

Progress with preparations for the 13th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the present document, the oral reports of the Host Country of COP13 and the Secretariat; and
- ii. approve the proposed dates, agenda, theme and logo for COP13.

Background

1. At its 12th meeting (Punta del Este, 2015), the Conference of the Contracting Parties accepted the generous offer of the United Arab Emirates to host the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13).
2. At its 51st meeting (SC51, Gland, 2015), the Standing Committee adopted Decision SC51-16, as follows: “The Standing Committee agreed to establish a Subgroup on COP13 with the following composition: Australia representing Oceania, Cambodia representing Asia, Canada representing North America, Honduras representing Latin America and the Caribbean, Romania representing Europe, Tunisia representing Africa, United Arab Emirates (Chair) as host country of COP13 and Uruguay as host country of COP12. Other Contracting Parties could serve as observers of the Subgroup.”
3. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted Decision SC51-17, as follows: “The Standing Committee noted the proposed dates and venue for COP13 and instructed the Secretariat to check that the dates did not clash with those of other important international environmental meetings.”
4. The Host Country of COP13 and the Secretariat propose that, in preparation for its report to the plenary session of the present meeting, the Sub-group on COP13 review the progress regarding preparations for COP13 and the financial implications.

Progress with preparations for COP13

5. COP13 will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, with the dates and venue to be confirmed shortly, making sure that the dates do not clash with any other important international environmental meetings.

6. It is expected that a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the hosting of the meeting will have been concluded between the Host Country and the Secretary General before SC53.
7. The proposed theme for the meeting, as proposed by the Host Country, is “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”.
8. At the present meeting:
 - The COP13 agenda will be presented for approval;
 - The Host Country will provide an oral update on its progress in the preparation of the meeting, including the logo design and proposed outcomes; and
 - The Secretariat will provide an oral update regarding its activities in preparation for COP13, and the proposed timetable of events in the lead up to that meeting.