



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.5

Draft Daily Report Day 4 – Thursday 25 October (Morning plenary session)

Thursday 25 October 2018

10.20 – 13.00 Plenary session

Agenda item 18: Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)

1. The **Conference** received nominations from each of the Ramsar regions for representation on the working group established to review draft resolutions that might have implications for the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The group would be composed of individuals from the following Contracting Parties (together with the Chair of the STRP and STRP members present at COP13):
 - Africa: Rwanda
 - Asia: Bangladesh
 - Europe: United Kingdom
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile
 - North America: Mexico and the United States of America
 - Oceania: New Zealand
2. **Senegal**, speaking also on behalf of **Central African Republic**, as proponents of the draft resolution on peace and security contained in document COP13 Doc.18.19, expressed concern over the process followed by Contracting Parties that had met to discuss the text without the presence of the proponents.
3. **Brazil** reported that the working group established by the President during the afternoon plenary session of 24 October had met that evening and that a revised text had been prepared.
4. The **Secretary General** reported that the matter had been referred to the Conference Bureau.

18.26 Draft resolution on the enhanced conservation of sea turtle breeding, feeding and nursery areas and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites

5. **France** and **Senegal** presented the draft resolution in document Ramsar COP13 Doc.18.26, thanking Contracting Parties that had already provided technical support to improve the text and expressing readiness to take further proposed amendments on board.
6. Support for the draft resolution was expressed by **Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, Myanmar, New Zealand** on behalf of the Oceania region, **Oman, Panama, Seychelles, South Africa** on behalf of the Africa region, **Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand**, the **United Arab Emirates**, the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the **United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam** and the observer from the **Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**. A number of these interventions proposed specific amendments, especially to the list of Ramsar Sites contained in Annex 1 and in order to highlight collaboration and synergies with other relevant international instruments, including the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and those under the CMS. Contracting Parties also presented information concerning sea turtle conservation at national level, highlighting the need for enhanced capacity, information exchange and access to expertise.
7. The **President** requested all Contracting Parties with proposed amendments to send these in writing to the Secretariat so that they could be made available to the proponents (France and Senegal) for preparation of a revised text to be considered during a later session.

18.12 Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

8. The **Chair of the STRP**, Prof. Royal Gardner, presented the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.12 and drew attention to minor amendments relating to two Annexes.
9. **Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, New Zealand, Senegal, United Kingdom** on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, **Switzerland**, the **United States of America** and **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)** all proposed amendments to the draft resolution.
10. **Turkey** made the following statement for the record of COP13:

“Turkey puts its reservation on the acceptance of ‘the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention’ as an observer to be invited for the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium. Any outcome that is likely to emerge as a result of a possible cooperation between the Ramsar Convention and the UNECE Water Convention does not have a legally binding effect on Turkey.

“Turkey joins the consensus on the draft resolution, however, this is not to be construed as change of the Turkish position regarding the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes, as was expressed in COP12.”
11. The **President** requested the **United States of America** to coordinate an informal group of interested Contracting Parties to incorporate proposed amendments into the draft resolution and present a revised version for consideration at a later session.

18.11 Draft resolution on Ramsar Advisory Missions

12. **Burkina Faso** introduced the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.11.
13. **Algeria, Austria** on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, **Benin, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Japan, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia**, the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the **United States of America, Uganda, Zimbabwe** and the observer from the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** all expressed support for the draft resolution, though a number of those intervening indicated that they would be submitting proposed amendments.
14. **Turkey** indicated its intention to enter a reservation concerning the reference to “transboundary context” in Annex 1 of the draft resolution.
15. In response to Contracting Parties that had highlighted the value of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) and/or requested RAMs, the **Secretary General** concurred that such missions were one of the main functions of the Secretariat and took note of the needs expressed.
16. As several proposed amendments concerned the financing of RAMs, the **President** noted that the Finance Committee should be consulted and he postponed further discussion on the draft resolution until a later session.

Agenda item 15.1 Wetland City Accreditation – Report of the Standing Committee

17. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** (Mr Jorge Rucks, Uruguay) presented a summary of the work undertaken in response to Resolution XII.10 on Wetland City Accreditation, approved by COP12 in 2015. He explained the roles of the Standing Committee and Independent Advisory Committee and the process followed, including discussions at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee, which had resulted in the final list of nominated cities being presented at COP13.
18. The list was read out by the **Secretariat**:
 - China – Changde City, Changshu City, Dongying City, Haikou City, Haerbin City, Yinchuan City
 - France – Amiens, Courteranges, Pont-Audemer, Saint-Omer
 - Hungary – Tata
 - Republic of Korea – Changnyeong County, Inje County, Jeju City, Suncheon City
 - Madagascar – Mitsinjo
 - Sri Lanka – Colombo
 - Tunisia – Ghar el Melh
19. The **Conference** approved by acclamation the awarding of Wetland City Accreditation to those cities listed.
20. **China, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of)** and **Jordan** welcomed the accreditation scheme and congratulated those cities whose nominations had been approved.
21. In response to points raised by **Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of)** and **Jordan**, the **Secretariat** provided further information on the Wetland City Accreditation process, noting the limited role

of the Secretariat and drawing attention to a degree of ambiguity in the wording of Resolution XII.10.

22. **Republic of Korea** and **Tunisia**, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC), undertook to provide further information concerning the process followed and the selection criteria applied, and drew attention to a side event on 26 October that would address these points. They thanked the IAC members, Contracting Parties, city representatives and the Secretariat for their committed support.