

**Governance Contact Group – Compromise Draft Decision – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

1. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of providing an adequate institutional set-up for a global convention with 170 Parties;
2. RECALLING the Convention’s mission of conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world;
3. FURTHER RECALLING Contracting Parties’ commitment to work towards achievement of the Convention’s mission, both within their own territories and through cooperation globally and with other Contracting Parties;
4. ALSO RECALLING the vision of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 that wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all, and the Plan’s goals of addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation, effectively conserving and managing the network of Ramsar sites, wisely using all wetlands, and enhancing implementation of the Convention;
5. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the extensive and continuing work by Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan through efforts undertaken by the bodies of the Convention;
6. RECOGNIZING that the Convention has a crucial role to play and contribution to make to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
7. REITERATING the obligation on all Contracting Parties to contribute to Convention deliberations and processes in a manner that ensures the effective and efficient use of Convention and Contracting Party resources in order to support the best outcomes for wetlands and the Convention;
8. RECOGNIZING that on as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention approaches, the intended mandates, reporting arrangements, and bodies of the Convention should be reviewed and refreshed to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention, increase its visibility and foster synergies;

**THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**

9. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to all bodies of the Convention for the accomplishments and benefits to the Convention realized as a result of their work;

10. DECIDES to retire the subsidiary bodies listed in Annex 1;
11. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution supersedes the resolutions and decisions relating to each body as listed in Annex 1, and that any ongoing responsibilities of these subsidiary bodies now reverts to the Standing Committee to address or delegate further;
12. INVITES the Chairs of these subsidiary bodies to, as appropriate, provide a final report on the outcome of their body's work to the Standing Committee at its 57th session;
13. ESTABLISHES the Effectiveness Working Group under Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure;
14. DIRECTS that the Working Group be composed of one Standing Committee representative from each Ramsar region;
15. DIRECTS that the members of the Working Group designate one to two of its members as Chair or Co-Chairs;
16. REQUESTS the Working Group to review the governance structure of the Convention, as that structure exists at the close of the 13th Conference of the Parties, for the purpose of:
  - a. Recommending reforms (if any) that further enhance the effectiveness (including cost effectiveness) and efficiency of the Convention, and
  - b. proposing a process to implement its recommendations;
17. REQUESTS the Working Group, when conducting its review, to include consideration of the previous work undertaken by the Facilitation Working Group, give due consideration to the ideas contained in the draft Resolutions document 18.1, document 18.2 and the revised document 18.2, as submitted to the 13th Conference of the Parties, and examine other similar multilateral environmental agreements and their efforts to achieve similar reforms (e.g. International Whaling Commission, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and the Convention on Migratory Species);
18. REQUESTS the Working Group to provide the following reports to each of the following Standing Committees:
  - a. Report to the Standing Committee at its 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting, with a detailed work plan for completing the review of governance structures. This work plan should include information about: (1) processes for gathering evidence, (2) consulting with Contracting Parties, (3) consulting with existing bodies currently involved in the governance of the Convention, and (4) decision-making within the Working Group;
  - b. Report to the Standing Committee at its 58th Meeting, with Preliminary Recommendations for Reform to the governance structure of the Convention. The Recommendations should contain an overview of the proposed governance structure, and identify (1) bodies that are to be established, retired, reformed or maintained, (2) the

functions of new, reformed or established bodies, (3) specialised Rules of Procedure for reformed or established bodies(if necessary) and (4) the relationships between these bodies.

- c. Report to the Standing Committee at its 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting, with Final Recommendations for Reform to the governance structure of the Convention. These Final Recommendations are to be accompanied by:
- a statement of reasons for the Final Recommendations;
  - a process for implementing the recommendations;
  - a draft resolution, for submission to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14), providing for the implementation of the Final Recommendations;

19. DECIDES to allocate funding from the current identified core budget surplus to support the work of the Working Group including, but not limited to, meetings or other support required to accomplish its tasks;

20. FURTHER DECIDES the Effectiveness Working Group is to complete its work by COP14, at which time the group will be retired unless otherwise decided at COP14.

## ANNEX 1

<b>Ramsar Convention subsidiary body</b>	<b>Resolutions/decisions relating to the body</b>
CEPA Working Group	
Facilitation Working Group	
Language Strategy Working Group	
Resource Mobilization Working Group	
Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group	
[Staffing Working Group]	
[Transition Committee]	
[Subgroup on COP13]	

**Additional Text on Executive Team – Proposed for addition in 18.3 Annex 1**

*The proposed text below seeks to define a mandate for the Executive Team within the framework of the existing draft 18.3 and the proposed mandate for the Standing Committee, recognizing the similarities that already exist between elements of this mandate and the proposed mandate for a Bureau as set out in the Rev 18.2.*

The Standing Committee's functions relating to the Secretariat, and described at paragraph 19(c) and (d), are conducted on the Committee's behalf by its Executive Team, using a combination of meetings and teleconferences to strengthen coordination and communication. The Executive team will:

- provide agendas for its meetings to National Focal Points, at least one week in advance of those meetings;
- provide records of its meetings to National Focal Points, following those meetings;
- report on its work with the Secretariat, at each meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Executive Team will continue to be comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee, and the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance. Three additional representatives will be selected from among the Regional Representatives elected to serve in the Standing Committee to achieve a balance in regional representation.

*For ease of reference see below for the text from 18.3 referenced above:*

19 (c) supervise, as a representative of the COP, the implementation of activities by the Secretariat, the execution of the Secretariat's budget, and conduct of the Secretariat's programmes;

19 (d) provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Secretariat;