

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)  
48th Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 28–30 January 2015

## Decisions of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 2: Review and adoption of the Provisional Agenda

**Decision SC48-01: The Standing Committee adopted the agenda for SC48 (DOC. SC48-01 Rev.2 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee Provisional Agenda), as amended.**

Agenda item 3: Admission of observers

**Decision SC48-02: The Standing Committee admitted the observers listed by the Secretary General.**

Agenda item 4: Report of the Management Working Group

**Decision SC48-03: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Management Working Group (noting that substantive outputs from the MWG would be addressed later in the agenda of SC48).**

Agenda item 5: Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

**Decision SC48-04: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Strategic Plan Working Group (noting that the substantive outputs of the Group's work would be discussed later in the agenda of SC48).**

Agenda item 6: Progress with preparations for COP12: Report of the Subgroup on COP12

**Decision SC48-05: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Subgroup on COP12.**

**Decision SC48-06: The Standing Committee approved the provisional agenda for COP12 (DOC. SC48-13).**

Agenda item 9: Report of the Secretary General and Secretariat Work Plan for 2015

**Decision SC48-07: The Standing Committee noted the report of the Secretary General and approved the Secretariat's Workplan for 2015.**

Agenda item 10: Report of the STRP Chair

**Decision SC48-08: The Standing Committee noted the report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel.**

Agenda item 11: Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel

**Decision SC48-09: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel (recognising that detailed consideration of the DR and CEPA Work Programme 2016–2021 would take place under a later SC48 agenda item).**

Agenda item 12: Report on Communications

**Decision SC48-10: The Standing Committee noted the report of the Secretariat with regard to Communications.**

Agenda item 13: Report on Partnerships

**Decision SC48-11: The Standing Committee noted the report of the Secretariat with regard to Partnerships.**

Agenda item 8: Report of the Subgroup on Finance

**Decision SC48-12: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Subgroup on Finance, including all of the Subgroup’s recommendations. Specifically, the Standing Committee:**

- approved the Subgroup’s proposed reallocation of the 2014 core budget surplus and confirmed that the status of the reallocations would be reviewed at SC49;
- recorded its thanks to all Parties and partners that had made voluntary contributions in 2014;
- agreed to minor changes in the COP11 approved core budget for a variety of line items (as shown in the Subgroup Chair’s report);
- thanked Uruguay for its prompt transfer of funds for COP12 preparations;
- took note of the need to raise a further CHF 1.2 million to support COP12 delegate travel;
- requested the Secretariat not to launch a call for Small Grants Fund proposals in 2015;
- took note of the current status of Parties’ outstanding annual contributions and encouraged the Secretariat, working with Finance Subgroup members, to continue to take actions to resolve this issue;
- took note of the measures taken by the Secretariat to reduce outstanding contributions;
- decided not to apply punitive measures to Parties with outstanding contributions;
- approved the draft budget scenarios for 2016–2018 for presentation to COP12;
- requested the Secretariat to add a CEPA line and a Strategic Plan line to the draft non-core budget items outlined in Annex 2 of DOC. SC48-20 Rev.1, and to provide background documentation to support all items listed in the non-core budget in advance of COP12;
- requested the Secretariat to provide Parties with a document that outlined the additional costs to each Party under the 2% and 4% scenarios, using the 2016 assessed contributions as the baseline, as well as an organization chart stating employment percentage and grade of position in advance of COP12.

Draft Resolution SC48–03 Rev.1 *Rules of Procedure*

**Decision SC48-13: The Standing Committee approved forwarding DOC. SC48-03 Rev.1 Rules of Procedure, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-18 Rev.1: *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*

**Decision SC48-14: The Standing Committee approved forwarding DOC. SC48-18 Rev.1 *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-17 Rev.1: *Follow up on Resolution XI.1: Languages of the Convention, visibility and stature, ministerial COP segments, and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international entities*

**Decision SC48-15: The Standing Committee approved forwarding DOC. SC48-17 Rev.1 *Follow up on Resolution XI.1: Languages of the Convention, visibility and stature, ministerial COP segments, and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international entities*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-19 Rev.1: *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021*

**Decision SC48-16: The Standing Committee approved forwarding DOC. SC48-19 Rev.1 *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-20 Rev.1: *Budget scenarios for 2016-2018 and Draft Resolution on financial and budgetary matters for the 2016-2018 triennium*

**Decision SC48-17: The Standing Committee approved forwarding DOC. SC48-20 Rev.1 *Budget scenarios for 2016-2018 and Draft Resolution on financial and budgetary matters for the 2016-2018 triennium*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-25: *Evaluating and ensuring the effective management and conservation of Ramsar Sites (submitted by Thailand)*

**Decision SC48-18: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-25 *Evaluating and ensuring the effective management and conservation of Ramsar Sites*, as amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-26: *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention*

**Decision SC48-19: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-26 *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention*, as amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-23: *The Convention's Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2021*

**Decision SC48-20: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-23 *The Convention's Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2021*, as amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-27 Rev.1 *Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands* (submitted by Greece)

**Decision SC48-21: The Standing Committee approved forwarding, without further amendment, Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-27 Rev.1 *Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands* for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-29 Rev.1: *Ramsar City Accreditation* (submitted by Tunisia / Republic of Korea)

**Decision SC48-22: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-29 Rev.1 *Ramsar City Accreditation*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-31 Rev.1: *Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention* (submitted by Denmark and supported by Finland)

**Decision SC48-23: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-31 Rev.1 *Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12, while noting the reservations of Brazil and Islamic Republic of Iran.**

Draft Resolution SC48-21 Rev.1: *Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*

**Decision SC48-24: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-21 Rev.1 *Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-24 Rev.1: *Regional initiatives operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*

**Decision SC48-25: The Standing Committee approved forwarding, without further amendment, Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-24 Rev.1 *Regional initiatives operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention* for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-22 Rev.1: *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention and an Application for IOP Status*

**Decision SC48-26: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-22 Rev.1 *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention and an Application for IOP Status*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-30 Rev. 1: *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future* (submitted by Mexico)

**Decision SC48-27: The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-30 Rev.1 *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.**

Draft Resolution SC48-28 Rev.1: *Wetlands and disaster risk reduction (submitted by the Philippines)*

**Decision SC48-28:** The Standing Committee approved the forwarding of Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-28 Rev.1 *Wetlands and disaster risk reduction*, as further amended by SC48, for consideration at COP12.

Agenda item 16: Other matters

**Decision SC48-29:** The Standing Committee approved the Reports of Days 1 & 2 of SC48 (subject to inclusion of a correction tabled by Denmark), and requested the Chair to review and approve the Draft Report of Day 3 prior to the circulation of the full report to Parties. The Standing Committee also noted the report of the closed session of the Management Working Group (26 January 2015).