



15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

"Protecting wetlands for our common future"
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23-31 July 2025

COP15 Doc.23.8

Note from the Secretariat:

At its 64th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC64-24 instructed the Secretariat to submit in square brackets the draft resolution on *the process for recruiting a new Secretary General*, contained in Annex 1 of document SC64 Doc.7.2, to COP15 for its consideration.

Draft resolution on the process for recruiting a new Secretary General

- [1. ACKNOWLEDGING that the selection of a new Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands is one of the Standing Committee's responsibilities [and that the process for the selection of a new Secretary General must be inclusive and transparent];
2. RECOGNIZING that the task is to hire the best qualified person for the job; and
- [3. RECOGNIZING the need to promote gender and equitable regional representation at different steps in the selection process;]

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

[Current Secretary Generals' efforts are reviewed through X process at X time during their first term to determine if they are eligible for renewal for the maximum term length as Secretary General.

If the current SG receives reviews of exemplary performance, they are able to be renewed through the approval of the Standing Committee.

If not, the following process is considered:]

4. DECIDES to start the recruitment process as soon as possible after the Chair of the Standing Committee has communicated that the Secretary General is ending his/her employment;
5. DECIDES that the process will take place virtually and using English as its working language, and should be completed such that a decision regarding the candidate recommended by the Recruitment Committee can be made by the Standing Committee at an ordinary or extraordinary meeting, and that thereafter, the final part of the recruitment (terms of contract, etc.) will proceed;

6. DECIDES that the Recruitment Committee is to be formed by up to two Contracting Parties representing each regional group under the Convention[, preferably members of the Management Working Group and/or Standing Committee], including the host of the next Conference of the Contracting Parties;
7. DECIDES that the Recruitment Committee will be chaired by the Chair of the Standing Committee, and that the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee will act as vice-chair for the Recruitment Committee;
8. DECIDES that while the Secretariat is not to be involved in the selection process, it will send a diplomatic note announcing the vacancy and provide the necessary administrative support for the proper functioning of the Recruitment Committee;
9. DECIDES that the recruitment process will be supported by an executive search firm, to be proposed by IUCN Human Resources and selected by the Recruitment Committee;
10. DECIDES to finance the recruitment process including the fees of the executive search firm with adequate funding of the Convention budget, and REQUESTS that the Subgroup on Finance prepare a proposed amendment to the budget and present it to the Standing Committee for its decision;
- [11. REQUESTS the Recruitment Committee's regional representatives to conduct consultations with entire regional groups before the candidate interview process begins in order to solicit input on Contracting Parties' priorities in a new Secretary general;]
- [12. ENCOURAGES Regional Groups to submit ideally between one and three interview questions that will be asked to each candidate during the interview process;]
13. DECIDES that IUCN will be in charge of the recruitment procedure, under the supervision of the Chair of the Standing Committee [or the Vice-Chair in case of the Chair's absence], while reporting to the Recruitment Committee, with *inter alia* the following tasks:
 - a. to propose the schedule for the recruitment process for approval by the Recruitment Committee;
 - b. to coordinate the approval by the Recruitment Committee of the terms of reference for the post of the Secretary General and post the vacancy online via the IUCN website recruitment portal;
 - c. to prepare the confidentiality agreement in respect of the recruitment of the Secretary General for the Recruitment Committee to sign, enabling its members to take part in the closed meetings and receive confidential information;
 - d. to propose the terms of reference for the search firm to the Recruitment Committee, publish a call for proposals from firms, submit three finalists for its selection, and contract the chosen firm;
 - e. to provide information to the Recruitment Committee on each step of the recruitment as a link with the firm, and follow up on the recruitment schedule until the recruitment is finalized; and

- [f. to ensure that the references of the candidate are vetted by the recruitment firm;]
- [14. DECIDES that the Recruitment Committee and IUCN will notify all Contracting Parties of the following steps when they begin and conclude: a) vacancy posting; b) close of application submissions and review of applications; c) beginning of interview process; d) end of interview process; e) second round of interviews; f) selection forthcoming;]
15. DECIDES that the Recruitment Committee will make its recommendation for the new Secretary General [following consultations between the members of the Committee and the respective regional representatives to the Standing Committee and regions, and that such a recommendation is to be presented] at the next ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee, [including providing reasoning behind the Recruitment Committee selection for the Standing Committee's] for its consideration and decision; and
- [16. DECIDES that for the purposes of interpreting paragraph 15 the Standing Committee will consider itself properly consulted if all the following actions have been undertaken:
- a. The Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee, presents to the Standing Committee an initial proposal for the terms of reference for the selection of a new Secretary General, containing the criteria to guide the recruitment process;
 - b. The Standing Committee is given adequate time, which should not be less than one month, to consider the proposed terms of reference through regional consultations, and conveys its views to the Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee; the views conveyed should be made available to the members of the Standing Committee;
 - c. Should the case arise, the Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee, will justify the reasons, in writing, for not incorporating any of the suggestions submitted by the Standing Committee into the final version of the terms of reference;
 - d. Following the establishment of a transparent process for recruitment [open to nominations by all Parties, and a selection process resulting in a recommendation to the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee, informs the Standing Committee on a potential nominee, indicating why the candidate is believed to best meet the criteria, including vis-à-vis other shortlisted candidates;
 - e. The Standing Committee is given adequate time, which should not be less than one month, to consider the proposed nomination;
 - f. If there is no consensus in the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee, is to inform the Recruitment Committee that the proposed nomination should not be carried out and that the selection process should continue until the Standing Committee is presented with a proposed nomination that it deems consensual;]

- g. Considering its formal role in the appointment process, the Standing Committee must receive from the Recruitment Committee, in a timely manner, all information necessary for its consideration. If the Standing Committee seeks additional clarification on any issue, this should be provided by the Chair of the Standing Committee and, where applicable, by IUCN;
 - h. Considering that all members of the Standing Committee are expected to engage with their constituencies throughout the process, the Chair of the Standing Committee, acting as Chair of the Recruitment Committee, and, where applicable, IUCN should also transmit to the Standing Committee the relevant information in a format that, while respecting the confidentiality rules that apply to recruitment processes, will allow for its circulation to National Focal Points for the Convention;]
17. DECIDES that the new Secretary General should commence duty, if at all possible, at such a date as to provide for a handover period of ten working days.]