



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 Rep.12

Draft Daily Report Day 7 – Monday 29 October (Afternoon plenary session)

Monday 29 October 2018

15.15–16.40 Plenary session

Agenda item 18: Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)
Agenda item 20: Report on the discussions, conclusions and recommendations in the preceding sessions (continued)
Agenda item 21: Adoption of resolutions and recommendations (continued)

18.15 Draft resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems

1. The **President** introduced the revised draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.15 Rev.1.
2. **Australia** drew attention to further amendments that had been negotiated with interested Contracting Parties, as reflected in document COP13. Inf.10.
3. The draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.15 Rev.1, incorporating amendments as reflected in document COP13. Inf.10, was adopted by acclamation.

18.22 Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats

4. The **President** introduced the revised draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.22 Rev.1.
5. The **Philippines** drew attention to further proposed amendments that had been negotiated with interested Contracting Parties, as reflected in document COP13. Inf.11.
6. In response to a request for clarification from **Canada**, the **Philippines** confirmed that the proposed amendments in document COP13 Inf.11 would be integrated into document COP13 Doc.18.22 Rev.1.

7. The draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.22 Rev.1, together with the proposed amendments in document COP13. Inf.11, was adopted by acclamation.

18.24 Draft resolution on wetlands in West Asia

8. The **President** introduced the revised draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.24 Rev.1.
9. **Turkey** announced its reservation regarding the preamble and paragraph 6 of the draft resolution and indicated this would be submitted in writing. The statement of Turkey is attached as Annex 1 to the present report.
10. The draft resolution in document COP13 Doc. 18.24 was adopted by acclamation, without further amendment, but with the reservation of Turkey noted for the record.

18.27 Thanks to the Host Country, the United Arab Emirates

11. **Uruguay** introduced the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc. 18.27, which was warmly adopted by acclamation.
12. The **President** confirmed that all draft resolutions had now been dealt with.
13. The **Secretary General** noted that, in line with established practice, the Secretariat would undertake the final editing of the adopted resolutions, ensuring incorporation of all agreed amendments, consistency between language versions and application of editorial standards.

Agenda item 22: Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

14. The **Conference of the Parties** confirmed the proposal of the Conference Bureau that, as no formal offer to host COP14 had been received, a new deadline for offers should be set for one month before the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC57). If no offer had been received by that time, COP14 would take place in Switzerland, the country in which the seat of the Secretariat was located, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
15. **Senegal** announced its intention to submit its candidature to host COP14, subject to official written confirmation through diplomatic channels.

Agenda item 23: Any other business

16. The **President** invited any comments or observations. There were no requests for the floor.

Agenda item 25: Close of the meeting

17. The **President** thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the meeting, including the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Municipality of Dubai, sponsors, organizers and technical support teams, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretariat.

18. Making closing remarks, a representative of the **World Wetland Network Youth Forum** proposed that the theme of COP14 should be 'Youth and Wetlands – a suggestion supported by Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Tunisia.
19. A representative of the Convention's six **International Organization Partners (IOPs)**, made closing remarks on their behalf, pledging their support at all levels for implementation of the Resolutions adopted at COP13.
20. The **Secretary General** thanked: the Government of the United Arab Emirate; H.E. Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, President of COP13; H.E. Eng. Mohamed Al Afkham, Director General, Fujairah Municipality, Alternate President of COP13, who had served in the presidency; the Director General of the Municipality of Dubai; the Vice-Presidents; the outgoing Chair of the Standing Committee and President of COP12, Mr Jorge Rucks, Uruguay; the Contracting Parties themselves, the IOPs, the interpreters, rapporteurs and translators, the conference staff and the whole Secretariat team. She looked forward to continuing to work together to reverse the loss of wetlands.
21. Contracting Parties from all six of the Ramsar regions thanked all those who had contributed to the successful outcomes of COP13, many commenting on the extremely constructive spirit of engagement from all delegations. They particularly commended the United Arab Emirates as host and the Secretariat for its effective organization of the meeting.
22. Resuming the presidency of COP13, **H.E. Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates**, renewed his thanks to all those who had supported the hosting of the meeting. He reiterated the importance and significance of all the resolutions adopted for the contribution of wetlands worldwide towards a sustainable future, and declared the meeting closed.

Annex 1

Statement of Turkey under agenda item 18.24

Turkey has been attaching utmost importance to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention since its accession. Turkey has given due regard to the application of the two major principles of the Convention, namely conservation and wise use of wetlands

The Ramsar Convention has been successful so far. Today, Ramsar Sites network constitutes the largest network of officially recognised internationally important areas in the world. Turkey believes that its success comes from its focused scope.

Unfortunately, Turkey has been observing with great concern that there are attempts to integrate some controversial issues into the work of the Convention.

As all we know, sand and dust storms mostly occur because of the natural biogeochemical cycles of the earth. Along with the natural causes, adverse impacts of climate change, unsustainable agriculture, land management, mining and oil extraction practices area also considered triggers of sand and dust storms.

In this respect, there reliable scientific studies on sand and dust storms phenomenon and they demonstrate that there is no relevance between wetlands and sand and dust storms at all. In this vein, Turkey request its reservations to the paragraphs 1 and 7 of the Draft resolution 18.24_Rev1.

In our deliberations, it is important to take into account the distinct mandates, principles and provisions and independent legal status of every multilateral convention and be cautious in integrating the work of other Conventions into that of the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar bodies can collaborate with relevant international conventions and organizations, within their respective mandates, where and when appropriate.

We request the Secretariat to have this statement of the Turkish Delegation as well as the other statements made during the COP 13 to be reflected in all related documents as well as the Report of the 13th COP to the Ramsar Convention.