



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

Diplomatic Note 2017/7

Observer status of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the United Nations General Assembly

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of ... and has the honour to refer to developments regarding the standing of the Convention in the United Nations.

The Ramsar Convention does not have observer status in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and so is excluded from participating in United Nations meetings and processes which are relevant to its mission.

For example, participation in the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which reviews the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is limited to stakeholders which have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the UNGA.

To address this situation, Uruguay, in its role as Chair of the Ramsar Standing Committee, has submitted to the President of the UNGA a request to include in the agenda for its 72nd session an item to consider observer status for the Convention.

The 72nd session of the UNGA will open in the week of 12 September. The Assembly's General Committee will consider the requests to add agenda items from 13 September. Requests for observer status are referred to the Sixth Committee, which will report to the UNGA with its recommendations, probably in late December.

On behalf of the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands are invited to support this request through their representation to the United Nations in New York.

A more detailed summary of the situation has been sent to the Heads of Ramsar Administrative Authorities and National Focal Points of the Contracting Parties, along with the explanatory memorandum which accompanied the submission by the Chair of the Ramsar Standing Committee. These documents are both enclosed with the present Note. Contracting Parties seeking further information or clarification are invited to contact the Convention's Secretary General Martha Rojas-Urrego (rojas-urrego@ramsar.org), or Deputy Secretary General Jonathan Barzdo (barzdo@ramsar.org).

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, 30 August 2017