

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 13-17 June 2016

SC52-02

Progress with preparations for COP13

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited:

- to take note of progress since SC51 with preparations for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13), including the signing of the MOU with the Host Country the United Arab Emirates; and
- to approve the dates for COP13.

Background

1. During its 51st Meeting in November 2015 (SC51), Standing Committee took Decision SC51-16 to “[...] establish a subgroup on COP13. The membership of the Subgroup would comprise one member of the Standing Committee from each region, with the host country, UAE, as Chair. Members are: COP13 host country, UAE (Chair), Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Honduras, Romania, Tunisia and Uruguay as host country for COP12.”
2. The UAE and the Secretariat propose that the Subgroup on COP13 review progress on COP13 preparations.

Progress on COP13 preparations

3. The UAE proposes that the venue of COP13 will be the Dubai World Trade Centre which is some 20 minutes from Dubai International Airport.
4. The Acting Secretary General and the Senior Regional Advisor for Asia-Oceania visited the conference venue on 16 January 2016 and discussed issues relevant to the preparation of COP13 with officials from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.
5. In order to avoid any overlap with other global gatherings, and considering the availability of the venue, it is proposed that COP13 take place over nine days, from Sunday 21 October to Monday 29 October 2018. The two initial days (21 and 22 October) will be for a Standing Committee meeting and regional meetings. There will be a day off for delegates and observers on Saturday 27 October to allow the Secretariat to edit and translate the draft final Resolutions.
6. Table 1 below notes possible clashes with other international conferences. The Secretariat will keep in contact with CBD in order to make sure that the dates of the COP are chosen bearing in mind the dates of the Ramsar COP13.

Table 1. Dates for COP13: Checking for possible clashes with other international conferences

Organization	Meeting	Dates of next session	Notes
CBD COP	COP14	2018 (October-November - no dates fixed yet)	There may be a clash as the CBD COPs usually take place during the October-November period and in view of the dates of the UNFCCC COP24 scheduled for 5-16 November 2018).
CMS COP	COP17	2017 (and then 2019)	Biennial cycle, no clash.
CITES COP	COP17	2016 (and then 2019)	If CITES continues with the present triennial cycle of COPs, no clash.
CITES Standing Committee	SC70	8-12 October 2018	No clash.
UNCCD COP	COP12	2017 (and then 2019)	Biennial cycle, no clash.
UNFCCC COP	COP24	2018, 5-16 November	No clash.
World Heritage Convention Committee	Committee (42)	(June-July) 2018	The World Heritage Committee usually meets annually, in June or July. No clash.
Man and the Biosphere Programme	Council 28	June 2016	Meets annually. No information available yet for 2018, but as the Council normally meets mid-year no clash is expected.
UNESCO	General Conference	2017 (and then 2019)	The GC meets every two years. No clash.
UN	General Assembly (UNGA)	25 September- 10 October 2018	No clash.
UNECE Water Convention	MOP	(2018, November ? dates not fixed yet)	Triennial cycle. UNECE Secretariat has taken note of Ramsar tentative dates and will avoid scheduling their MOP at the same time.

Memorandum of Understanding

7. An update will be provided on progress with signing of the MOU between the Secretariat and the UAE.