



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.7

Draft Daily Report Day 5 – Friday 26 October (Morning plenary session)

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10.20–13.10 Plenary session

1. The session was chaired by the **Vice-President from Finland** (Ms Kristiina Niikonen).
2. The **Vice-President** opened the floor for general comments.
3. **Australia**, as convener of the friends of the chair group on blue carbon ecosystems, **Colombia** on behalf of the Americas regions, **Cuba**, **Dominican Republic** on behalf of the Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) on Caribbean Wetlands, **Jamaica**, **Senegal**, and **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** as chair of the COP13 working group on governance, commented on the functioning and progress of working groups and friends of the chair groups.
4. The **Secretary General** confirmed that the Legal Adviser would attend the next meeting of the working group on RRI, as requested by **Colombia** on behalf of the Americas regions.

16. Election of Contracting Parties to the Standing Committee 2019-2021

5. The following nominations were received by the **Conference of Parties**:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Member(s)</u>	<u>Alternate Member(s)</u>
Africa		
Central Africa	Chad	Central African Republic
North Africa	Algeria	Libya
East Africa	Uganda	Rwanda
West Africa	Sierra Leone	Senegal
Southern Africa	Zambia	Lesotho
Asia		
South Asia	Bhutan	Philippines
East Asia	Japan	China
West Asia	Oman	Kuwait

Europe	United Kingdom Sweden Armenia Azerbaijan	Austria Estonia Russian Federation Ukraine
Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay Costa Rica Dominican Republic	Ecuador El Salvador St Lucia
Oceania	Australia	Fiji
North America	Mexico	United States of America

6. The composition of the Standing Committee for the 2019-2021 triennium, as shown above, was approved by acclamation.

18.18 Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services

7. The **Republic of Korea** presented the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.18.
8. Interventions were made by **Antigua and Barbuda, Austria** on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, **Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Oman, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand**, the **United States of America** and **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**. These were broadly in support of the draft resolution, although **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)** cautioned against any steps towards making nature into a commodity. Many of the interventions underlined that use of the rapid assessment tool should be voluntary and that there would be a need for capacity building to support its application in developing countries. A number of Contracting Parties either tabled specific proposed amendments or announced their intention of doing so.
9. The **Republic of Korea** thanked Parties for their support and valuable comments and noted that there would be a side event on the topic of the draft resolution.
10. The **Vice-President** asked all those with proposed amendments to forward these to the Secretariat within two hours of the close of the session and requested the **Republic of Korea** to co-ordinate the production of a revised draft resolution for consideration at a later session.

18.20 Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

11. **Colombia** presented the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.20.
12. Interventions broadly in support of the draft resolution, but proposing a number of specific amendments, were made by **Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland** on behalf the Member States of the European Union, **India, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Niger, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Uganda**, the **United Arab Emirates** and the **United States of America**, as well as by the observer from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.

13. The **Vice-President** asked all those with proposed amendments to forward these to the Secretariat within two hours of the close of the session and requested **Colombia** to co-ordinate the production of a revised draft resolution for consideration at a later session.

18.21 Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands

14. The **Czech Republic** introduced the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.21 noting that a number of proposed amendments had already been received.
15. Interventions were made by **Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mexico, the Netherlands** on behalf of the European region, **New Zealand, Niger, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, the United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe** on behalf of the Africa region, as well as the observers from the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. These were broadly in support of the draft resolution but some Contracting Parties believed that the document placed excessive emphasis on agriculture as a driving factor in the decline of wetlands and that a number of other factors should be taken into consideration. A number of those intervening proposed specific amendments or indicated their intention of doing so.
16. The **Vice-President** asked all those with proposed amendments to forward these to the Secretariat within two hours of the close of the session and requested the **Czech Republic** to co-ordinate the production of a revised draft resolution for consideration at a later session.

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

17. The **Philippines** introduced the draft resolution in document COP13 Doc.18.22.
18. Interventions were made by **Australia, Austria** on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, **Bahrain, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Libya, Norway, Oman, Republic of Korea, South Africa** on behalf of the Africa region, **Sri Lanka, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America**, and by the observers from **FAO** and **BirdLife International**, the latter speaking also on behalf of **Wetlands International** and the **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**. Those making interventions were generally supportive of the draft resolution but some expressed concern that some proposed activities were beyond the scope and capacity of the Convention, and some might have significant cost implications. Many of those intervening proposed specific amendments to the text, or indicated their intention of doing so.
19. The **Vice-President** asked all those with proposed amendments to send these to the Secretariat, and requested **Kenya** to coordinate the production of a revised draft resolution for consideration later in the meeting.