

## Financial and budgetary matters Status of annual contributions

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. take note of the status of annual contributions;
- b. note the proposed Secretariat actions for 2018 to continue encouraging the payment of annual contributions;
- c. note the increase in annual contributions receivable and in the annual provision against contributions receivable;
- d. note the current status of the voluntary contributions of Contracting Parties in the African region;
- e. approve the proposed course of action in paragraph 14.

### 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 Convention’s core budget. Each year, the Secretariat invoices Parties for their annual contributions. Swiss franc (CHF) invoicing is based upon the approved core budget and the current UN Scale of Assessments, adjusted on a *pro rata* basis to reflect which States are Parties to the Convention at the beginning of the year.
3. In Resolutions XI.2, on *Financial and budgetary matters*, in 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”.*

## Status of annual contributions as at 31 December 2017

4. The table in Annex 1 presents for each Contracting Party, listed in alphabetical order, the status of annual contributions as at 1 January 2017, all payments received in 2017 and the status of contributions as at 31 December 2017. The format used has been adjusted to be in line with the reporting done under other Conventions.
5. As at 31 December 2017, CHF 967,130 for 2017 had not been received, which corresponds to 19.96% of the 2017 contributions expected (amounting to CHF 4,844,500). For prior years, the total expected but not received as at 31 December 2017 amounted to CHF 919,431. Therefore, the total contributions expected but not received as at 31 December 2017 amounted to CHF 1,886,560, which represents an increase of CHF 609,524 as compared to 31 December 2016, or an increase of 47.73 %.
6. The contributions for 2017 that were not received, or not received in full, as at 31 December 2017 concerned 89 Contracting Parties (as compared to 79 at the end of 2016).
7. In 2018, by 2 February, six Contracting Parties (China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Monaco, Spain and Viet Nam) had paid contributions for 2017 and prior years, totalling CHF 329,385, as well as CHF 13,936 for 2018. This reduced the total unpaid for 2017 and prior years to CHF 1,557,175. The increase in non-received contributions compared to 31 December 2016 was thus 21.94%.
8. Table 1 below shows the status of contributions from 2013 to 2017 and the related provision for non-collection of contributions. Owing to the increase in contributions receivable over the years (with only 2016 marking a reduction compared to the previous year), the provision for the non-collection of contributions had to be increased by CHF 66,710 to CHF 720,160 at the end of 2017.

*Table 1: Status of contributions and provision for non-collection, 2013-2017(CHF '000)*

Description	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Assessed contributions from Contracting Parties	3,782	3,779	3,779	3,779	3,779
Voluntary contribution from United States of America	1,048	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066
Cumulative contributions not received	759	943	1,349	1,277	1,886
Provision for non-collection (i.e. provision against contributions not received)	385	483	691	653	720

9. The provision for 2017 was calculated in accordance with the methodology used by other Conventions as approved in Decision SC53-36, with 20% provision on contributions not received within two years, 60% on contributions not received within three years, 80% on contributions not received within four years and 100% on contributions not received for five years or more.
10. As at 31 December 2017, 113 Contracting Parties had paid all their contributions up to and including 2016 (as compared to 90 Parties that, at the end of 2016, had paid up to the end of 2015). Out of these, 80 Contracting Parties had also paid their full contributions for 2017. Nine

Contracting Parties had already paid in 2017 towards their contributions for 2018, amounting to a total of CHF 386,918. The Secretariat acknowledges, with appreciation, the consistent and prompt payment of these Contracting Parties.

11. A comparison of the balances of contributions per year as at 31 December 2017 compared to 31 December 2016 is shown in Table 2 below. It shows that, in 2017, only CHF 8K have been received for 2013 or prior years whilst CHF 283K remain outstanding for that period. CHF 350,000 were received for the 2014-2016 period. Table 2 also shows the change of contribution balances over the years, resulting in an overall increase of CHF 609,000.

*Table 2: Contribution balances 31 December 2017 compared to 31 December 2016*

Year	Contribution balance (CHF '000) 31/12/2016	Contribution balance (CHF '000) 31/12/2017	Change (CHF '000) (2016-2017)
2009 or before	102	100	-2
2010	26	26	0
2011	42	42	0
2012	48	45	-3
2013	73	70	-3
2014	114	80	-34
2015	327	261	-66
2016	545	295	-250
2017		967	967
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>609</b>

#### **Ramsar Secretariat actions in 2017 and proposed actions for 2018**

12. In accordance with the actions noted in Decision SC53-35, the Secretariat has continued to engage with Contracting Parties on contributions not received, especially those older than three years at the end of 2017, including the Contracting Parties that have never paid any contribution.
13. Also in accordance with Decision SC53-35, and in line with other Conventions, the Secretariat has started to publish the updated status of contributions on the Ramsar Convention website on a monthly basis<sup>1</sup>, in the same format as the status of contributions presented in Annex 1.
14. The Secretariat proposes to continue with the same approach in 2018, and to make contact with the permanent missions in Geneva of Parties that have paid no contribution for three years or more. In addition, given the increase in unpaid contributions, the Secretariat proposes to follow the same approach as some other Conventions by recommending that the Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee reach out to the countries in their regions to urge them to pay their contributions.

#### **African voluntary contributions**

15. At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, through Resolution X.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, paragraph 23, the Contracting Parties of Africa assessed with an annual

<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/status\\_contributions\\_31dec2017\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/status_contributions_31dec2017_e.pdf); the table is also accessible from <https://www.ramsar.org/about/the-ramsar-convention-secretariat>.

contribution at less than CHF 2,000 agreed to increase their payments to that level. The difference between CHF 2,000 and their assessed contribution was to be in the form of a voluntary contribution specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives.

16. The voluntary contributions received from the Africa region during the period from 2009 to 2017 are shown in Annex 2. Resolution X.2 was approved nine years ago and, in the intervening period, 23 out of 44 Contracting Parties (52%) have made voluntary contributions, totalling CHF 112,826. Of that amount, CHF 14,275 was registered as income from voluntary contributions in 2017. In total, this represents the receipt of 30% of the possible voluntary contributions foreseen in the Resolution.
17. Annex 2 shows that 4 out of 44 (or 9%) of the concerned Contracting Parties provided the full voluntary contributions from 2009 to 2017.

## Annex 1

### Status of Assessed Contributions as at 31 December 2017 (in CHF)

Contracting Party	Status as of 1 January 2017			Received in 2017			Status as of 31 December 2017		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Albania	-	1,000	133	-	867	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	7,872	-	-	7,872	-	-	-	-
Andorra	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	9,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	9,000	1,000	-
Argentina	43,616	43,616	-	43,616	-	-	-	43,616	-
Armenia	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	114,272	114,272	-	-	114,272	-	-	114,272
Austria	-	35,206	-	-	35,206	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	2,934	-	-	2,934	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Bahrain	-	2,151	-	-	-	-	-	2,151	-
Bangladesh	3,500	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,500	1,000	-
Barbados	2,751	1,000	-	2,751	1,000	-	-	-	-
Belarus	-	2,738	-	-	2,738	-	-	-	-
Belgium	-	43,274	-	-	43,274	-	-	-	-
Belize	5,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,000	1,000	-
Benin	-	1,000	87	-	913	-	-	-0	-
Bhutan	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Botswana	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Brazil	330,117	186,933	-	-	-	-	330,117	186,933	-
Bulgaria	-	2,200	-	-	2,200	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	2,999	1,000	-	1,626	-	-	1,373	1,000	-
Burundi	2,151	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,151	1,000	-

Contracting Party	Status as of 1 January 2017			Received in 2017			Status as of 31 December 2017		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Cabo Verde	11,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,000	1,000	-
Cambodia	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Cameroon	5,247	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,247	1,000	-
Canada	-	142,828	-	-	142,828	-	-	-	-
Central African Republic	9,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	9,000	1,000	-
Chad	-	1,000	4,845	-	-	-	-	-	3,845
Chile	-	19,510	1,887	-	17,623	-	-	-	-
China	-	387,313	-	-	-	-	-	387,313	-
Colombia	28,385	15,745	-	28,385	-	-	-	15,745	-
Comoros	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-
Congo	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Costa Rica	-	2,298	488	-	1,810	147	-	-	147
Côte d'Ivoire	3,517	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,517	1,000	-
Croatia	-	4,841	-	-	4,841	-	-	-	-
Cuba	10,147	3,178	-	-	-	-	10,147	3,178	-
Cyprus	-	2,103	-	-	2,103	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	16,821	18,837	-	-	-	-	-	2,016
Democratic Republic of the Congo	17,846	1,000	-	-	-	-	17,846	1,000	-
Denmark	-	28,556	-	-	28,556	-	-	-	-
Djibouti	14,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	14,000	1,000	-
Dominican Republic	4,754	2,249	-	-	-	-	4,754	2,249	-
Ecuador	6,304	3,276	-	-	-	-	6,304	3,276	-
Egypt	7,432	7,432	-	7,432	-	-	-	7,432	-
El Salvador	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Equatorial Guinea	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Estonia	-	1,858	-	-	1,858	-	-	-	-
Fiji	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Finland	-	22,297	-	-	22,297	-	-	-	-
France	-	237,590	237,590	-	-	237,190	-	-	237,190

Contracting Party	Status as of 1 January 2017			Received in 2017			Status as of 31 December 2017		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Gabon	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Gambia	5,261	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,261	1,000	-
Georgia	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Germany	-	312,403	-	-	312,403	-	-	-	-
Ghana	-	1,000	21	-	-	-	-	979	-
Greece	82,814	23,030	-	82,814	23,030	-	-	-	-
Grenada	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-
Guatemala	-	1,369	-	-	-	-	-	1,369	-
Guinea	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Guinea-Bissau	18,367	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,367	1,000	-
Honduras	-	1,000	107	-	-107	-	-	1,000	-
Hungary	-	7,872	5,089	-	2,783	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	1,125	-	-	1,125	-	-	-	-
India	36,037	36,037	-	36,037	36,037	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	24,644	-	-	24,644	-	-	-	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	8,235	23,030	-	-	-	-	8,235	23,030	-
Iraq	-	6,308	-	-	-	-	-	6,308	-
Ireland	-	16,380	20,379	-	-	16,380	-	-	20,379
Israel	1,701	21,026	-	1,701	21,026	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	183,266	-	-	183,266	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Japan	-	473,323	-	-	473,323	-	-	-	-
Jordan	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Kazakhstan	-	9,339	-	-	9,339	-	-	-	-
Kenya	-	1,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Kiribati	1,545	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,545	1,000	-
Kuwait	-	13,936	-	-	13,936	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-

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	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Latvia	-	2,445	-	-	2,445	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	7,154	2,249	-	4,299	-	-	2,855	2,249	-
Lesotho	2,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Liberia	11,110	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,110	1,000	-
Liechtenstein	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	3,521	-	-	3,521	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	3,139	3,129	-	3,139	3,129	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	5,000	1,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Malawi	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Malaysia	2,032	15,745	-	2,032	15,745	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	1,000	8,055	-	-	-	-	-	7,055
Malta	3,000	1,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Marshall Islands	1,161	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,161	1,000	-
Mauritania	18,577	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,577	1,000	-
Mauritius	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	70,167	-	-	70,167	-	-	-	-
Monaco	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Mongolia	1,500	1,000	-	1,500	1,000	-	-	-	-
Montenegro	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Morocco	-	2,640	-	-	2,640	-	-	-	-
Mozambique	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Myanmar	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Namibia	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Nepal	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Netherlands	80,914	72,465	-	80,914	72,465	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	13,104	-	-	13,104	-	-	-	-
Nicaragua	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Niger	9,192	1,000	-	-	-	-	9,192	1,000	-
Nigeria	51,003	10,219	-	-	-	-	51,003	10,219	-
Norway	-	41,514	-	-	41,514	-	-	-	-
Oman	4,978	5,525	-	-	5,525	-	4,978	-	-

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	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Pakistan	-	4,547	1,755	-	-	-	-	2,792	-
Palau	14,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	14,000	1,000	-
Panama	-	1,662	-	-	1,662	-	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Paraguay	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Peru	-	6,650	-	-	6,650	831	-	-	831
Philippines	-	8,068	183	-	8,068	-	-	-	183
Poland	-	41,122	41,122	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	25,800	19,168	-	-	-	-	25,800	19,168	-
Republic of Korea	-	99,701	-	-	99,701	-	-	-	-
Republic of Moldova	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Romania	-	8,997	2,032	-	6,965	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation	24,336	150,994	-	24,336	126,658	-	-	24,336	-
Rwanda	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000	-
Saint Lucia	13,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	12,000	1,000	-
Samoa	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Sao Tome and Principe	10,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	1,000	-
Senegal	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Serbia	-	1,565	-	-	1,565	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	377	1,000	-	-	-	-	377	1,000	-
Slovakia	-	7,824	521	-	7,303	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	4,107	-	-	4,107	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	17,799	-	-	17,799	-	-	-	-
South Sudan	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Spain	-	119,455	-	-	-	-	-	119,455	-
Sri Lanka	-	1,516	-	-	1,516	-	-	-	-
State of Libya	47,642	6,112	-	-	-	-	47,642	6,112	-
Sudan	11,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,000	1,000	-
Suriname	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000	-
Swaziland	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-

Contracting Party	Status as of 1 January 2017			Received in 2017			Status as of 31 December 2017		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2017	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2017	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2017	Received for Future Years
Sweden	-	46,746	-	-	46,746	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	-	55,743	-	-	55,743	-	-	-	-
Syrian Arab Republic	8,295	1,174	-	8,295	-	-	-	1,174	-
Tajikistan	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	14,229	-	-	14,229	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	1,000	-
Togo	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Trinidad and Tobago	1,662	1,662	-	-	-	-	1,662	1,662	-
Tunisia	2,741	1,369	-	1,368	-	-	1,373	1,369	-
Turkey	-	49,777	-	-	49,777	-	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	4,271	1,271	-	-	-	-	4,271	1,271	-
Uganda	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Ukraine	-	5,036	-	-	5,036	-	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	-	29,534	-	-	29,534	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	218,227	-	-	218,227	-	-	-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	7,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	1,000	-
United States of America	-	1,065,799	-	-	1,065,799	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	3,863	3,863	-	2,524	-	-	1,339	3,863	-
Uzbekistan	13,055	1,125	-	-	-	-	13,055	1,125	-
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	149,622	27,920	-	-	-	-	149,622	27,920	-
Viet Nam	4,886	2,836	-	2,836	-	-	2,050	2,836	-
Yemen	9,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	9,000	1,000	-
Zambia	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Zimbabwe	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,277,036</b>	<b>4,844,500</b>	<b>460,404</b>	<b>357,605</b>	<b>3,435,065</b>	<b>368,820</b>	<b>919,431</b>	<b>967,130</b>	<b>386,918</b>

## Annex 2

### Voluntary Contributions from Africa Region Contracting Parties

Contracting Party	Voluntary Contributions paid up to 31/12/2016	Voluntary Contributions paid for / in 2017	Total Voluntary Contributions received up to 31/12/2017	Total Potential Voluntary Contributions 2009-20017	Percentage of Total Potential Voluntary Contributions Received
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Benin	8,000	1,000	9,000	9,000	100%
Botswana	6,000		6,000	9,000	67%
Burkina Faso	0		0	9,000	0%
Burundi	1,000		1,000	9,000	11%
Cameroon	0		0	9,000	0%
Cape Verde	0		0	9,000	0%
Central African Republic	0		0	9,000	0%
Chad	8,000	1,000	9,000	9,000	100%
Comoros	4,000		4,000	9,000	44%
Congo	3,246		3,246	9,000	36%
Congo, the Democratic Republic of	0		0	9,000	0%
Côte d'Ivoire	4,000		4,000	9,000	44%
Djibouti	0		0	9,000	0%
Equatorial Guinea	0		0	9,000	0%
Gabon	1,625		1,625	9,000	18%
Gambia	0		0	9,000	0%
Ghana	5,000		5,000	9,000	56%
Guinea	5,000		5,000	9,000	56%
Guinea-Bissau	0		0	9,000	0%
Kenya	8,000	1,000	9,000	9,000	100%
Lesotho	3,795		3,795	9,000	42%
Liberia	0		0	9,000	0%
Madagascar	725	7,275	8,000	9,000	89%
Malawi	5,929		5,929	9,000	66%
Mali	8,000	1,000	9,000	9,000	100%
Mauritania	0		0	9,000	0%
Morocco	3,000		3,000	9,000	33%
Mozambique	3,000		3,000	9,000	33%
Namibia	6,000	1,000	7,000	9,000	78%
Niger	0		0	9,000	0%
Rwanda	3,000		3,000	9,000	33%
Sao Tome and Principe	0		0	9,000	0%

Contracting Party	Voluntary Contributions paid up to 31/12/2016	Voluntary Contributions paid for / in 2017	Total Voluntary Contributions received up to 31/12/2017	Total Potential Voluntary Contributions 2009-20017	Percentage of Total Potential Voluntary Contributions Received
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Senegal	0	2,000	2,000	9,000	22%
Seychelles	4,000		4,000	9,000	44%
Sierra Leone	0		0	9,000	0%
South Sudan	0		0	4,000	0%
Sudan	0		0	9,000	0%
Swaziland	0		0	5,000	0%
Tanzania, United Republic of	0		0	9,000	0%
Togo	1,191		1,191	9,000	13%
Tunisia	0		0	4,449	0%
Uganda	5,840		5,840	9,000	65%
Zambia	200		200	9,000	2%
Zimbabwe	0		0	5,000	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,551</b>	<b>14,275</b>	<b>112,826</b>	<b>378,449</b>	<b>30%</b>