Draft daily report  
Day 3 – Thursday 6 June (morning plenary session)

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


1. Switzerland reported to the Standing Committee on the deliberations of the contact group on the process for recruiting a new Secretary General, which had met on 5 June from 13.45 to 15.00. It highlighted that past members of the recruitment committee, participating in the contact group session, had insisted on the importance of confidentiality. It added that the contact group had considered a proposal by one Standing Committee member, but was not able to finish its work since no decision could be reached for one of the options outlined in SC63 Doc.7.2. The Chair of the Standing Committee noted that the contact group would continue its deliberations on 6 June.

Agenda item 16: Review and consolidation of current Resolutions

2. The Secretariat introduced SC63 Inf.6, outlining changes suggested by one Standing Committee member to the draft consolidation of Resolutions on water, water-related and water-management-related matters contained in document SC63 Doc.16.4. It noted the proposed deletions of Paragraph 2,3 and 4 of Resolution X.19 and highlighted that deletion of Paragraph 3 would remove reference to the Annex of the same Resolution, and so recommended that it be retained. It added that a fourth edit suggests moving Paragraph 13 of Resolution IX.3 to the preambular text.

3. Some Standing Committee members suggested adding a footnote providing context to clarify that the text presents a consolidation of Resolutions and not a new Resolution. One member noted that moving text from the operative part to the preambular part is beyond the scope of the consolidation process. Several Contracting Parties supported deletion of Paragraphs 2 and 4 and retaining Paragraph 3.

4. The Secretariat introduced SC63 Inf.5, highlighting changes suggested by one Standing Committee member to the draft consolidation of Resolutions on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) contained in SC63 Doc.16.3. It noted the proposed retention of Paragraphs 13 and 14 of Resolution XIV.8 which had been been proposed for deletion in the draft consolidation.

5. A Standing Committee member noted that deletion of Paragraph 13, which “instructs the Convention Secretariat to assign an additional Communication Officer to underpin implementation of the new approach, within existing resources”, would not reflect agreement
from COP14, highlighting the ongoing importance of this instruction and noting deletion of this paragraph would not comply with the mandate of consolidation. Some Contracting Parties expressed their preference for deletion noting the instruction would be time-bound to the triennium between COP14 and COP15 and suggesting such instruction be better suited in a Resolution on budgetary matters.

6. Interventions were made by Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Sweden and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

**Decision SC63-22: The Standing Committee:**
- approved the four draft consolidated resolutions found in documents SC63 Doc.16.2, SC63 Doc.16.3, SC63 Doc.16.4 as amended in line with the Committee’s discussion, and SC63 Doc.16.5;
- instructed the Secretariat to submit the draft consolidated resolutions in documents SC63 Doc.16.2, SC63 Doc.16.4 as amended, and SC63 Doc.16.5 for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting; and
- noted that the views of Contracting Parties are reflected in the report of SC63.

The Committee’s Decision regarding the draft consolidated resolution in document SC63 Doc.16.3 is included in Decision SC63-24.

**Agenda item 17.1: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA): Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel**

7. Gabon, as Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel, provided an overview of the work carried out since SC62, focusing on activities related to: strengthening the network of CEPA Focal Points and updating relevant information; capacity building; providing strategic guidance on the implementation of the campaign for World Wetlands Day 2024; and conducting a survey to inform the development of CEPA resources. Gabon drew attention to the proposal to refresh the Convention’s logo and presented a proposed refreshed logo, the adoption of which was recommended by the CEPA Oversight Panel.

8. Austria offered background information on the process for a refreshed logo, noting that the suggestion is to refresh, adjust, and modernize the logo rather than change it. Austria stressed that it is up to Standing Committee members to decide whether the proposed refreshed logo should be adopted or discussions on the development of a new logo should continue.

9. A Contracting Party, supported by others, suggested engaging youth in a competition on the new logo, instigating their further engagement with the Convention. They stressed the need to be open-minded and comfortable with change, emphasizing that the logo can be modernized while keeping some continuity to reflect the evolution of the Convention. A Contracting Party suggested including an element on biodiversity on the new logo. Some Contracting Parties supported maintaining the current logo, noting it is widely recognized, and emphasized the need for continuity. They highlighted the need to link the logo with a wide-ranging, comprehensive communication strategy and consider budgetary implications. Delegates added that considering the logo after COP15 could support additional visibility for the technical and scientific work under the Convention and suggested taking relevant discussions forward under the CEPA workplan.

10. The Secretariat offered background information on the development of the current logo and its approval through Standing Committee SC21-4, noting that the precedent has been that the Standing Committee is the body responsible to approve the logo.
11. Interventions were made by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Czechia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Chair of the STRP and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

Decision SC63-23: The Standing Committee took note of the Report of the CEPA Oversight Panel contained in document SC63 Doc.17.1 and instructed the Panel to continue discussion on the need and value of a new logo, including budget considerations, in consultation with interested Parties and the Secretariat, and to report on progress to SC67.

Agenda item 17.2: CEPA: Report of the Secretariat on the proposed future operations of the CEPA Oversight Panel, in accordance with Resolution XIV.8

12. The Secretariat presented the Report on the proposed future operations of the CEPA Oversight Panel, in accordance with Resolution XIV.8, as found in document SC63 Doc 17.2, noting that the proposed plan is contained in Annex 1 of the document. The Secretariat highlighted relevant elements, which include: the composition of the panel; the nomination procedure; and the modus operandi of the panel. Noting that Resolution XIV.8 calls for a newly established CEPA Oversight Panel to convene for the first time at the conclusion of the COP at which it has been established, the Secretariat discussed associated challenges and suggested to hold the first meeting of the Panel within two months of the conclusion of the COP.

13. Contracting Parties expressed appreciation for the work. Some Contracting Parties emphasized gaps in the nomination procedure, on: who has the power to nominate representatives; what are the relevant qualifications and selection criteria in cases of multiple nominees; and the role of the Standing Committee, opining that it should ensure a fair and transparent process but have a lesser role in the nomination process. Another Contracting Party stressed that it is up to the Standing Committee to ensure the best composition for the CEPA Oversight Panel. Others expressed support for the Secretariat’s proposal. A delegate noted that more work would be useful to ensure the nomination procedure results in a good composition of the Panel and to align CEPA-related work with the Strategic Plan once it is finalized.

14. The Secretariat noted that Resolution XIV.8 includes specific instructions on the nomination procedure but also contains gaps, stressing that additional clarity would be beneficial on the selection and decision-making processes regarding membership.

15. Contracting Parties discussed references to the representation of Indigenous Peoples. Some suggested adding references to local communities, to be used in conjunction. Others opposed, noting that Indigenous Peoples are a distinct group and need to be represented, and pointing to the relevant criteria in Resolution XIV.8.

16. Interventions were made by Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Sweden and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

Decision SC63-24: The Standing Committee approved the proposal of the Secretariat on the future operations of the CEPA Oversight Panel, and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft resolution for consideration at SC64 and submission to the Conference of the Contracting Parties at COP15, reflecting the consolidation on Recommendations and Resolutions on CEPA submitted in Document SC63 Doc.16.3 and approved through Decision SC63-22, and the views of the Standing Committee on the process and timeline for nominating the Panel for the 2025-2028
The Standing Committee decided that the draft consolidated resolution on CEPA presented in Document SC63 Doc.16.3 would not be forwarded to COP15.

Agenda item 17.3: CEPA: Report of the Secretariat on World Wetlands Day 2024

17. The Secretariat presented its report on World Wetlands Day 2024 contained in document SC63 Doc.17.3 Rev.1, highlighting that 1,874 events in 81 countries across the world had been reported, and a potential social media outreach to 2.5 billion users on 2 February 2024. It noted lessons from previous years include the added value of strong partnerships with other international organizations and a timely dissemination of information materials.

18. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for its successful engagement in World Wetlands Day 2024, highlighting the usefulness of the information materials and suggesting to make reports of the Secretariat on World Wetlands Day from previous years accessible. Some Parties noted challenges with registering their events in the Secretariat’s record.

19. Interventions were made by France, Georgia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.


Agenda item 17.4: CEPA: World Wetlands Day themes for 2025, 2026 and 2027

20. The Secretariat introduced SC63 Doc.17.4, presenting the proposed themes for World Wetlands Day 2025 “Protecting wetlands for our common future”, 2026 “Wetlands for sustainable cities” and 2027 “Wetlands and Indigenous knowledge: Preserving cultural heritage”. It highlighted the intended alignment of the proposed World Wetlands Day theme for 2025 with the COP15 theme, and noted other suggested themes for eventual consideration: “Wetlands and sustainable agriculture” and “Connected wetlands: From the mountains to the sea”.

21. Contracting Parties suggested: replacing “preserving” by “celebrating” and replacing “Indigenous” by “traditional” in the proposed theme for 2027 to set a positive tone and achieve inclusivity with a wider term; interchanging the proposed themes for 2026 and 2027 for better alignment with the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, anticipated for 2027; avoiding lengthy themes and repetition from previous years; and paying attention to translation challenges.

22. Interventions were made by Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Gabon, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sweden, the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

Decision SC63-26: The Standing Committee decided on the following World Wetland Day themes:
   2025 – Protecting wetlands for our common future
   2026 – Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage
   2027 – Wetlands for sustainable cities