



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

Diplomatic Note 2020/4

Postponement of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands to 26-30 October 2020

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, and has the honour of updating them regarding the scheduling of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention.

The Secretariat informs Contracting Parties that the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58) has been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and will now take place from Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2020, at the headquarters of the Convention Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland.

Taking into account the directives of the Swiss authorities, the expected continuing status of confinements and travel restrictions across the world and the fact that international meetings taking place from June to August have been either cancelled or postponed, the Standing Committee determined that it would not be possible to hold SC58 from 22 to 26 June as initially planned, and has selected the new dates of 26 to 30 October 2020, with meetings of the Committee's subgroups and working groups to be held on Monday 26 October.

The Standing Committee is in the process of identifying those agenda items and issues for which a decision is needed before October, and the best way to manage these issues in the interim period. The Secretariat will in due course inform Contracting Parties of the Standing Committee's conclusions and a summary of the work to be accomplished over the coming months. In addition, a revised agenda for the meeting will be published on the Convention's website, at <https://www.ramsar.org/event/58th-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>, three months in advance of the rescheduled date.

The membership of the Standing Committee and its sub-groups and working groups is published on the Convention's website at <https://www.ramsar.org/about/current-standing-committee-2018-2021-members>. Contracting Parties that are not members of the Standing Committee are welcome to attend as observers.

The Secretariat requests that members of the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties wishing to attend as observers at the meeting complete the preregistration process, for which the deadline has been extended to 17 August 2020. Contracting Parties, other governments and observers which have already preregistered for the meeting do not need to do so a second time. As noted in Diplomatic Note 2020/2 issued on 25 February 2020, for preregistration an official nomination letter signed by the Head of Administrative Authority or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be uploaded indicating the names of the representatives/head of the delegation of the Contracting Party.

The online preregistration system is accessible at: <https://contacts.ramsar.org/register-sc58>. In addition, a personalized link to the preregistration system has been sent to the nominated representatives of Contracting Parties which are members of the Standing Committee.

Contracting Parties are encouraged to promote gender parity in their delegations according to the provisions of Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and Wetlands* in planning their participation in the meeting.

The Secretariat can provide financial support to enable the participation of one delegate representing each of the eligible members of the Standing Committee, upon request.

Contracting Parties which are unable to attend the meeting as observers are invited to communicate their position on issues to the Standing Committee representative(s) of their region or directly to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions and Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties to the Convention the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 23 April 2020

