> <p>d. A programme for monitoring the water requirements of wetlands on a national scale and hydrographic basins, as appropriate;</p> <p>e. International cooperation for the creation and strengthening of existing research networks and specialized regional centres and for institutional capacity building; and</p> <p>f. Communication, education and raising public awareness about the need to consider ecological flows for maintaining habitats and ecosystems, as well as the benefits for the environment and human health that these wetlands offer; <u>and</u></p>	
<p><u>REPEALS the Resolutions indicated below:</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution VI.23 on <i>Ramsar and water</i>;</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution VII.18 on <i>Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>;</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution VIII.1 on <i>Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i>;</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution VIII.40 on <i>Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</i>;</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution IX.3 on <i>Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</i>;</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution X.19 on <i>Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance</i>; and</u></p> <p><u>- Resolution XII.12 on <i>Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</i>.</u></p>	<p>New text to recognize the status of Resolutions indicated in Resolution XIV.5 and to repeal the Resolutions that are covered by this consolidation.</p>

NB: The Annexes to this draft consolidated resolution are:

- Annex to Resolution X.19
- Annex to Resolution XII.12

Annex B

Water, water-related and water-management-related matters: Clean version

1. RECALLING Resolution VI.23 on Ramsar and water, Resolution VII.18 on Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management, Resolution VIII.1 on Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, Resolution VIII.40 on Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands, Resolution IX.3 on Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water, Resolution X.19 on Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance, and Resolution XII.12 on Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future, adopted at the 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 12th meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
2. REALIZING that a number of related decisions have been adopted previously which provide guidance for the Contracting Parties on wetland policy formulation (Resolution VII.6), reviewing laws and institutions (Resolution VII.7), involving local communities and indigenous people in wetland management (Resolution VII.8), promoting communication, education and public awareness related to wetlands (Resolution VII.9), incentives (Resolution VII.15), impact assessment (Resolution VII.16), wetland restoration as part of national planning (Resolution VII.17), and international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19), all of which are relevant to the process of the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands;
3. REALIZING ALSO that, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted further guidance that is relevant to the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, notably the New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (Resolution VIII.14), Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration (Resolution VIII.16), impact assessment (Resolution VIII.9), Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management (Resolution VIII.34), The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems (Resolution VIII.35), and Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands (Resolution VIII.40);
4. RECOGNIZING the important hydrological functions of wetlands, including groundwater recharge, water quality improvement and flood alleviation, and the inextricable link between water resources and wetlands;
5. FURTHER RECOGNIZING the paucity of hydrological data which exists for the determination and quantification of the hydrological functions of wetlands;
6. REALIZING the need for planning at the river basin scale, which involves integration of water resource management and wetland conservation;
7. AWARE of the Preamble to the Articles of the Convention, which recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;
8. NOTING Decision IV/4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which identified the Ramsar Convention as its lead partner for actions concerning the conservation and wise use of

wetlands, and particularly inland water ecosystems, including actions concerning the allocation and management of water for the maintenance of inland waters biodiversity;

9. AWARE of the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which includes information on the evaluation and assessment of water allocations, and specifically on environmental flow releases from dams, in the decision-making process for large dams, and of Resolution VIII.2 on the same subject adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Valencia, 2002);
10. RECOGNIZING the vital contribution made by wetlands on many occasions to ensure the allocation of water required for human well-being, including food and water security, and in flood control and poverty alleviation; but ALSO AWARE of the increasing demands being placed upon freshwater resources in many parts of the world and the threat this poses for maintaining wetland ecosystem functions and their biodiversity;
11. FURTHER AWARE of the importance placed on freshwater resources in the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, and in the subsequent Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in May 1998, which as part of its report relating to Strategic Approaches to Fresh Water Management recommended support for the implementation, inter alia, of the Ramsar Convention;
12. RECOGNIZING the importance of the whole water cycle and the link existing between ground and surface water for their use and management, not only in arid and semi-arid regions but also in humid regions;
13. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the urgent need to decrease the loss and degradation of aquatic ecosystems through policies of sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity;
14. ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that maintenance of the ecological integrity of most wetlands, especially those located in arid and semi-arid zones, is closely linked to the supply of groundwater;
15. AWARE of the importance that the use of groundwater has had for the economic development and improvement of welfare in many regions (mainly because of irrigated agriculture);
16. EQUALLY AWARE of the negative impact that can be caused to wetlands because of uncontrolled development and lack of planning for groundwater;
17. EMPHASIZING that examples of the solution of conflicts between the use of groundwater and conservation of wetlands (for example, in the Mediterranean basin) can serve as exportable models for other areas facing the same problems;
18. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that on occasions some regions suffer from inefficient management and regulation in the use of groundwater;
19. AWARE of the difficulties of rendering the interests of the users (primarily farmers) compatible with conservation criteria for those areas, because environmental problems are not taken into account;
20. RECOGNIZING that many of these conflicts may be stimulated by certain subsidies for agriculture and other types of economic incentives, including for tourism;

21. STRESSING that the analysis of these issues and the solution of conflicts require a completely transparent environment, scientific rigour and, above all, participation of all actors involved in the management and use of water resources;
22. ACKNOWLEDGING the United Nations “World Water Development Report” of 2003, showing the worsening water crisis due to water mismanagement and RECOGNIZING that global climate change and variability are likely to exacerbate this crisis;
23. RECALLING the commitments made by governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce by half by the year 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation; to develop by 2005 integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans; and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity;
24. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the vital contribution that wetlands make to the protection, purification, retention and provision of water resources for water and food supplies and their key role in groundwater recharge and flood control on which the well-being of people and their livelihoods depend, and AWARE of the decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 13th session (CSD13) in April 2005, which emphasized the same themes;
25. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that CSD13 decided on a follow-up on water and sanitation by devoting, in 2008 and 2012, a separate segment of CSD review sessions to monitoring and following up the implementation of decisions taken at CSD13 on water and sanitation and their interlinkages;
26. AWARE of the Global Water Partnership and the range of tools and technical guidance it provides on integrated water management;
27. WELCOMING the outcome of the FAO-Netherlands conference on “Water for Food and Ecosystems – Make it Happen” on the implementation of actions for an integrated approach to balancing water resources for food production and proper ecosystem functioning, which highlighted the necessary components of such an approach, namely scientific knowledge base, enabling environments, and valuation methodologies for water ecosystem benefits/services;
28. AWARE of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) that global wetlands account for almost half of the total value of all ecosystems combined, but that wetland ecosystems seem to be deteriorating at a faster rate than any other ecosystem, and aware of the MA conclusions that the survival of wetlands and related ecosystems and their important contributions to global development depend upon the achievement of a balance between the human need for ecosystem benefits/services and the need for continued functioning of wetland ecosystems;
29. RECOGNIZING that wetland ecosystems play a critical role in water management;
30. RECOGNIZING the crucial role wetlands play in relation to poverty reduction and natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and adaptation as reflected in Resolutions IX.9 and IX.14;
31. RECALLING the analysis of all regional COP9 preparatory meetings of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention of the possibilities and limitations for regional cooperation in the management of

transboundary / cross-border water resources and of Ramsar Sites and the migratory species and populations which depend upon them;

32. RECOGNIZING the momentum provided by the international organizations associated globally with the Ramsar Convention, whose initiatives aim at achieving the wise use of wetlands with the involvement of all sectors;
33. AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;
34. NOTING that, at COP9, the Conference of the Contracting Parties instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP10, focusing on the immediate and high priority tasks set out in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2;
35. THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to the present Resolution, as well as for the supporting technical reviews and reports being made available to Contracting Parties and others as COP Information Papers and Ramsar Technical Reports;
36. ALSO THANKING the government of Sweden for its financial support to the Panel and Working Groups for the preparation of this advice and guidance and the technical reports, and EXPRESSING GREAT APPRECIATION to the many organizations and individuals that have provided significant in-kind support to the work of the Panel, including through supporting the time and work of its members and observers and through providing to the Panel information and case studies related to river basin management;
37. RECOGNIZING that wetlands have vital ecosystem functions and provide a wide range of ecosystem services, which contribute to human well-being and the state of the environment, and that consequently their conservation and wise use are fundamental in order to continue to offer these services;
38. BEARING IN MIND that the report *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands* highlights that ecosystems, in particular wetlands, are essential in providing water-related ecosystem services and SIMILARLY, that it urges a major shift in attitudes to wetlands, to recognize both their value in delivering water, raw materials and food which are essential for life, and the crucial role they play in maintaining people's livelihoods and the sustainability of the world's economies;
39. NOTING Decision X/28 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on *Inland waters biodiversity*, and, in particular, AWARE of the concern regarding major anthropogenic changes that are ongoing in the Earth's water cycle on global, regional and local scales, due to the excessive and inefficient use of water and land-use change; that the limits of sustainability of both surface water and groundwater resources have already been reached or surpassed in some regions; that these trends are becoming more pronounced in some areas through climate change; and that the water-related stresses on biodiversity and ecosystem changes are rapidly escalating;
40. RECALLING the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands (Resolution X.3), which recognizes explicitly that the increasing demands for, and over-use of, water jeopardize human well-being as well as the environment, and that there is often not enough water to meet our direct human needs or to maintain the wetlands we require, and ALSO RECALLING the

issues of fundamental importance for the future of the Convention indicated in Resolution X.1, which identifies the lack of water resources for wetlands and the increasing demand for water extraction as the main factors that generate continuous change and lead to the deterioration and disappearance of wetlands and their services;

41. AWARE of Resolution XI.10, which revealed concern over the globally increasing number of energy development plans that, by changing water fluxes and sediment transport, interrupting connectivity, and creating barriers for species migration, could have adverse effects on the ecological character of wetlands, including on wetland species and ecosystems, on the potential for wetlands to produce a wide range of ecosystem services, on their biodiversity, and on the status of water quantity and quality;
42. RECOGNIZING the need to balance the multiple functions provided by water which include human consumption, food production, energy services as well as the support of wetland ecosystems, fisheries and biodiversity conservation;
43. RECALLING the Outcome of the Rio +20 Conference (Brazil, 2012) which recognized that energy plays a critical role “in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide for basic human needs”, and which emphasized the need to take further action to provide these services in a “reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner in developing countries”;
44. NOTING the fact that ensuring the availability of the water required by wetlands will promote both their biodiversity and the sustainable use of their components; and STRESSING, in particular, that knowing wetlands’ water requirements will favour the integration of biodiversity values into development planning processes and strategies, contribute to the sustainable management of water in agricultural areas, and maintain the impacts of the use of natural resources within ecological limits in order to guarantee biodiversity conservation;
45. RECOGNIZING that the allocation and protection of the water requirements of wetlands can help improve the integrated management of water resources, and in particular river basins, by harmonizing water-use and land-use strategies, maintaining the renewal of the water cycle and the link existing between ground and surface water, both enabling their management, and helping to establish adaptation conditions that allow climate variability;
46. RECALLING that Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* (2008) recognizes the potentially serious impacts of climate change for ensuring the continued conservation and wise use of wetlands and similarly, that it calls on the Contracting Parties to manage their wetlands in such a way as to increase their adaptation to climate change and extreme climatic events, and to ensure that in their climate change responses, such implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands;
47. NOTING Resolution VII.7 on *Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote conservation and the wise use of wetlands*, which URGES each Contracting Party to review its laws and institutions to ensure they are aimed not only at the wise use of wetlands and eliminating obstacles to conservation, but also at adopting measures that can serve as positive incentives for the effective implementation of the wise use obligation, such as the allocation of water to wetlands;

48. ALSO RECOGNIZING the need for the Contracting Parties to replicate successful examples of the determination, allocation and protection of wetlands' water requirements in order to maintain their ecological, food production and energy functions, enhance cooperation on water issues, improve the resilience of wetlands to climate change, and to safeguard the ecosystem services that wetlands offer society;
49. NOTING that the need to allocate a sufficient volume water of adequate quantity, quality and timing to enable the sustainable functioning of ecosystems is established in the laws of several of the world's nations and is being increasingly considered an issue that requires coordinated action at the international level; and
50. ECHOING the Changwon Declaration's call to action, which presents an overview of the priority action steps that together show how to deliver some of the world's most critical environmental and sustainability goals, including the wise use and protection of our wetlands – seeking to ensure that the latter have water of adequate quantity, quality and timing to support biodiversity, food production, drinking water and sanitation;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Regarding Ramsar and water

51. CALLS on the Contracting Parties:
 - (a) to link with organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization, to support the development of hydrological monitoring networks on wetlands throughout the world, to ensure the availability of reliable data;
 - (b) to encourage the study of traditional systems of water management to investigate their relevance to the concept of wise use of wetlands;
 - (c) to encourage more studies of the economic value of water within wetlands, through dissemination of the Convention publication on Economic valuation of wetlands: guidelines for policy makers and planners;
 - (d) to ensure that National Ramsar Committees are involved in national water planning and the development of river basin management strategies;
 - (e) to ensure that wetland users, as well as management authorities and technical experts, participate directly in the decision-making process;
 - (f) to continue and strengthen support under Article 4.5 of the Convention for multidisciplinary training, with a major focus on hydrological science and management;
 - (g) to ensure, through partnerships with water-related organizations such as the World Water Council, that the Ramsar Convention becomes an audible voice in water debates;

Regarding the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands

52. ADOPTS the "Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands", as annexed to this Resolution, and URGES all Contracting Parties to give priority to their application, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances;
53. ALSO URGES all Contracting Parties to utilize the additional guidance on tools and methodologies for the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions available as an information document for the eighth meeting of the Conference (Ramsar COP8 DOC. 9), and to take into account the relevant guidance and information, particularly on the

environmental flow releases from dams, including information contained in the Report of the World Commission on Dams;

54. STRONGLY URGES all Contracting Parties to bring the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies to the attention of their national ministries and/or agencies (at different levels of territorial organization) responsible for water resource management, to encourage these bodies to apply the guidance in order to ensure appropriate allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands in their territory, and to ensure that the principles contained in the Ramsar Guidelines are incorporated into their national policies on water and on wetlands;
55. FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to include representatives of national water management ministries and/or agencies in the membership of their National Ramsar/Wetland Committees;
56. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties with wetlands lying in shared river basins to work cooperatively to apply the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands within the context of the management of water allocations in transboundary basins, making use of the Ramsar Guidelines for international cooperation under the Convention (Resolution VII.19);
57. URGES multilateral and bilateral donors to ensure that the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions and production potential of wetlands is fully addressed in the design, planning and implementation of river basin and water resource management projects, taking into account the special circumstances and constraints of the concerned countries; and
58. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other interested organizations to develop projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, and to make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative;

Regarding Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands

59. URGES the Contracting Parties to study the impact of the use of groundwater on the conservation of their wetlands in those territories where there is a conflict between such use and wetland conservation;
60. RECOMMENDS that this analysis be carried out from an interdisciplinary point of view and with the participation of civil society;
61. INVITES Contracting Parties to review their respective programmes of subsidies in order to ensure that they do not have negative consequences for the conservation of wetlands;
62. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue their efforts aimed at implementing existing provisions in this field; and REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat to support these efforts as much as possible;

63. URGES the promotion of initiatives, supported by both the public and private sectors, for the participation of civil society in the management of groundwater, within the framework of integrated management of water resources;
64. ALSO ENCOURAGES recognition of the importance of the associations of users for the management of groundwater, and the creation of such associations where they do not exist, and the dedication of efforts towards the objective that these associations contribute to the sustainable development of this resource in order to make possible the efficient use of groundwater and the conservation of wetlands; and
65. URGES public institutions to ensure that a more decisive effort is made, within the framework of activities regarding wetland-related communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities, with regard to groundwater, placing emphasis on its hydro-geological, social, economic and environmental aspects;

Regarding engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water

66. AFFIRMS that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is critical for the provision of water for people and nature, and that wetlands are a source, as well as a user, of water, in addition to supplying a range of other ecosystem benefits/services;
67. ALSO AFFIRMS that priorities for water management should reflect the goals of safekeeping and maintaining water resources, as well as maintaining the ecological character of wetlands;
68. UPHOLDS the principle that governments should commit to informing and organizing the meaningful participation of all sectors of society in decision-making on the conservation, distribution, use and management of water at local, regional and national levels;
69. RENEWS its call to governments and institutions at all levels to ensure that the maintenance of wetlands and their functions are fully taken into account in the design, planning and implementation of water-related projects, poverty reduction strategy papers, and coastal zone planning; and
70. CONFIRMS the need to consider an enhanced focus on collaboration amongst Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on the issue of wetland conservation for the wise management of water resources;

Regarding wetlands and river basin management

71. NOTES the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” provided in the Annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments, in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with national institutions and legal frameworks;
72. CONFIRMS that the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” in Annex A to this Resolution updates and wholly supersedes the earlier guidance on this matter in Annex Ci to Resolution IX.1; and

73. INVITES Contracting Parties to draw this “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” to the attention of all relevant stakeholders, including *inter alia* government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, and FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to encourage these stakeholders to take these guidelines into account, together with those of the Ramsar Toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, in their decision-making and activities that relate to the delivery of the wise use of wetlands through the maintenance of their ecological character;

Regarding action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future

74. RECOGNIZES AND REITERATES that the lack of water in wetlands is a far-reaching global problem with serious consequences for ecosystems and people’s livelihoods, in particular in vulnerable communities that depend on wetlands, and NOTES that this problem will tend to be aggravated in the future due to the growing demand for water and other natural resources and the effects of climate change;
75. WELCOMES the process carried out in Mexico for the creation of water reserves for wetlands, described in Annex B to this Resolution;
76. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of using Mexico’s approach, as appropriate, to identify the opportunities to act preventatively, and adapting it as necessary in order to address national and regional conditions and circumstances, within the framework of existing regional initiatives and commitments and within the context of sustainable development;
77. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties, and invites other governments and other stakeholders, to increase their efforts in order to address water requirements of wetlands, in particular identifying opportunities to anticipate the negative impacts of human activities on the amount of water devoted to wetlands; and
78. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness Oversight Panel consider drawing up, in cooperation with existing networks and initiatives, guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans, to conserve the water necessary to maintain the wise use of wetlands, which may be implemented at the regional and/or national level, in line with the 4th Strategic Plan, and INVITES interested Contracting Parties to adopt national action plans, taking in to account:
- a. Integration with other global initiatives, in particular on the contribution of wetlands to any Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eventually agreed;
 - b. Assessment of the situation regarding wetland water requirements;
 - c. Strategies and tools for the determination and allocation of water to wetlands on a national scale;
 - d. A programme for monitoring the water requirements of wetlands on a national scale and hydrographic basins, as appropriate;
 - e. International cooperation for the creation and strengthening of existing research networks and specialized regional centres and for institutional capacity building; and
 - f. Communication, education and raising public awareness about the need to consider ecological flows for maintaining habitats and ecosystems, as well as the benefits for the environment and human health that these wetlands offer; and

80. REPEALS the following Resolutions:

- Resolution VI.23 on *Ramsar and water*;
- Resolution VII.18 on *Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management*;
- Resolution VIII.1 on *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*;
- Resolution VIII.40 on *Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands*;
- Resolution IX.3 on *Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water*;
- Resolution X.19 on *Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance*; and
- Resolution XII.12 on *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future*.

[NB: The Annexes to this draft consolidated resolution are:

- Annex to Resolution X.19

- Annex to Resolution XII.12]