

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
44th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Bucharest, Romania, 4 July 2012

Decisions of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC44)

SC members present: Cameroon, China, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Romania, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania

Permanent Observers present: Netherlands, Switzerland; IUCN, IWMI, Wetlands International, WWF International

Observer Parties present: Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa, Uganda, United States of America

Agenda item 3: COP11 Provisional Agenda

Decision SC44-1: The Standing Committee determined to forward for the COP's consideration a revised text of the Provisional Agenda (DOC. 1) including the agreed amendments.

Agenda item 4: COP11 Rules of Procedures

Decision SC44-2: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Rev. 1 of DOC. 2 on amendments to the Rules of Procedure, incorporating the amendments proposed for Rules 18 and 26 by the USA and Jamaica.

Agenda item 5: Nomination of the COP11 President and Vice-Presidents

Decision SC44-3: The Standing Committee agreed to nominate for the COP's consideration, for President of the COP, Ms Rovana Plumb, Minister of Environment and Forests of Romania; for Alternate President, Mr Mihail Fâca, State Secretary and President of the National Agency for Environmental Protection; and for one of the two Vice-Presidents, Mr Mohamed Saif Abdulrahman Alafkham Hammoudi (UAE), from the Asia region.

Agenda item 7: Establishment of COP11 Committees: 7.1 COP Committee on Finance and Budget

Decision SC44-4: The Standing Committee determined to recommend to the COP that a COP Committee on Finance and Budget should be created and that it should be composed of the present Subgroup on Finance, one additional member from each Ramsar region, and a second additional member from the European region in light of Finland's chairmanship.

Agenda item 7.2: Committee on COP11 DR1

Decision SC44-5: The Standing Committee decided not to establish a COP Committee on DR1 and determined to leave any such decision to the President and Parties in the

plenary session. If the President needs to establish such a committee, it must be done with its precise mandate provided very clearly.

Agenda item 12 *bis*: The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Decision SC44-6: The Standing Committee agreed to invite a drafting group comprising the USA, Denmark, the STRP Chair, and Dave Pritchard, and any other interested Parties, to develop suitable text on Ramsar's engagement with the IPBES process and make a recommendation to the Conference Committee.

Agenda item 13: Agenda for the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee

Decision SC44-7: The Standing Committee agreed to recommend the SC45 draft agenda found in DOC. SC44-04 and urged the regional meetings to continue their considerations of regional nominations for the new SC.

Decision SC44-8: The Standing Committee urged the Chair and Vice Chair and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance of both the present and incoming Standing Committees to work together as the Transition Committee with reference to the recruitment of the next Secretary General and other matters.

Agenda item 14: Any other business

The SC's intersessional decision on Regional Initiatives

Decision SC44-9: The Standing Committee noted its intersessional decision concerning Regional Initiatives, which was taken electronically and notified as of 20 May 2012, that

The Standing Committee agreed to:

- a) withdraw endorsement of the Nile River Basin Initiative as a Regional Initiative operating under the Convention in 2009-2012,
- b) require reports from all operating initiatives on progress in 2012 and work plans for 2013, including summary financial reports of income and expenditures, to be submitted to the Secretariat by 28 February 2013 in time for the Committee's 46th meeting,
- c) allocate 2012 core budget funds to Regional Initiatives for their operations in 2012 as follows:

Regional centres for:

East Africa (in Kampala)	25,000 CHF
Western Hemisphere (in Panama City)	16,000 CHF

Regional networks for:

West African Coast and Niger river basin	20,000 CHF
High Andean wetlands	10,000 CHF
La Plata river basin	14,000 CHF
Caribbean wetlands	15,000 CHF
American mangroves and reefs	20,000 CHF
Carpathian wetlands	16,560 CHF
Black and Azov Sea coastal wetlands	3,179 CHF

Total 139,739 CHF

Note: These allocations are in addition to the allocations deferred from 2011 to 2012 via Decision SC43-17.

The process for recruitment of the next Secretary General

Decision SC44-10: The Standing Committee agreed that it will seek to expedite the process of hiring the new Secretary General by shortening the timeline for the hiring process and starting date of the new SG and to begin at the 45th meeting of the Committee. Every effort should be made for this to be accomplished prior to the expiration of the present Secretary General's contract.

A period of up to two weeks maximum in overlap between the current and future SGs is preferable for continuity in the Secretariat. To that end, should the hiring of the new SG not be completed prior to the expiration of the present SG's contract, the contract of the latter may be extended to maintain continuity.

The conditions for facilitating the overlap will be worked out by the new Standing Committee through the leadership of the new SC Chair.

Timeline:

SC45 Process begins	Allow 2 months for the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to list and consider the selection criteria, write the vacancy announcement, terms of reference, etc., and organize the procedure.
3 rd -4 th week September 2012	Allow 2 weeks for dissemination of vacancy announcement (Web, e-mail lists, possible advertisements or possible headhunting company).
October - November 2012	Allow 2 months for application period – suggested deadline for online applications of 30 November 2012.
December 2012- January 2013	Allow at least 6 weeks for the shortlisting process. Consider who should carry out this task
February 2013	Calls for interview of short-listed candidates, organization of interview process, collection of references.
2 nd week of March 2013	Interviews (note: SC46 is proposed to be scheduled for 8-12 April.)
3 rd /4 th week of March 2013	Allow 2 weeks for thorough reference checks of selected candidate(s) from recent employers, etc. Consider who will perform these reference checks.
SC46	SC46 makes selection of the new SG.
May – June 2013	Period to allow successful candidate to make the transition from his/her current assignment to Ramsar.

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9 July 2013	Incoming SG begins mentoring period
22 July 2013	Mr. Tiéga's contract ends.
23 July 2013	New SG assumes duties as official SG.