

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Doc.18.6 Rev.2

NB

- *In the present document, proposed amendments to the Rev.1 version are highlighted in yellow.*
- *Paragraphs have not been renumbered for this version. This will be done by the Secretariat when the final text is agreed.*
- *Annex 1 remains valid but is omitted except for the amendment proposed by Panama.*
- *Annex 2 remains valid but is omitted from this document.*
- *Annex 3 is reinstated in accordance with the request of several Parties.*

**Draft Resolution on review of Resolutions and Recommendations
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**

1. RECALLING Resolution XIII.4 (2018) on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, and in particular the requirement, expressed in paragraph 24 of that Resolution, for:
a process for: retiring outdated resolutions and decisions; establishing a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and preparing a consolidated list of resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and on an as-needed basis following meetings of the Standing Committee;
2. NOTING that the reference to “Resolutions” in Resolution XIII.4 encompasses also “Recommendations” of the Conference of the Parties, and that the term “decisions” refers to the numbered decisions of the Standing Committee;
3. CONVINCED of the need to ensure that the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, as the “soft law” of the Convention, expressing the policy, rules and guidance of the Parties, should be clear, concise and readily accessible;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Regarding lists of Current Resolutions, Resolutions that have been repealed or replaced and Other Decisions of the Conference of the Parties

4. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Convention on Wetlands:
 - a list of all current Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and
 - a separate list of Resolutions that are no longer in effect, including previous versions of Resolutions that have been revised;

with both lists providing links to the texts of the Resolutions concerned to ensure that all Resolutions that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties are readily accessible;

~~4.bis — INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to ensure that Convention documents are tagged in a way that makes it possible to filter a search according to validity (fully valid, partly valid and repealed);~~

5. ~~[[~~ INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Convention, a list of all other “Decisions of the Conference of the Parties”, that are designed to have a short-term effect. These shall be numbered and shall include only: instructions or requests to committees, panels, working group, other Convention bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term procedure; and recommendations or other forms of decision that are time-bound or expected to be implemented soon after their adoption and will then be obsolete. This list will be updated by the Secretariat after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; ~~]]~~

~~or~~

~~[[~~ INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, in their preparations for a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to move all the short term effect paragraphs in all draft resolutions to a draft resolution on its own named “Short-term decisions until the next COP” and present that draft resolution to the Standing Committee for forwarding to the Conference of the Parties. The resolution will contain all short term instructions or requests to committees, panels, working groups, other Convention bodies or the Secretariat; ~~]]~~

Regarding the retirement of Resolution and parts of Resolutions that are out of date

6. ADOPTS the list of Resolutions and Recommendations in Annex 1, indicating their status in terms of whether they remain wholly or partly in effect;
7. AGREES that the Resolutions and Recommendations listed in Annex 1 as already repealed (status category “R”) shall be excluded from the list of current Resolutions maintained by the Secretariat;
8. REPEALS the other Resolutions and Recommendations, and parts thereof, considered to be defunct and proposed to be repealed as listed in Annex 1 (status categories “P” and “A”);
9. AGREES that:
- a) the Resolutions and Recommendations that are defunct will be removed from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. They will remain “on the record”, and accessible on the Convention website, as having previously been adopted by the Conference of the Parties; **and**
 - b) in any case where any part of a Resolution or Recommendation is agreed to be defunct, the Secretariat will publish a revised version of that Resolution or Recommendation without the parts that are defunct, and edited only to ensure that the sense is retained, and with no other amendment to the substance. In each such case, the revised version of the Resolution or Recommendation will be renumbered with the addition of “Rev. COPXX”, where “XX” represents the number of the meeting at which the amendment of the text was agreed; **and**
 - c) in cases where any Resolution is amended and renumbered [as indicated in paragraph b) above], or is repealed and replaced, the Secretariat shall correct the references to the amended or repealed Resolutions, in any Resolutions that remain in effect at that time. If

the repealed Resolution is referred to in another Resolution, the Secretariat should annotate the reference with a footnote to indicate that the Resolution (or paragraph) being referred to was repealed;

Regarding the review and consolidation of current Resolutions

10. DECIDES to establish, *subject to available resources*, a an iterative process for the consolidation of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

- a) the general objective of the consolidation is to facilitate the understanding and implementation of Resolutions by combining into a single Resolution the texts from existing Resolutions that deal with the same subject, or sub-subject, using the words from the existing Resolutions as far as possible, while eliminating discrepancies and inconsistencies, clarifying the meaning, standardizing the terms used, correcting grammatical errors, updating parts that are out of date and eliminating parts that are defunct;

b)

OPTION 1 &

OPTION 3 [to exclude the *italicized* text in square brackets]

~~[[b)]~~ after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the Standing Committee will select a small number of subject categories (generally two to four) ~~[[from the list of categories of Resolutions in Annex 2 of the present Resolution,]]~~ for which the Secretariat (or its consultant) will prepare draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at the following CoP; ~~]]~~

~~or~~

~~[[~~ **at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the Conference of the Parties will select a small number of subject/sub-subject categories with support from the list of categories of Resolutions in Annex 2, but avoiding having themes that are too big or having too scattered information consolidated into one resolution, for which the Secretariat (or its consultant) will prepare draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at the following Conference of the Parties, as well as some with high priority if additional funds are secured. The Secretariat together with the Standing Committee will suggest such priority subjects for consolidation to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration, the suggestion will be included in the draft resolution for the short term decisions;]]**

OPTION 2

~~[[[b) —on the basis of the list of subject categories of Resolutions in Annex 2 of the present Resolution, the Standing Committee shall, at its 62nd meeting, assign to each subject category a numerical level of priority for consideration in the process of consolidation of the Resolutions. For each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat shall prepare one or more draft resolutions to consolidate the existing Resolutions in a subject category, respecting the assigned order of priority determined by the Standing Committee.]]]]~~

- c) the document presenting each draft consolidated resolution shall indicate the origins of the texts presented and explain any differences from the existing Resolutions;
- d) draft consolidated resolutions shall not include any new concepts, policies, rules or guidance that has not previously been agreed by the Conference of the Parties;

- e) the text of each draft consolidated resolution shall indicate that it repeals the Resolutions that are being consolidated and that it is designed to replace;
- f) each draft consolidated resolution prepared by the Secretariat shall be presented to the Standing Committee, which shall guide the Secretariat and approve the draft to be submitted for adoption by the Conference of the Parties when it is satisfied that the draft has been correctly prepared;
- g) as the process of consolidation of Resolutions is not intended to revise the substance of decisions previously made by the Conference of the Parties, the Rules of Procedure for considering and adopting draft consolidated resolutions shall be different from those for consideration of other draft resolutions in the sense that, as a general rule, the substance should not be presented for discussion as it has in principle already been agreed by the Parties. The primary decision to be made by the Conference is whether the consolidation has been correctly done; and
- h) the process of consolidation of Resolutions shall **continue until the Contracting Parties are satisfied with the consolidation work done and can be continued when the Parties have identified a need for more consolidation work** be considered as completed when there is not more than one Resolution dealing with a major theme determined by the Standing Committee;

Regarding the preparation and adoption of draft resolutions and draft decisions

- 11. RECOMMENDS to Parties that, when drafting a resolution that is intended to treat a subject comprehensively, or to make significant changes in the way in which a subject is dealt with, the draft be prepared so that, if adopted, it will replace and repeal all existing Resolutions (or, as appropriate, the relevant paragraphs) on the same subject;
- 12. REQUESTS Parties, chairs of committees, panels and other Convention bodies and the Secretariat, to follow the guidance in Annex 3;

Regarding Decisions of the Standing Committee:

- 13. DECIDES that the procedure for recording and maintaining the Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be decided by the Standing Committee itself, provided that all current and previous Decisions are easily accessible through the website of the Convention; and
- ~~11. DECIDES that all SC decisions and reports from Standing Committee meetings are to be made public on the website; ALSO DECIDES that all intersessional decisions are to be published on the website;~~
- ~~12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to make the documentation from the SC1-SC9 available on the website preferably before SC62 and at the latest in time for SC63;~~
- ~~13. DECIDES that all Contracting Parties will take part in one task force group with the purpose of considering the status of SC decisions (including intersessional ones), and the workload shared between them. Altogether there might be 35 task force groups, (in general each consisting of five Contracting Parties' NFPs, (with as good distribution of representatives from different Ramsar regions as possible). Each group is responsible for checking the SC decisions~~

from two SC meetings (some groups may have the responsibility for decisions from one SC meeting only, but may have responsibility for additional intersessional SC decisions instead);

14. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to present a suggestion to the Standing Committee on how such groups can be composed, which Contracting Party is to call the group for their first meeting, and describe each group's task (trying to make the workload between the groups as equal as possible); ALSO INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to consider such suggestions and make a SC decision on the task force groups and their tasks; ALSO INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to make all national focal points aware of the SC decision;

15. DECIDES that the task force groups are to decide who is responsible for chairing the group and/or provide the Secretariat with its results; ALSO DECIDES that the task force groups are to make a compilation of which SC decisions (in full or partly) can be repealed because they are outdated or otherwise redundant, and present their results to the Secretariat within six months after the SC decision about the task forces is announced to the national focal points;

16. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to compile the results from the task force groups in a document for the Standing Committee, including a suggested decision on which SC decisions to repeal, for the Standing Committee to consider, and implement the SC decision on this task;

17. DECIDES that, after the task force groups have done their work and the Standing Committee has made a decision on their results, the Secretariat is to be responsible for having two lists of SC decisions, one for the still valid SC decisions and the one for the ones that have been repealed; ALSO DECIDES that, after the task force work is done, the SC is responsible for making further decisions on which SC decisions may be repealed, and that the Conference of the Parties can make additional decisions on this in resolutions decided in the future;

Regarding a database for decisions of the Ramsar Convention:

18. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to investigate the possibilities to have a database for all the Convention decisions made by the Conference of the Parties and by the Standing Committee. Such a database will improve the opportunities to have a faster overview of which decisions are valid or not valid, and in how many resolutions different terms are used, when the last consolidation was made, etc. The results and a suggestion on how to deal with them are to be presented in a draft resolution for the Standing Committee to consider forwarding it to COP15;

Regarding older decisions:

14.19. REPEALS paragraphs 10, 11, 24 and 25 of Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*.

Annex 1 to the draft resolution

List of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and their status

~~NB: This list was previously published as the table of the draft resolution presented in document SC59 Doc. 13.2.~~

Key

A = Revision is required. Specific paragraphs are to be repealed from the operative part.

(This may also require consequential editorial corrections and deletions of corresponding preambular text.)

C = Remains current

R = Already repealed or superseded and therefore to be excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.

P = Proposed for deletion from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.

NB: Parties may also wish to consult the advice on the 'retiral' of Resolutions and Recommendation in Standing Committee document Doc. SC35-12 on *COP9 Outputs requiring review by SC35: Review of COP Decisions (Resolution IX.17)* (SC35, 2007).

Number	Title	Proposed Status	Comments
COP7 (San José, 1999)			
Resolution VII.26	Creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere	P <u>A</u>	<p><u>Resolution VII.26 remains valid</u></p> <p><u>However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</u></p> <p><u>- paragraph 3 ALSO RECOGNIZING that research, training and the creation of mechanisms for cooperation and coordination are a priority in the Western Hemisphere in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategic Plan in force.</u></p> <p><u>- paragraph 8 EXPRESSES ITS APPROVAL of the initiative of the Government of Panama offering to establish a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere within the activities at the site of Republic of Panama.</u></p> <p><u>- paragraph 9 ENCOURAGES the Government of Panama to continue the process of planning for and operation the Centre, with the participation of the Ramsar Contracting Parties in the Western Hemisphere and interested organizations through permanent mechanisms of consultation;</u></p> <p>Resolution VII.26 is entirely focused on supporting the creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere. The Centre was created and the Resolution is therefore now defunct and can be repealed, but remains on the record to reflect the support of the Conference of the Parties.</p>

If Option 1 is selected

Annex 2 to the draft resolution

Categories of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

NB: This draft was previously published as Annex 2 to document SC59 Doc.13.1

Annex 3 to the draft resolution¹

Guidelines on the Preparation and recording of future Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

~~NB: This draft was previously published as Annex 2 of the draft resolution presented in document SC59 Doc. 13.1~~

Guidance to Administrative Authorities and chairs of Convention bodies

Parties are urged to adhere to the following guidance when preparing draft resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

1. As far as possible, future draft resolutions should be prepared so that, if adopted, they will replace and repeal all existing Resolutions (or, as appropriate, the relevant paragraphs) on the same subject.
2. Where the intention is to amend the approach, instructions or policy contained in an existing Resolution, a proposal to amend that Resolution may be submitted to the Conference of the Parties instead of a new draft resolution.
3. If a draft resolution deals with a subject for which a consolidated Resolution has already been adopted, the draft should be presented in a way that revises or replaces the consolidated Resolution.
4. If a draft resolution deals with a subject that is already covered by one or more existing Resolutions that have not been consolidated:
 - the preamble should recall all existing Resolutions on the same subject;
 - the recommendations in the draft should not duplicate any existing recommendation; and
 - if the recommendations in the draft conflict with any existing recommendation, the draft should indicate that the existing contradictory advice is repealed.
5. Unless practical considerations dictate otherwise, draft resolutions should not include:
 - a) instructions or requests to the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, other subsidiary bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term procedure; or
 - b) recommendations (or other forms of decision) that will be implemented soon after their adoption and that will then be obsolete.

These types of decisions, if adopted, will be included in the "Decisions of the Conference of the Parties". There may be some exceptions, such as the resolutions on financial and budgetary matters, which should continue to be adopted and published as resolutions.

Instructions to the Secretariat

6. When the Conference of the Parties adopts amendments to existing Resolutions, a revised version will be published with the agreed changes, and will replace the existing Resolution. As a general rule, the revised version will retain the same number, with the addition of the suffix "(Rev.COPX)", where "X" represents the number of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the changes were adopted.

¹ **Note from the Secretariat - if paragraph 12 of the draft resolution is deleted, Annex 3 will also be deleted**

7. After the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat will publish a document containing all the Decisions that have been made by the Conference of the Parties during the meeting that are short term in effect and are therefore not included in the Resolutions. As far as possible, the list of other Decisions should be sorted according to the body to which they are directed. Where this is not possible, they should be sorted by subject, using the subjects of the Resolutions for guidance.
8. The list of Decisions of the Conference of the Parties should be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to contain all the recommendations (or other forms of decision) that are not recorded in Resolutions and that are still valid. The Secretariat should publish the updated document within one month after each meeting of the Conference.