

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

49th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1 June 2015

SC49-01bis

49th Meeting of the Standing Committee Draft Annotated Agenda and Programme

Monday, 1 June 2015

09:30-13:00

Venue: Rio de Janeiro C

Important Note: Participants are advised to arrive at the venue with sufficient time for registration before the meeting. Badges will be a requirement for gaining access to the building. Please also note that a passport will be required for registration and at all times for access to the venue.

The Registration Desk will be open from 16:00 to 19:00 on Sunday 31 May and from 08:30 on Monday 1 June.

1. Welcoming remarks by the Standing Committee Chair and the host country
2. Report on the arrangements for COP12 by the Secretary General and the host country
3. General review of the Ramsar COP12 Provisional Agenda (COP12 DOC.1)

Following the issuing of COP12 DOC.1 the Secretariat has finalized topics and anticipated speakers for the plenary “special presentations” on 3-6 June. These are anticipated to be as follows:

3 June

15:00-15:30 Special presentation: *Sustainable use of wetlands in Uruguay*, Alejandro Nario National Director of Environment, Ministry of Housing, Planning and Environment.

15:30- 16:00 Panel Discussion: *“Innovative Public-Private partnerships”* with Danone and Livihoods funds with Laurent Sacchi, Bernard Giraud, Ramsar Secretary General and invited guests.

4 June

10:00-10:30 Special presentation: *Could the SDGs help save wetlands?* Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International.

5 June

10:00-10:30 Special presentation: *Healthy wetlands for sustainable future of our planet*. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema Director Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6 June

10:00-10:30 Special presentation: *International Water Governance: Nothing fishy about it.*
Sibylle Vermont Deputy Head of Section Global affairs, International Affairs Division
Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland.

4. Financial Matters

- a) Review of the status of the reallocations of the 2014 core budget surplus according to Decision SC48-12 including an updated status of the 2014 core budget.
- b) Report of the Secretary General on the use of Reserve Fund to sponsor COP12 delegates.
- c) Proposal of the Secretariat on how to refill the Reserve Fund 2016-2018 and how to adjust the proposed budget scenarios annexed to Draft Resolution XII.1.
- d) Oral report of the Secretariat on the level of Secretariat support to sponsored delegates attending COP and SC-meetings.

5. Report on Ramsar Regional Initiatives and allocation of funding for 2015 (DOC.SC49-02 *Allocation of Ramsar core budget funds to regional initiatives operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention in 2015*)

6. Report on the Action Plan for Communications / CEPA (*COP12 DOC.26 Communications / CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2021*)

7. COP12 Rules of Procedure (Includes report of the Secretary General on how to understand/interpret the Rules of Procedure concerning the power of the Standing Committee to “approve” Draft Resolutions).

8. Nomination of COP12 President and Vice-Presidents

Under Rule of Procedure 25, “At the first session of each ordinary meeting [of the COP], the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, a representative of the same Party, shall preside until the Conference of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.”

Thus in the opening plenary session on the morning of 3 June, Romania will chair the session for Agenda items III, IV and V until the COP12 President is elected.

The COP Rules of Procedure 21 state that “At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President, an Alternate President, and two Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Conference Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Conference Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the posts of President and Alternate President of the meeting.”

The Ministry of the Environment of Uruguay will bring forward proposals for the presidency. The Secretariat will bring proposals for Parties’ consideration for the two Vice-Presidents, taking into account geographical distribution, official languages, and Parties that have held these positions in previous COPs.

9. Appointment of the COP12 Credentials Committee

The COP Rules of Procedure 19 state that “A Credentials Committee composed of one Party from each of the Ramsar regions, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting on the basis of a proposal from the Conference Committee, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for approval.”

The Secretariat regional teams have consulted with pre-registered delegates about their willingness to serve in the Committee and it is anticipated that this matter will also be discussed and as necessary finalized during the regional meetings on 1 and 2 June 2015, before appointments are made under COP12 Agenda item VI on 3 June.

The Secretary General has appointed Mr. Freedom-Kai Phillips legal consultant to the Secretariat to support the Credentials Committee during the COP.

The proposed initial schedule of meetings of the Credentials Committee is as follows:

Wednesday 3 June	16:00-18:00 (Room: Portofino)
Thursday 4 June	08:30-12:30 (Room: Portofino)
Friday 5 June	08:30-12:30 (Room: Portofino)

The Credentials Committee must complete its work no later than 18:00 on Saturday 6 June, in order to be able to prepare its report to plenary under COP12 Agenda item XVI on the morning of 8 June. At its meeting on 5 June the Credentials Committee, if its work should still be unfinished, will determine a schedule of times and location for future meetings to achieve the deadline.

10. Establishment of COP12 Committees and contact groups

10.1 Committee on Finance and Budget

Pursuant to Rule of Procedure 26, the COP may wish to establish, as in previous COPs, a Committee on Finance and Budget.

The Contracting Parties may consider, as is established practice, the core group of this Committee be the members of the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee, namely Burundi, Canada (Chair), Chile, Denmark, Fiji and Republic of Korea.

The Secretary General will serve on this Committee *ex officio*, assisted by the Secretariat’s Finance Officer, Edmond Lefebvre.

Since the Draft Resolution (COP12 DR) on financial and budgetary matters will be introduced in plenary under Agenda item XIII on the morning of Thursday 4 June, the schedule of meetings of the Committee is proposed as follows:

Thursday 4 June	13:15-14:45; 18:30-21:00 (Room: Cancun)
Friday 5 June	13:15-14:45; 18:30-21:00 (Room: Cancun)
Saturday 6 June	13:15-14:45 (Room: Cancun)

Note: Once the Committee has been established under Agenda item VI, it could begin its work prior to Agenda item XIII, in which case it could also meet on Wednesday 3 June, as follows:

13:15-14:45 and 18:30-21:00 (Cancun). Additional meetings could be agreed by the Committee, if required.

10.2 Establishment of contact groups

A number of Draft Resolutions may prove to require consultations among Parties outside of the plenary sessions in order to arrive at a consensus text. It may therefore be necessary for the COP President to establish open-ended contact groups in such cases.

The Contracting Parties would select a chair of the contact group. As far as possible, a senior member of Secretariat staff will be made available to provide support and advice *ex officio* to any contact group established by the COP, and where a contact group is consulting on a Draft Resolution with scientific and technical content, relevant members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) will also be available to provide technical advice, as needed.

Some meeting rooms have been earmarked for contact groups to conduct their work, should they be needed. In order to facilitate participation in contact groups by all Contracting Party delegations who wish to take part, including Parties with small delegations, the Parties will endeavour as far as possible to arrange for no more than two contact groups to be meeting simultaneously.

Times available for any contact groups to meet are as follows:

5 June (08:15-09:45; 13:15-14:45; 18:15-21:00)

6 June (08:15-09:45; 13:15-14:45)

Contact groups will need to complete their work no later than 18:30 on Saturday 6 June in order to give time for the Secretariat to finalise, translate and post any revised Draft Resolutions for circulation to delegates on Monday, 8 June for final plenary approval.

11. Agenda for the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Following the appointment of the Standing Committee 2015-2018 on Thursday, 4 June, under Agenda item XIV, there will be a preparatory meeting of the appointees to the incoming Standing Committee 2015-2018 from 18:30-20:00 on Saturday 6 June.

The COP12 agenda has scheduled SC50 from 18:30-19:30 on Tuesday, 9 June. The meeting of the new Standing Committee will take place in Room: Rio de Janeiro C.

As it is outlined in the agenda of Doc SC50-01, it is a short meeting with four main purposes:

- i) for the new Standing Committee to elect from its members the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee;
- ii) for the Committee to elect one member from each Ramsar region to serve on the Standing Committee's Subgroup on Finance, and from those members to elect the Chair of the Subgroup;
- iii) to agree the date and venue of the Committee's first full meeting in the 2016-2018 triennium.

- iv) To discuss the Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Plan (DOC.SC50-02 *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Plan, to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan for 2016-21*) and the establishment of a task force on the Global Partnership for Wetland Restoration.
12. Thanks to Standing Committee members of the triennium
 13. Any other business (information of UAE on hosting COP13)