

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 13-17 June 2016

SC52-19

## Contracting Parties with outstanding annual contributions

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the current status of Contracting Parties' outstanding annual contributions, and to approve the actions proposed by the Secretariat to encourage the payment of arrears, namely:

- Securing explicit written payment plans from as many Parties with arrears of more than three years as possible, focusing upon Parties which have never paid since acceding and those with such longer-term arrears of more than CHF 50,000;
- Reporting progress of each Party to the Standing Committee's 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting; and
- Engaging the new regional representatives on the Subgroup on Finance in this activity.

### Background

1. Article 6.6 of the Convention states: "Each Contracting Party shall contribute to the budget according to a scale of contributions adopted by unanimity of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting of the ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties."
2. Annual (assessed) contributions from Parties are used to finance the Conventions' core budget. Each year, the Secretariat invoices Parties for their annual contributions. Swiss franc invoicing is based upon the approved core budget and the current UN Scale of Assessments. (The current UN Scale of Assessments is adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the actual membership of the Convention at the beginning of the year.) Income is recognized on invoicing and a receivable is recorded, assuming full collection.
3. In Resolution XI.2 paragraph 17, the Conference of the Contracting Parties: "Urges Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties, and requests the Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in excess of three years and work with them to identify appropriate options and actions for addressing the situation and initiating a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each Standing Committee meeting and COP on activities taken and results achieved".
4. Before the end of each financial year, the Secretariat assesses the status of outstanding contributions, based on the amounts and lengths of time outstanding, and records a provision accordingly. Every annual increase in the provision reduces the core funds available to spend.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> No outstanding contributions are written off. The Standing Committee is advised if a Party expressly advises that it does not recognize their outstanding contributions and/or has no intention of paying them.

## 2016 update

5. The position of each Contracting Party as at 29 February 2016 is shown in the table at Annex 1.
6. Core contributions, outstanding contributions and the provision against them have been gradually increasing over time, and their respective totals at the end of each year from 2012 to 2015 are shown in Table 1. As of 31 December 2015, CHF 1,260,000 of annual contributions was outstanding from 2015 and earlier.
7. Table 1 also shows the outstanding contributions at 29 February 2016. It should be noted that 2016 contribution invoices were sent to the Parties on 20 January 2016 with a due date of 20 February 2016. The short time frame from due date of 20 February to 29 February 2016 can explain the significant amount of contributions outstanding for 2016.

**Table 1:** Outstanding contributions and provision for non-collection, 2012-2016 (CHF '000s)

Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	29/02/2016
Assessed contributions from Parties	3,780	3,782	3,779	3,779	3,779
Voluntary contribution from USA	930	1,048	1,066	1,065	1,065
Cumulative outstanding	759	759	943	1,260	4,226
Provision for non-collection	361	385	511	644	TBD <sup>2</sup>

8. As of 29 February 2016, 90 Contracting Parties had paid all their contributions due up to and including 2015. 26 of them had already paid their contributions for 2016. The Secretariat acknowledges the consistent and prompt support of these Parties.
9. The total global amount of unpaid arrears as of 29 February 2016, by the year at which they were first due, is shown at Table 2.

**Table 2:** Outstanding contributions at 29 February 2016 and number of years in arrears

Year due	Years in arrears	Total unpaid contributions (CHF '000s)	Total due at or before each year (CHF '000s)
2008 or before	>8	91	
2009	8	22	113
2010	7	28	141
2011	6	44	185
2012	5	53	238
2013	4	226	464
2014	3	269	732
2015	2	487	1,220
2016	1	3,006	4,226
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,226</b>	<b>4,226</b>

<sup>2</sup> To be determined at 2016 year end.

10. The total arrears due from 2015 or before, as at 29 February 2016, were CHF 1,220,000. Such arrears were due from 78 Parties.
11. The number of Parties in each region with arrears due for more than three years at the end of 2014 and 2015, and the total amounts of those arrears, are shown at Table 3. At the end of 2015, 30 Parties had arrears due for more than three years, to a value of CHF 241,977.

**Table 3:** Contracting Parties with arrears for more than three years, by region

Region	End 2014		End 2015	
	Count	Amount CHF	Count	Amount CHF
<b>Africa</b>	16	134,000	17	147,983
<b>Asia</b>	4	14,000	4	19,203
<b>Europe</b>	1	2,000	1	3,000
<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b>	3	41,000	6	48,586
<b>Oceania</b>	4	27,000	2	23,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>218,000</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>241,977</b>

#### **Proposed Secretariat response**

12. At SC48, through Decision SC48-12, the Standing Committee decided not to apply punitive measures to Parties with outstanding contributions.
13. Nonetheless, the Acting Secretary General believes progress on clearing arrears and fuller engagement and financial commitment by all Parties to the Convention would send positive messages about the governance of the Convention and enable the Secretariat to fully achieve the tasks set by the COP.
14. Priority actions in 2016 will focus on the 41 Parties with arrears of more than three years at the end of 2015. The Secretariat will use Resolution XI.2 paragraph 17 to help in securing explicit written payment plans from as many of these as possible, and will report the progress of each Contracting Party to the Standing Committee's 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It will also engage the new regional representatives on the Subgroup on Finance in this activity.
15. Special efforts will be focused on the eight Parties which have never paid, and the four Parties with arrears of more than three years totalling over CHF 50,000.

## Annex 1 Membership receivables, 2016 and prior, outstanding as at 29 February 2016

Region	Contracting Party	Contributions (CHF)	No of years Outstanding	Region	Contracting Party	Contributions (CHF)	No of years Outstanding	
Africa	Nigeria	51,003	>8	Europe	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7,000	7	
Africa	Mauritania	18,577	>8	*	Europe	Netherlands	153,379	3
Africa	Guinea-Bissau	18,367	>8	*	Europe	Greece	82,814	3
Africa	Congo, the Democratic Republic of	17,846	>8		Europe	Portugal	44,358	3
Africa	Djibouti	14,000	>8	*	Europe	Malta	3,000	3
Africa	Liberia	11,110	>8	*	Europe	Denmark	59,303	2
Africa	Cabo Verde	11,000	>8		Europe	Russian Federation	175,330	2
Africa	Sudan	11,000	>8		Europe	Luxembourg	7,082	2
Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	10,000	>8	*	Europe	Iceland	2,443	2
Africa	Niger	9,192	>8	*	Europe	Moldova, Republic of	2,000	2
Africa	Central African Republic	9,000	>8		Europe	Germany	312,403	1
Africa	Libya	47,642	8		Europe	United Kingdom	218,227	1
Africa	Mali	8,000	8	*	Europe	Italy	183,266	1
Africa	Tanzania, United Republic of	7,000	7		Europe	Spain	119,455	1
Africa	Gambia	5,261	6		Europe	Switzerland	55,743	1
Africa	Cameroon	5,247	6		Europe	Turkey	49,777	1
Africa	Madagascar	5,000	5		Europe	Sweden	46,746	1
Africa	Comoros	4,000	4		Europe	Belgium	43,274	1
Africa	Swaziland	4,000	4		Europe	Norway	41,514	1
Africa	Zimbabwe	4,000	4		Europe	Austria	35,206	1
Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	3,517	4		Europe	Finland	22,297	1
Africa	Burkina Faso	3,512	4		Europe	Israel	21,026	1
Africa	Congo	3,000	3		Europe	Hungary	7,872	1
Africa	Equatorial Guinea	3,000	3		Europe	Ukraine	5,036	1
Africa	Gabon	3,000	3		Europe	Croatia	4,841	1
Africa	Guinea	3,000	3		Europe	Slovenia	4,107	1
Africa	Lesotho	3,000	3		Europe	Lithuania	3,521	1
Africa	Mozambique	3,000	3		Europe	Azerbaijan	2,934	1
Africa	South Sudan	3,000	3		Europe	Belarus	2,738	1
Africa	Tunisia	4,110	3		Europe	Cyprus	2,103	1
Africa	Burundi	2,151	3		Europe	Estonia	1,858	1
Africa	Ghana	2,000	2		Europe	Serbia	1,565	1
Africa	Rwanda	2,000	2		Europe	Albania	1,000	1
Africa	Uganda	2,000	2		Europe	Andorra	1,000	1
Africa	South Africa	17,799	1		Europe	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1
Africa	Algeria	7,872	1		Europe	Georgia	1,000	1
Africa	Egypt	7,432	1		Europe	Liechtenstein	1,000	1
Africa	Morocco	2,640	1		Europe	Monaco	1,000	1
Africa	Benin	1,000	1					
Africa	Botswana	1,000	1			<b>1,728,218</b>		
Africa	Namibia	1,000	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Saint Lucia	13,000	9
Africa	Senegal	1,000	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	9,000	9
Africa	Sierra Leone	377	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	149,623	6
		<b>351,655</b>			Latin America and Caribbean	Cuba	16,525	5
Asia	Uzbekistan	13,055	9		Latin America and Caribbean	Belize	5,000	5
Asia	Yemen	9,000	9		Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	616,833	4
Asia	Syrian Arab Republic	8,295	6	*	Latin America and Caribbean	Guatemala	5,326	4
Asia	Turkmenistan	4,271	4		Latin America and Caribbean	Dominican Republic	7,879	4
Asia	Mongolia	4,000	4		Latin America and Caribbean	Grenada	4,000	4
Asia	Lebanon	7,154	4		Latin America and Caribbean	Barbados	2,751	3
Asia	Bangladesh	3,500	4		Latin America and Caribbean	Costa Rica	4,471	3
Asia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	37,694	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Colombia	26,440	2
Asia	Oman	10,503	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Ecuador	8,738	2
Asia	Iraq	8,629	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Suriname	2,000	2
Asia	Viet Nam	4,886	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Chile	19,959	2
Asia	Cambodia	2,000	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Argentina	43,616	1
Asia	Jordan	2,000	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Peru	6,650	1
Asia	Myanmar	2,000	2		Latin America and Caribbean	Uruguay	3,863	1
Asia	Japan	473,323	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	1,662	1
Asia	China	387,313	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Panama	1,661	1
Asia	India	36,037	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Bahamas	1,000	1
Asia	United Arab Emirates	29,534	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Bolivia, Plurinational State of	1,000	1
Asia	Indonesia	24,644	1		Latin America and Caribbean	El Salvador	1,000	1
Asia	Kuwait	13,936	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Honduras	1,000	1
Asia	Kazakhstan	9,339	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Jamaica	1,000	1
Asia	Philippines	7,885	1		Latin America and Caribbean	Paraguay	1,000	1
Asia	Bahrain	2,151	1			<b>954,998</b>		
Asia	Malaysia	2,032	1		North America	Mexico	45,168	1
Asia	Sri Lanka	1,516	1		Oceania	Papua New Guinea	17,205	9
Asia	Thailand	1,163	1		Oceania	Palau	14,000	9
Asia	Kyrgyzstan	1,000	1		Oceania	Fiji	2,000	2
Asia	Nepal	1,000	1		Oceania	Kiribati	1,546	2
Asia	Tajikistan	760	1		Oceania	Marshall Islands	1,161	2
		<b>1,108,620</b>			Oceania	Samoa	1,000	1
						<b>36,911</b>		
<b>Key</b>				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				
* No payment since acceding to Convention				<b>4,225,569</b>				
				<b>ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				