



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Diplomatic Note 2017/8

Provisional Agenda for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and deadlines for submission of draft resolutions

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of ----- and has the honour to confirm that **the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar COP13) will be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 29 October 2018**. The 55th meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for 21 October and regional meetings for 21 and 22 October.

The theme of COP13 is “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”. The Secretariat and the Government of the United Arab Emirates will soon launch the accompanying logo, and encourage all Parties to use this to raise awareness of the event.

The provisional agenda for COP13, which was approved by the Standing Committee at its 53rd meeting (May-June 2017) through Decision SC53-05, is enclosed with the present Note. A timeline showing the meetings and deadlines leading up to COP13 is also enclosed. The Host Country and the Secretariat are considering the possible inclusion and timing of a high-level segment of the meeting.

The Secretariat draws the attention of Contracting Parties to Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, concerning the submission of draft resolutions. The deadline for submission is 60 days before the final Standing Committee meeting that can approve such draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The 54th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC54) will take place from 23 to 27 April 2018. Therefore, **draft resolutions to be considered at COP13 must reach the Secretariat no later than 22 February 2018**.

However, **the Secretariat encourages Contracting Parties to submit draft resolutions earlier, and preferably by 15 December 2017** so that they can be published in the official languages of the Convention three months before SC54, with the other documentation for that meeting.

This will enable all Contracting Parties to properly consider the draft resolutions in advance of SC54 and in particular during the regional pre-COP meetings to be held in February and March 2018. An early submission of draft resolutions will also enable the Convention's Scientific and

Technical Review Panel to consider them during its 21st meeting, to be held in January 2018, in order to make technical inputs where appropriate prior to SC54.

The Secretariat is preparing guidance to support Contracting Parties in the preparation of draft resolutions. This guidance will be shared with Parties through the Ramsar Exchange email distribution system.

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands respectfully requests that the content of the present Note be communicated to the competent national authorities and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of ----- the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, Switzerland, 18 October 2017

Enclosed:

Provisional agenda for Ramsar COP13

Timeline of events and deadlines up to COP13

