

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)  
52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 13-17 June 2016

SC52-01 Add.2

**52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**  
**Preliminary annotations to the agenda and programme**

**Monday, 13 June 2016**

**08:15-09:45 Regional meetings**

**10:00-13:00 Meeting of the Management Working Group**

**Uruguay** (Standing Committee Chair, also serving as Chair of the Management Working Group), **Australia** (SC Vice-Chair), **Senegal** (Chair of the Sub-Group on Finance), **Romania** (former SC Chair for the 2012-2015 triennium), **South Africa** (former SC Vice-Chair), **Canada** (former Chair of the Sub-Group on Finance).

Other interested Contracting Parties: **Fiji, Switzerland, UAE and USA.**

**Chair of the STRP and Acting Secretary General** (*ex officio*).

- a. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
- b. Update on the process of selecting the new Secretary General (**closed session of the MWG**)

Please note regarding closed sessions that, according to Rule 25.1 of the Rules of Procedure, "Contracting Parties that are not voting representatives in the Standing Committee, its subgroups and working groups, or other subsidiary bodies, may attend and participate in all sessions of such bodies, including any session that may be closed to observers from non-Contracting Party countries, International Organizations Partners, or others."

- c. Update from the Acting Secretary General on the eight-point Action Plan for the Secretariat (verbal)

In response to the "Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration" put in place by the Executive Team on 27 November 2015, the Secretariat developed an 8-point Action Plan to respond to the priority actions identified by the Executive Team. The ASG will present a report on the outcomes and results achieved through the 8-point Action Plan, regarding improvements in the administration of the Secretariat.

- d. Update from the Acting Secretary General on staffing matters (verbal)

During the period of the "Interim Arrangements" a number of staff changes have taken place in the Secretariat. The MWG will hear a presentation on the staff changes and the interim staffing structure which has been put in place in order to continue the essential work of the Secretariat, with the concurrence of the Executive Team. In addition, the issues of the re-recruitment of the Regional

Officer-Oceania and the recruitment of a Regional Officer-Asia have been referred to the MWG by the Executive Team for further consideration (SC52-Inf.Doc.07 and Inf.Doc.08).

**13:15-14:45 Meeting of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation  
(Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Kenya, Romania, Seychelles, United States of America)**

**15:00-15:30 Meeting of the Management Working Group (continued)**

- e. Report of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation

**15:30-18:00 Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance  
(Senegal (Chair), Canada (former Sub-Group Chair), Australia, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Suriname, the United States of America)**

- a. Approval of 2015 financial statements (Doc. SC52-18 Rev.1 *Update on Ramsar financial matters*)

Discussion of the 2015 draft closing financial statements, including the balance sheet, the income and expenditure statement, the 2015 budget, with actual figures and variance, and the Auditors' report with its Management Letter and the management response. Proposals will be presented on how the 2015 deficit will be covered.

- b. 2016 budget review including review of consultancy contracts

The 2016 budget and actual expenditure to date will be reviewed. This includes a review of the closure of 2015 consultancy contracts, and new contracts opened in 2016. An up-to-date list of open consultancy contracts will be tabled during the meeting.

- c. Update on payment of annual contributions (SC52-19 *Contracting Parties with outstanding annual contributions*)

The latest list of payments of annual contributions will be tabled during the meeting.

- d. Financial implications of COP12 Resolutions (SC52-09 Rev.1 *Costs of actions to implement COP12 Resolutions in the 2016-2018 triennium*)

This paper compares the total non-core funding needed to fully implement the COP12 Resolutions with the budgeted non-core funding priorities as set out in Resolution 12.1 Annex 3. Some proposals on the currently available non-core funds and prioritization of their use will be presented for further consideration.

**Tuesday, 14 June 2016**

**08:15-09:45 Regional meetings**

**10:00-13:00 Meeting of the Sub-Group on COP13  
(United Arab Emirates (Chair) as host country for COP13, Uruguay as host country for COP12, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Honduras, Romania, Tunisia)**

- a. Report from the host country, UAE

- b. Review of COP13 MOU and the COP13 draft agenda
- c. Review of Secretariat progress in organizing COP13 (SC52-02 *Progress with preparations for COP13*)
- d. Update on COP13 fundraising

**10:00-13:00 Meeting of the Facilitation Working Group** (formerly the Working Group on Improving Management Instruments )  
**(Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, United States of America (Co-chair), Uruguay (Co-chair))**

**15:00-18:00 Meeting of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (if needed)**  
 (SC52-11 Rev.1 *Update on Ramsar Regional Initiatives*)

This Working Group will meet only if strictly necessary, in order to complete the preparation of the report of the Working Group to the Standing Committee, under item 15.b. below.

**15:00-18:00 Meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization**  
**(Colombia, Kenya, United States of America)**  
 (SC52-20 *Report on the review of resource mobilization from all sources, especially as it relates to fundraising*)

**Wednesday, 15 June 2016**

**08:15-09:45 Regional meetings**

**10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

The opening of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee Meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will take place starting at 10am on Wednesday, 15 June 2016. The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Standing Committee, who will provide a statement. The Standing Committee will then be welcomed by a representative of IUCN, as the host organization of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, followed by a statement on behalf of all the International Organization Partners [speaker to be confirmed]. The Acting Secretary General will address the meeting and highlight the main issues before the Standing Committee.

1. Opening statements
  - Chair of the Standing Committee (Uruguay)
  - Director General of IUCN
  - Statement on behalf of the six International Organization Partners (IOPs)
  - Acting Secretary General
2. Review and adoption of the draft agenda (Doc. SC52-01 Rev.1 *Draft agenda and programme* and SC52-Inf.Doc.01 Rev.2 *List of meeting documents*)

The draft agenda (Document SC52-01 Rev.1) together with this annotated agenda (Document SC52-01 Addendum 1) has been approved by the Executive Committee. It was prepared by the Acting Secretary General, under the guidance of the Executive Committee, taking in to account the decisions made at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2015.

3. Admission of observers (SC52-Inf.Doc.09 *List of registered observers*)

The Acting Secretary General will read out the list of those observers whose attendance must be approved by the Standing Committee.

**Decision.** Admission of observers.

4. Approval of terms of reference for a future language strategy for the Convention (SC52-03 *Consultancy support for the development of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention*)

The Secretariat will present, for advice and approval by the Standing Committee, the draft Terms of Reference and the budget for a consultancy to develop a future language strategy for the Convention.

**Decision.** Approval of TOR for a future language strategy for the Convention.

5. Report of the Sub-Group on COP13 (SC52-02 *Progress with preparations for COP13*)

The Chair of the Sub-Group on COP13 will present the issues considered by the Sub-Group, and will also present the provisional agenda for COP13 for approval by the Standing Committee, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure.

**Decision.** Approval of COP13 provisional agenda.

6. Report of the Management Working Group (**in closed session if necessary**)

The Standing Committee Chair, also serving as Chair of the Management Working Group, will present the recommendations of the Management Working Group, the evaluation of the progress of Working Groups, and any items for decision by the Standing Committee, which are not already covered under existing agenda items for SC52.

**Decision.** Any item from MWG not covered under existing agenda items.

**15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

7. Report of the Acting Secretary General (SC52-04 Rev.2 *Report of the Acting Secretary General*)

The Acting Secretary General will present her report of Secretariat activities since SC51, prepared in accordance with the reporting instructions in Resolution XII.4, paragraph 7, as well as the "Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration" as defined by the Executive Team.

8. Report on Secretariat actions arising from SC51 (SC52-Inf.Doc.02 *Secretariat actions arising from SC51 Decisions*)

The Acting Secretary General will present the table of SC51 Decisions, and the corresponding actions taken by the Secretariat, focusing only upon the most important items and those that have not been completed.

9. Report on actions arising from COP12 Resolutions (SC52-Inf.Doc.03 *Standing Committee actions arising from COP12 Resolutions and SC50 Decisions*)

The Acting Secretary General will present the table of COP12 Resolutions and SC50 Decisions, and the Standing Committee actions arising from these, highlighting only those that are not considered under other agenda items during SC52.

10. Update on the status of the Ramsar List (Doc. SC52-06 *Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*)

The Secretariat will present an update on new designations and extensions of Ramsar Sites, the updating of Ramsar site information, the changes in ecological character that have occurred (open Article 3.2 files), and Ramsar Advisory Missions carried out. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the updated report on the status of Ramsar Sites, to advise on activities to be undertaken by regional representatives on the Standing Committee and those Contracting Parties directly concerned, and to instruct the Secretariat as appropriate on specific measures to be taken on the longest-running Article 3.2 files.

**Decision.** Measures to be taken with regard to open Article 3.2 files.

11. Secretariat work plans

- a. Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium (SC52-07 *Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium*)
- b. Work Plan for 2016 (SC52-08 *Secretariat Work Plan for 2016*)

The Acting Secretary General will present the two revised Secretariat work plans, which respond to instructions from the COP12 and other Resolutions, and support the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of and approve the Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium, as well as the 2016 Work Plan, which is extracted from the triennium Work Plan. The 2016 Work Plan also includes the priority actions requested by the Executive Team in the “Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration” of November 2015.

**Decision.** Approval of Triennium Work Plan and 2016 Annual Work Plan of the Secretariat.

12. Costs of actions to implement COP12 Resolutions in the 2016-2018 triennium (SC52-09 Rev.1 *Costs of actions to implement COP12 Resolutions in the 2016-2018 triennium*)

The Acting Secretary General will present the costs of the budgeted non-core items according to Resolution XII.1 Annex 3, as well as the additional non-core items, which together represent the total cost of implementing the COP12 Resolutions. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the estimated costs of the actions that need to be taken to implement each of the COP12 Resolutions, and to advise on possible sources of funding to support their implementation.

**18:00 Reception**

**All delegates are invited to attend a cocktail reception to take place on the Luc Hoffmann Terrace of the Conservation Centre, weather permitting.**

**Thursday, 16 June 2016**

**08:15-09:45 Regional meetings**

**10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

13. Report of the Chair of the STRP (SC52-10 Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and amended draft STRP 2016-2018 Work Plan)

The Chair of the STRP will report upon the consultation process leading to the revision of the STRP Work Plan, present the prioritised tasks, and give an update on the progress of the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The Standing Committee is invited to approve the amended draft STRP Work Plan and consider possible ways of sourcing funding for its implementation.

**Decision.** Approval of STRP Work Plan for the triennium.

14. Ramsar Regional Initiatives

- a. Update by Mr. Li-jeong LEE (Director, Suncheon City Government, Republic of Korea) on the hosting of the Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia (RRC-EA)
- b. Assessment of existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives (SC52-Inf.Doc.04 *Ramsar Regional Initiatives: An assessment of their achievements by 2015*)

The Secretariat will present an assessment of the existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives (this item is for information only).

- c. Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (SC52-11 Rev.1 *Update on Ramsar Regional Initiatives*)

The Chair of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives will report on the recommendations of the Working Group. The Standing Committee will be invited to endorse all the ongoing Ramsar Regional Initiatives as complying with the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015, and to adopt the revised Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives operating in the framework of the Convention 2016-2024.

**Decision.** Endorsement of ongoing Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

**Decision.** Adoption of Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2016-2024.

- d. Regional Initiatives communications strategy (SC52-Inf.Doc.05 *Update on a common communications strategy for Ramsar Regional Initiatives*)
- e. Consideration of new Regional Initiatives (SC52-12 *Proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives*)

The Secretariat will present the new Ramsar Regional Initiatives that have been formed. The Standing Committee will be invited to endorse the proposed new Regional Initiatives for the Amazon Basin, Central Asia, the Indo-Burma region and the Senegal River Basin, as complying with the Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives and operating in the framework of the Convention during the period 2016-2018.

**Decision.** Endorsement of proposed new Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

**13:30-15:00 Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance**

**(Senegal (Chair), Canada (former Sub-Group Chair), Australia, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Suriname, the United States of America)**

- a. Review of financial implications of the decisions of the Standing Committee
- b. Finalization of the Report of the Sub-Group on Finance

This meeting will continue at 18:00 if necessary.

**15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

15. Update on the preparation of the National Report format for COP13 (*SC52-13 Draft format for National Reports to COP13*)

The Standing Committee will hear a presentation by the Secretariat on the proposed new on-line format for National Reports. The Republic of Korea will then present its progress on developing national indicators for implementation of national priority areas within the Ramsar Strategic Plan. The Standing Committee is invited to finalize and approve the National Report Format for issuing to Contracting Parties as soon as possible after SC 52.

**Decision.** Approval of National Report Format for reporting to COP13.

16. Implementation of the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention according to Resolution XII.10 (*SC52-14 Rev.1 Progress report on the implementation of the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention*)

The Secretariat will report upon progress with the Wetland City Accreditation process, and the MOU with UN-Habitat. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee, and to endorse the timetable for the implementation of the process.

**Decision.** Approval of the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee.

**Decision.** Endorsement of the timetable for implementing the Wetland City Accreditation process.

17. Update on the Ramsar Culture Network (*SC52-Inf.Doc.06 The Ramsar Culture Network and its contribution to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*)

The Secretariat will report upon the development of the Ramsar Culture Network, its contribution to the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, its work on “women and wetlands”, and its specific project on “rapid cultural inventories of wetlands”. The key objective of the Network is to strengthen international policy and to increase understanding of the cultural ecosystem services provided by wetlands. From March 2015-March 2018, specific funds are being provided by the MAVA Foundation for the development of the Network. (This item is for information only.)

**18:00 Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance (if needed)**

**Friday, 17 June 2016**

**08:15-09:45 Regional meetings**

**10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

18. Update on the process of selection of the new Secretary General (**closed session**)

The Chair of the Standing Committee will report on the process.

19. CEPA and Secretariat Communications

a. Report of the CEPA Oversight Panel (verbal presentation)

The Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel will present an update on the work of the Panel.

b. Revised CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2018

The Chair of the CEPA Working Group will present the revised CEPA Action Plan for the triennium.

**Decision.** Approval of revised CEPA Action Plan.

c. Report on World Wetlands Day 2016 (verbal presentation)

d. World Wetlands Day Themes for 2017 and 2018 (SC52-17 *World Wetlands Day themes*)

e. Update on the Ramsar web site and the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) site (verbal presentation)

The Secretariat will present reports on the success of World Wetlands Day 2016, the possible themes for World Wetlands Day in the future, and an update on the progress made regarding the development of the Ramsar website and the RSIS. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the proposed theme for World Wetlands Day 2017, and to advise on the further development of the Ramsar website and the RSIS.

**Decision.** Approval of proposed theme for World Wetlands Day 2017.

**15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

20. Report of the Sub-Group on Finance (SC52-18 Rev.1 *Ramsar financial matters 2014/2015* and SC52-19 *Contracting Parties with outstanding annual contributions*)

The report of the Sub-Group on Finance will be presented to the Standing Committee by the Chair of the Sub-Group. All Contracting Parties having made voluntary contributions will be thanked. The Standing Committee will be invited to receive and to note the Report by the Auditors (PricewaterhouseCoopers).

21. Report of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (SC52-20 *Report on the review of resource mobilization from all sources, especially as it relates to fundraising*)

The Chair of the Working Group will report on the work of the group.

22. Report of the Facilitation Working Group (formerly the Working Group on Improving Management Instruments )

The co-Chair of the Working Group will report on the work of the group.

23. Update on partnerships and synergies

- a. Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions (*SC52-15 Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*)

The Secretariat will present a report on progress in implementing Resolution XI.6 on partnership and synergies with the biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs. The Standing Committee is invited to advise as appropriate.

- b. Update by UNEP, and video showing the UNEPLive platform interlinking the SDGs and the Ramsar Convention
- c. Progress on MOUs (*SC52-16 Rev.2 Update on formal agreements and joint work plans of the Ramsar Convention and partners*)

The Secretariat will present a report on the revised and updated MOUs with other partners. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the revised draft agreements presented.

**Decision.** Approval of revised MOUs.

24. Other matters

- Date and venue of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

**Decision.** Date and venue of SC53.

- Adoption of the report of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

**Decision.** Adoption of SC52 Report and Decisions.

- Any other business
- Closing remarks

The Standing Committee Chair will close the 52<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee Meeting at approximately 6pm on Friday, 17 June.