Draft daily report
Day 1 – Tuesday 4 June (morning plenary session)

10:00 – 13:00  Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 1: Opening statements

1. Opening statements were made by:
   • Dr Xia Jun, Chair of the Standing Committee;
   • Mr James Dalton, Global Head Water and Wetlands, IUCN;
   • Mr Stuart Orr, Freshwater Practice Leader, WWF, on behalf of the six International Organization Partners (IOPs); and
   • Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention.

2. Interventions were made by Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

3. The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced the provisional agenda in document SC63 Doc.2.

4. A Standing Committee member suggested including two additional items under item 28 “Any other business” to address the process for reviewing the Rules of Procedure and to present a proposal for a possible COP15 draft resolution. The Chair of the Standing Committee responded that under the current agenda, the first additional item could be discussed under agenda items 7.1, the report of the Management Working Group, and that the member could raise the second under “Any other business”.

5. Interventions were made by Colombia, Indonesia and Sweden.

Decision SC63-01: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional agenda in document SC63 Doc.2.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the provisional working programme

6. The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced the provisional working programme in document SC63 Doc.3 Rev.1.

7. A Standing Committee member suggested two amendments to the provisional working programme, so that agenda item 26 on the dates for SC64 be discussed before agenda item 21.3 on the process for preparation and review of draft resolutions, and that agenda item 19
on the report of the STRP Chair be discussed prior to agenda item 11 on the report of the Strategic Plan Working Group. The Chair of the Standing Committee noted that agenda items 21.3 and 11 could include discussions to reflect the concerns raised, enabling the adoption of the provisional working programme as published.

8. Interventions were made by Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Panama, Sweden, Switzerland and the Chair of the STRP.

**Decision SC63-02: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional working programme in document SC63 Doc.3 Rev.1.**

**Agenda item 4: Admission of observers**

9. The Secretariat outlined the key paragraphs of document SC63 Doc.4.

10. In addition to bodies or agencies that have already been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the following organizations in paragraph 6 of the document were approved as new observer organizations:

Bodies or agencies seeking approval which have met the criteria included:

- Coalition Climat pour la Biodiversité et le Développement
- Fair Carbon Association
- New World Hope
- Observatoire Indépendant des Tourbières

**Decision SC63-03: The Standing Committee admitted the observers listed in paragraph 6 of document SC63 Doc.4.**

**Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Team and the Chair of the Standing Committee**

11. The Chair of the Standing Committee presented SC63 Doc.5 and provided information on the meeting of the Executive Team on 2 June 2024.

**Decision SC63-04: The Standing Committee took note of the Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee published as document SC63 Doc.5.**

**Agenda item 6: Report of the Secretary General**

12. The Secretary General presented her report contained in document SC63 Doc.6.

13. Standing Committee members thanked the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their work in supporting the implementation of the Convention and in increasing its visibility. One member underlined the importance of resource mobilization and encouraged Contracting Parties to engage with the Secretariat regarding outstanding contributions.

14. One Standing Committee member requested further information on the recruitment of a Senior Advisor for the Americas region.
Interventions were made by China, Colombia, Georgia, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda and Switzerland.

**Decision SC63-05: The Standing Committee took note of the Report of the Secretary General published as document SC63 Doc.6.**

**Agenda item 26: Dates of the 64th meeting of the Standing Committee**

The Secretariat introduced the requirements for the dates of SC64, noting it should take place six months before COP15 in accordance with Resolution XIV.2, and that the draft resolutions should be submitted 60 days in advance of SC64 in accordance with Rule 5.1. The Secretariat proposed that the SC64 take place either from 13 to 17 January or from 20 to 24 January 2025.

The Chair of the Standing Committee recalled the recommendation of the Management Working Group to hold SC64 from 20 to 24 January 2025.

**Decision SC63-06: The Standing Committee decided to hold SC64 from 20 to 24 January 2025 in Gland, Switzerland.**


The Chair of the Standing Committee, as Chair of the Management Working Group, presented the report of the Management Working Group as contained in document SC63 Doc.7.1 and an oral overview of the meeting of the Working Group of 3 June 2024. He introduced the recommendation of the Management Working Group to repeal Decision SC52-11 which calls for the Management Working Group to review all new cooperation agreements, and replace it with a new decision that delegates to the Secretary General the authority to determine when an MOU with a new body is appropriate, following the guidance found within document SC54 Doc.16.Rev.1.

**Decision SC63-07: The Standing Committee took note of the report on the activities of the Management Working Group as found in document SC63 Doc.7.1.**

**Decision SC63-08: The Standing Committee authorized the Secretary General of the Convention to enter into new cooperation agreements with organizations that meet the criteria found in SC54 Doc.16.Rev.1. Further, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to include this instruction in the draft resolution on synergies for consideration by COP15. This decision repeals Decision SC52-11.**


Switzerland described the process which followed the request by the Standing Committee to the Management Working Group to draft a resolution to guide the process on recruiting a new Secretary General. Switzerland noted two options for the formalization of the guidance: developing a draft resolution for consideration at COP15; or preparing a draft decision for SC63; and added that the Management Working Group favoured a decision by the Standing Committee, for flexibility.
20. Several Contracting Parties favoured developing a draft resolution. They further stressed the need for inclusivity and transparency, adequate time for regional consultations, and geographical balance and gender equality in future appointments to the position of Secretary General.

21. Several Parties favoured a Standing Committee decision, emphasizing the need for flexibility. They underlined the importance of confidentiality for a successful recruitment process. Some noted opposition to geographical rotation, stressing the need to select the best candidate.

22. The Chair of the Standing Committee established a contact group for interested Contracting Parties to further express their views, encouraging them to work collaboratively and collectively in the spirit of compromise to find a way forward.

23. Interventions were made by Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.