

**DRAFT**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**  
Brisbane, Australia: 27 March 1996

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Standing Committee Minutes

Present

**MEMBERS**

**Africa**

Senegal (S. Sylla, A. N'diaye)  
Alternate: Uganda (P. Mafabi)

**Asia**

Malaysia (V. Danabalan)  
Alternate: Islamic Republic of Iran  
(M. Rouzbahani, M. R. Salamat)

**Eastern Europe**

Hungary (L. Lakos)  
Alternate: Russian Federation (S. Tveritinov)

**Neotropics**

Uruguay (R. Cal Johnston)  
Alternate: Panama (K. Díaz)

**North America**

The USA (M. Jones, G. Cintron)  
Alternate: Canada (J. McCuaig, C. Rubec)

**Oceania**

Papua New Guinea (G. Kula)  
Alternate: New Zealand (P. Cromarty)

**Western Europe**

Germany (F. Dieterich)

**Host of 1999 Conference**

Costa Rica (M. A. Gonzalez)

**Host of 1996 Conference**

Australia (B. Phillips)

**PERMANENT OBSERVERS**

Switzerland (A. Antonietti)  
UK (G. Donald)  
IUCN (J.-Y. Pirot)  
Wetlands International (M. Moser)

**OBSERVERS**

**Contracting Parties**

Mexico (E. Cubero, H. Berlanga)  
Trinidad & Tobago (N. Nathai-Gyan)

**Invited NGOs**

BirdLife International (D. Pritchard)  
WWF International (B. Gujja)

**SECRETARIAT**

Secretary General (D. Blasco)  
Administrator (J. Tucker)  
Rapporteur (D. Peck)

**APOLOGIES**

France (Alternate, Western Europe)

## **Agenda Item 1**

### **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee**

- **Decision 18.1: On the motion of the USA, seconded by New Zealand, Hungary was elected by acclamation to serve as Chairperson of the Standing Committee for the next triennium. On the motion of Senegal, seconded by Malaysia, Uruguay was elected by acclamation to serve as Vice-Chair for the next triennium.**

## **Agenda Item 2**

### **Permanent Subgroup on Finance**

- **Decision 18.2: Following the decision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, a permanent Subgroup on Finance was established and Australia, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Uganda, Uruguay, and the USA were chosen to serve upon it. The USA was unanimously elected as Chair of the Subgroup.** It will work chiefly by correspondence between meetings of the Standing Committee and meet just before Standing Committee meetings. The Chair of the new Subgroup expressed appreciation to Mr Graham Donald of the UK for his handling of the budgetary discussions during the COP and will seek his advice during the coming triennium.

## **Agenda Item 3**

### **Date of the Next Meeting**

Because it is hoped to coordinate the next meeting of the Standing Committee with a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in the host country, which should involve the Swiss Federal Councillor responsible for the environment as well as ambassadors in Geneva, the date must be reconciled with the Federal Councillor's schedule, as well as with the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 13-23 October) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Buenos Aires, 4 November onward).

- **Decision 18.3: The next Standing Committee meeting was tentatively set for 29-31 October in Gland, with the Subgroup on Finance meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Agenda Item 4**

### **Any Other Business**

#### **The UK**

expressed concern about the large number of recommendations and resolutions received from the floor late in the Conference. These have not had the benefit of much time for reflection, especially when Contracting Parties might wish to seek advice from home, and they serve to overstretch the resources of the STRP, the Bureau, and the Standing Committee without the context of an overall set of priorities. The Committee should seek a means of allowing late initiatives but keeping them to a minimum.

#### **Hungary (the Chair)**

expressed appreciation for the work of the UK as chair of the Subgroup on Finance and invited the UK to continue to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee in an observer capacity. The Chair also expressed her appreciation to the other members of the Standing Committee, and to the Secretary General and the staff of the Bureau, for support throughout the past triennium and for a successful Conference of the Parties.