



**Regional Consultation in the Americas in preparation for the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands  
September 17 4 pm to 7:00 pm (CEST)**

**Summary report**

**Agenda item 1. Welcome remarks**

1. Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Walter Regueiro representative of South America to the Standing Committee on behalf of the Standing Committee representatives in the Americas. The delegate highlighting the relevance of this meeting in preparation for the third Extraordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties. Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands, stressed the work and commitment of the Parties through the Standing Committee during 2020 and 2021 in spite of a very difficult period.

**Agenda item 2. Election of the Chair of the meeting**

2. Based on the proposal made by Mexico on behalf of the regional representatives to the Standing Committee Costa Rica was elected as Chair of the meeting.

**Agenda item 3. Approval of the agenda**

3. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda and opened the floor to comments. Uruguay proposed to include an additional agenda item on the regional rotation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Executive Team of the Standing Committee to be clarified by the Secretariat. The agenda was approved with the inclusion of this additional agenda item.

**Agenda item 4. Overview of the procedural matters for the third extraordinary meeting of the COP**

**General summary of the agenda of the meeting and documents**

4. The Secretariat provided an overview of the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting of the COP indicating that the Provisional Agenda and working Programme (EXCOP3 Doc 3.1 and EXCOP3 Doc 3.2) were prepared by the Secretariat, in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure, which requires the Provisional Agenda for an extraordinary meeting to consist only of those items proposed in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting.

**Officers of the meeting (President and Vice Presidents)**

5. The Secretariat informed Contracting Parties that in accordance with Rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the current COP President, United Arab Emirates and Vice Chairs Uganda and

Finland will serve as the Conference Bureau of the third extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### Accreditation process

6. Concerning the accreditation process the Secretariat provided detail information on the submission of credentials by Contracting Parties in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Contracting Parties were also reminded to submit their credentials by email to: [excop@ramsar.org](mailto:excop@ramsar.org) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours after the opening of the meeting on 25 October as they need to be reviewed by the Credentials Committee.

Interventions on the issue of credentials were made by Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay, which were addressed by the Secretariat.

#### Selection of representatives to the Credentials Committee

7. Contracting Parties were informed by the Secretariat that Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure 19, the Conference will appoint a Credentials Committee composed of one Contracting Party from each of the Ramsar regions, on the basis of proposals made by the Conference Bureau. The Chair of the Credentials Committee will present the report of the credentials deposited with the Secretariat and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The Credentials Committee will meet on 26 and 27 October from 13:00-16:00 CEST.
8. Mexico indicated that after internal consultations, the United States of America would be the representative of the North American region to the Credentials Committee. Panama expressed its interest in representing the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The Chair indicated that a period to receive nominations will be provided and that the Secretariat will be formally notified as soon as possible regarding the representative of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Credentials Committee.

#### Participation and quorum

9. The Secretariat reminded Contracting Parties that according to the rules of procedure on participation and quorum and the relevance of the matters to be discussed is critical that at least one third of the Contracting Parties participate to open the debate and at least two thirds are required to make decisions.

Agenda item 5. Discussion of the draft resolutions
--

#### EXCOP3 Doc.8.1 Draft Resolution on the postponement of COP14

10. The Secretariat introduced document EXCOP3 Doc.8.1 Draft resolution on the postponement of COP14. Interventions were made by Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru and the United States. Brazil made a suggestion for a text to be included in the draft resolution that was supported by Argentina, Cuba, Suriname, United States of America and Uruguay.

#### EXCOP3 Doc. 8.2 Draft Resolution on financial and budgetary matters

11. The Secretariat introduced document EXCOP3 Doc.8.2 Draft Resolution on financial and budgetary matters supported by Mexico Chair of the Sub Group on Finance. Interventions

were made by Cuba, Dominican Republic and the United States of America in support of the Resolution.

Agenda item 6. Logistical matters for the third extraordinary meeting of the COP
--

12. The Secretariat informed Contracting Parties that the meeting will open on Monday 25 October at 13:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST) from 13:00-16:00 with simultaneous interpretation in the three languages of the Convention. On 26 and 27 October the Credentials Committee will meet from 13:00-16:00 CEST. The meeting will then reconvene on Thursday 28 October at 13:00 CEST. Contracting Parties were encouraged to test their equipment in advance during a test session that is scheduled for Thursday 21 October from 13:00 – 15:00 CEST.

13. The Secretariat requested Contracting Parties to send an email to [PreRegistration@ramsar.org](mailto:PreRegistration@ramsar.org) in case they do not receive by October 20 the link to connect to the extraordinary meeting.

Agenda item 7. Any other business
-----------------------------------

Outstanding contributions and the requirement for provisions

14. The Secretariat informed Contracting Parties about the importance of regular payment of annual contributions and explained that in addition to creating a gap in the regular budget when contributions are not made, there is a need to put aside funds to manage risks of non-payment, as required by the auditors. When contributions are not paid for more than 4 years the provisions increase substantially. This means that without the regular payment of all annual contributions, the budget of the Convention could be in shortfall and affect the support provided to the Parties, as well operations for the Convention.

Regional rotation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Standing Committee

15. The Secretariat summarized the positions that Standing Committee representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean have held in the Executive Team in the last four trienniums. Uruguay invited the Contracting Parties to carry out internal consultations so that in the next term, the region can be represented in the finance Sub Group or in any other positions of the Executive Team. Interventions were made by Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States.

16. The Chair closed the meeting thanking all the Parties and the Secretariat.