

DOC. 6.2

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE
ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

6th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Brisbane, Australia : 19-27 March 1996

Annotated Agenda and Programme

Sunday, 17 March 1996

09.00 - 17.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee Sub-Group on Finance

Monday, 18 March 1996

09.00 - 17.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee

14.00 - 18.00 Registration opens

Evening Free for informal (regional) consultations

19.30 - 20.30 Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting

Tuesday, 19 March 1996 (day 1)

10.00 - 12.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee (now Conference Committee)

09.00 - 14.00 Registration (continued)

12.00 - 13.00 Press conference

14.00 - 17.30 Plenary Session

14.00 - 14.30 I Opening of the Meeting

The Conference will be opened by a senior official of the Federal Government of Australia and the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, followed by welcome addresses by officials of the Government of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council, and by an Australian NGO representative

14.30 - 14.40 III Adoption of the Agenda

The Conference will consider document **DOC. 6.1: Draft Agenda**, and adopt the Conference Agenda

- 14.40 - 14.50 IV Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
The Conference will consider document **DOC. 6.3: Rules of Procedure**, prepared on the basis of the Rules of Procedure of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and will adopt the Rules for the 6th Meeting
- 14.50 - 15.00 V Election of the Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons
Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will elect the Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for the meeting
- 15.00 - 15.10 Remarks by the Chairperson
- 15.10 - 15.20 VI Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees
Pursuant to Rules 3(3) and 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will appoint a Credentials Committee of five representatives and may establish any other committees as necessary to enable the Conference to carry out its functions
- 15.20 - 15.30 VII Admission of Observers
Pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, provision is made for the participation in the Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of international agencies or bodies, and national governmental and approved non-governmental agencies or bodies, provided the Parties present do not decide otherwise (**DOC. 6.4: Admission of Observers, to be tabled at the Conference**)
- 15.30 - 17.30 II General statements
Statements by the Australian host authorities, invited partner organizations and the Secretary General of the Convention
- 19.30 - 22.30 **Welcoming function** (by invitation) hosted by the Brisbane City Council at the City Hall
- 17.30 - 18.00 Press briefing
- 18.00 - 19.00 Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting

Wednesday, 20 March 1996 (day 2)

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 12.30 Plenary Session

- 09.00 - 09.30 VIII a) Report of the Convention Standing Committee
The Chairperson of the Standing Committee will present her report highlighting the activities of the Standing Committee during the past triennium (**DOC. 6.5**).
- b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
The STRP member from Eastern Europe will introduce the report on the activities of and recommendations from the Panel (**Annex II, DOC. 6.5**)

c) Introduction of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002

The Chairperson of the Sub-Group on Strategic Planning will introduce
DOC. 6.14: Strategic Plan 1997-2002

- 09.30 - 10.00 IX Report of the Convention Bureau
The Secretary General will present a report on developments under the Convention and on the activities of the Bureau (**DOC. 6.6**)
- 10.00 - 10.15 **Themes for the Future¹: A Special Intervention on "Water Resources Management - A Key Challenge for the 21st Century"**
- 10.15 - 12.30 X Review of implementation of the Convention in each region
The Regional Representatives for Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Neotropics, North America, Oceania, and Western Europe will present regional overviews, compiled in conjunction with the Technical Officers at the Bureau, and based on the information provided in National Reports reviewing the application of the Convention in each region:
DOC.INFO 6.7 (Africa); DOC.INFO 6.8 (Asia); DOC.INFO 6.9 (Eastern Europe); DOC.INFO 6.10 (Neotropics); DOC.INFO 6.11 (North America); DOC.INFO 6.12 (Oceania); and DOC.INFO 6.13 (Western Europe).
(These information documents will be distributed in the three official languages in early February 1996.)
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 17.30 Plenary Session**
- 14.00 - 14.15 **Themes for the Future: A Special Intervention on "Taking Toxins out of Wetlands"**
- 14.15 - 17.30 X Review of the implementation of the Convention in each region
(continued)
- 17.30 - 18.00 Press briefing
- 18.00 - 19.00 Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting
- Evening Free for informal (regional/thematic) consultations

Thursday, 21 March 1996 (day 3)

- 08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

¹ *The Standing Committee proposes that Special Interventions be made in Plenary Session to introduce important wetland themes, not addressed elsewhere in the agenda. These brief interventions could lead to the development of Conference recommendations or resolutions on these issues.*

09.00 - 12.30**Plenary Session**

09.00 - 10.30 X

Review of the implementation of the Convention in each region (continued)
Final discussions based upon the deliberations of the previous day as well as the previous evening's regional/thematic consultations

10.30 - 10.50

**Themes for the Future: A Special Intervention on
"Wetlands in the Coastal Zone and Peatlands - A Key Role for**

Ramsar"

10.50 - 12.30 XI

Strategic Plan, Programme, and Budget

A presentation will be made and a preliminary discussion will be held of documents:

DOC. 6.14: Strategic Plan 1997-2002 (already introduced on day 2)**DOC. 6.15: Triennial Programme 1997-1999****DOC. 6.16: Budget Matters**

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 17.30**Plenary Session**

14.00 - 14.15

**Themes for the Future: A Special Intervention on
"Education and Public Awareness - New Meanings in a New Era"**

14.15 - 17.30 XI

Strategic Plan, Programme and Budget (continued)

Continuation of the discussions on documents DOC. 6.14, DOC. 6.15, and DOC. 6.16

17.30 - 18.00

Press briefing

18.00 - 19.00

Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting

19.30 - 23.00

25th Anniversary Gala Celebration (by invitation) hosted by the Government of Australia at the Brisbane Convention Centre

Friday, 22 March 1996 (day 4)

08.00 - 08.45

Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 12.30**Technical Sessions**

Delegates and observers will have the choice to participate in either:

(A) Wise use of wetlands: National Wetland Policies and other national policies affecting wetlands (**Overview Paper, DOC. 6.7**)

OR (running simultaneously)

(B) Guidelines on interpretation of Article 3.2 of the Convention: "ecological character" and "change in ecological character"

(**Overview Paper, DOC. 6.8**)

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

Monday, 25 March 1996 (day 7)

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 12.30 Plenary Session

09.00 - 09.15 XII Report of Credentials Committee
The Chairperson of the Credentials Committee will present the report

09.15 - 09.30 **Themes for the Future: A Special Intervention on
"MedWet - A Mediterranean Blueprint for Regional Wetland
Cooperation"**

09.30 - 11.00 XIII Reports of Technical sessions
The Conference will consider reports and recommendations of the six
Technical Sessions on 22 and 23 March 1996

11.00 - 12.30 XI Strategic Plan, Programme, and Budget
The Conference will conclude its discussions on documents
DOC. 6.14, DOC. 6.15, and DOC. 6.16

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 17.30 Plenary Session

XIV Consideration of Conference decisions
The Conference will consider draft recommendations and resolutions
submitted in advance and those emanating from the earlier Plenary
discussions and Technical Sessions

17.30 - 18.00 Press briefing

18.00 - 19.00 Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting

Evening Free for informal consultations

Tuesday, 26 March 1996 (day 8)

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 12.30 Plenary Session

XV Oceania Day
Presentations and discussion on wetland issues in the Oceania region
(**Overview Paper, DOC. 6.13**)

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 17.30 Plenary Session

- XV Oceania Day (continued)
- 17.30 - 18.00 Press briefing
- 18.00 - 19.00 Convention Bureau (Conference Secretariat) meeting
- Evening **Farewell party** (by invitation) hosted by the Government of Queensland at the Queensland Art Gallery

Wednesday, 27 March 1996 (day 9)

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 12.30 Plenary Session

XVI Adoption of Conference report and decisions
The Conference report and proposed recommendations and resolutions will be placed before the Conference for adoption

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 17.30 Plenary Session

XVI Adoption of Conference report and decisions (continued)

XVII Election of Members of the Standing Committee
The Conference will elect the Regional Representatives and Alternates who will constitute the Standing Committee of the Convention from the close of the 6th Meeting of the CoP until the close of the 7th Meeting

XVIII Next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
The Conference will consider the timing and venue of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

XIX Any other business

XX Close of the meeting