

**13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018**

**Ramsar COP13 Inf.8**

**Statements provided for the record of the meeting during discussions under Agenda item 11.1,  
Tuesday 23 October**

1. The following statements are presented verbatim, as communicated to the Secretariat.
2. Following its statement referred to at paragraph 36 of COP13 Rep.1 *Draft daily report: Day 1 – Monday 22 October (Opening ceremony), Day 2 – Tuesday 23 October (Morning plenary session)*, Argentina communicated the following statement to the Secretariat to be appended to the meeting record:
  1. LA DELEGACION ARGENTINA DESEA, EN PRIMER LUGAR, AGRADECER LA CALIDA ACOGIDA BRINDADA POR EL PAIS ANFITRIÓN DE ESTA REUNION, EMIRATOS ARABES UNIDOS Y ASIMISMO, DESTACAR EL EXCELENTE TRABAJO REALIZADO POR LA SECRETARIA EN LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE ESTA CONFERENCIA.
  2. LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA DESEA RECORDAR QUE, AL MOMENTO DE RATIFICAR LA CONVENCIÓN EL 4 DE MAYO DE 1992, RECHAZO LA EXTENSIÓN DEL AMBITO DE APLICACIÓN REALIZADA POR EL REINO UNIDO RESPECTO DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS, GEORGIAS DEL SUR, SANDWICH DEL SUR Y SUS ESPACIOS MARITIMOS CIRCUNDANTES. ASIMISMO, CUANDO EL REINO UNIDO DESIGNO COMO SITIOS RAMSAR A “BERTHA’S BEACH” E ISLA LEON MARINO (SEA LION ISLAND), LA ARGENTINA REITERO SU RECHAZO A LA EXTENSION TERRITORIAL POR PARTE DEL REINO UNIDO Y RECHAZO LA DESIGNACION DE TALES TERRITORIOS.
  3. CONSECUENTEMENTE, ARGENTINA DESEA REITERAR LA SOLICITUD DE QUE SE UTILICE LA DOBLE NOMENCLATURA EN LOS DOCUMENTOS ELABORADOS POR LA SECRETARIA DE LA CONVENCION O EN CUALQUIER MENCION O MAPA QUE SE HAGA CON RESPECTO A LA ZONA EN DISPUTA, POR VIA IMPRESA O ELECTRONICA.
  4. CON RELACION A LOS MAPAS UTILIZADOS EN EL SERVICIO DE INFOMACION SOBRE SITIOS RAMSAR Y EN LOS QUE SE CONSIGNAN LOS SITIOS RAMSAR INSCRIPTOS POR EL REINO UNIDO, SOLICITA A LA SECRETARIA QUE UTILICE MAPAS DE FUENTES QUE EMPLEAN LA DOBLE NOMENCLATURA PARA REFERIRSE A LAS ISLAS MALVINAS, GEORGIAS DEL SUR Y SANDWICH DEL SUR
  5. SE REMITIRAN A LA SECRETARIA DETALLES DE LOS SITIOS QUE NO CONTEMPLAN LA DOBLE NOMENCLATURA O REFERENCIAS AL RECLAMO DE LA ARGENTINA.
  6. EN LO QUE HACE AL INFORME PAIS PRESENTADO POR EL REINO UNIDO, SE DESEA SEÑALAR QUE ESTE, EN SU PAGINA 8H HACE REFERENCIA A LAS ORGANIZACIONES CONSULTADAS PARA LA ELABORACION DEL DOCUMENTO, ENTRE LAS CUALES CITA A

“FALKLAND ISLAND GOVERNMENT” Y “GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS”.

ASIMISMO, EN LA PAGINA 23 NUMERAL 1104 SE MENCIONA “SEA LION ISLAND, FALKLAND ISLAND”.

7. SOBRE EL PARTICULAR, LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA RECUERDA QUE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS, GOERGIAS DEL SUR Y SANDWICH DEL SUR Y LOS ESPACIOS MARITIMOS CRCUNDANTES SON PARTE INTEGRANTE DEL TERRITORIO NACIONAL ARGENTINO Y QUE ESTANDO ILEGALMENTE OCUPADOS POR EL REINO UNIDO DE GRAN BRETAÑA E IRLANDA DEL NORTE, SON OBJETO DE UNA DISPUTA DE SOBERANIA ENTRE AMBOS PAISES, LA CUAL HA SIDO RECONOCIDA POR LAS NACIONES UNIDAS. EN CONSECUENCIA, LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA RECHAZA CUALQUIER REFERENCIA A LAS ALEGADAS AUTORIDADES DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS, GOERGIAS DEL SU8. R Y SANDWICH DEL SUR.
  8. ARGENTNA SOLICITA QUE LO MANIFESTADO PRECEDENTEMENTE CONSTE EN EL INFORME DE LA COP.
2. Following its statement referred to at paragraph 38 of the same draft report, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland communicated the following statement to be appended to the record:

The United Kingdom has no doubt about it’s sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas, nor about the principle and the rights of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter and in article one of the two UN Covenants on human rights, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic , social and cultural development. We do not, therefore accept the proposal by Argentina for dual nomenclature on any maps or documents provided to or by the Ramsar Secretariat or in any formal documents of the Convention.

3. Following its statement referred to at paragraph 40 of the same draft report, Ukraine communicated the following statement to be appended to the record:

**Statement of Ukraine  
with respect to Ramsar COP13 agenda item 12  
(Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of  
Wetlands of International Importance)**

Dear Mr President, Vice-Presidents and Distinguished Delegates,

The implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine is an important part of the state environmental policy aimed at preserving natural areas and biodiversity.

Ukraine has 39 wetlands of international importance with a total area of 771 thousand hectares.

During this plenary, we took note of the information on the status of Wetlands of International Importance.

In this regard the delegation of Ukraine would like to draw the attention of the Parties and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to the fact that the Russian Federation launched armed aggression against Ukraine and occupied part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and parts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions «Territorial integrity of Ukraine» (A/Res/68/262) of 27 March 2014, «Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)» (A/Res/71/205) of 19 December 2016, and «Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)» (A/Res/72/190) of 19 December 2017, condemned the temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter «Crimea») by the Russian Federation and reaffirmed the non-recognition of its annexation.

The Russian Federation blatantly violated the Ramsar Convention principles. Namely, the Convention recognizes the exclusive sovereign rights of the Contracting Party, in this case Ukraine, to protect, restore and sustainably use the Ramsar wetlands and their flora and fauna.

The Russian Federation occupying power makes it impossible to implement conservation, management and wise use measures, as set out in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Ramsar Convention, with respect to 6 Ukrainian Ramsar Sites located in Crimea and 1 site in the Donetsk region (located on the Sea of Azov coast).

The Russian temporary occupation of the part of the territory of Ukraine and the illegal economic activities in Crimea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov make it impossible to work effectively within the framework of BlackSeaWet Regional Ramsar Initiative.

The systematic violation of environmental legislation in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea basins by the Russian Federation has a negative impact on the ecological status of wetlands, including those of international importance.

The delegation of Ukraine would like to note that 22 Ramsar sites are located along the coast of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea in Ukraine and all of them under the risk due to Russia's armed aggression and its flagrant violation of the environmental legislation of Ukraine.

With a view to a joint and efficient management of wetlands of the Black Sea basin Ukraine fruitfully cooperates with Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Turkey and Georgia.

Ukraine is ready for further development of cooperation with all the Black Sea riparian countries except for the Russian Federation.

I would like to emphasize that the restoration of full-fledged cooperation in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea basin is possible only after de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, complete restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Ukraine requests the Ramsar Secretariat to urgently organize a Ramsar Advisory Mission to Crimea to evaluate the conservation and the management conditions and corresponding ecological status of 7 Ramsar Sites, located on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, and to advise on the way forward regarding the updating process for their respective Ramsar Information Sheet.

I ask to include this statement in the Conference final report.

Thank you for your attention!

3. Following its statement referred to at paragraph 41 of the same draft report, the Russian Federation communicated the following statement to be appended to the record:

#### **THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY**

Russian delegation takes the floor to respond to the statement made by the representative of Ukraine in the exercise of right of reply.

Unfortunately the Ukrainian delegation couldn't resist the temptation to repeatedly use this international fora to state its false allegations of the so-called «illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and its further military invasion in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions» as well as of «ongoing military aggression» by the Russian Federation.

In this regard, the Russian Federation clearly states that the declaration of independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Crimea's joining the Russian Federation constitute modes of implementing one of the fundamental UN principles - the principle of equal rights and self-determination by peoples and fully correspond to the Declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance' with the Charter of the United Nations (1970).

Let us also remind that UN General Assembly mentioned resolutions are not unanimous and consensual and have advisory nature, standing outside the framework of this meeting.

We'd like to underline that Russian Federation fully meets all the obligations under Convention on Wetlands and we are convinced that a pragmatic and non-politicized approach to the work of Ramsar Convention is an essential condition for successful development of the international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Chair, in order to save our precious time and avoid further deliberations, we would like to remind our distinguished Ukrainian colleagues, that our meeting is an inappropriate place for political disputes.

Thank you.