

## **Draft resolution on gender and wetlands**

*Submitted by Colombia*

### **Action requested:**

- The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the attached Draft Resolution for consideration by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **Introduction**

#### *Information for Standing Committee*

Worldwide, millions of women live in or near wetlands and protected areas. Women's traditional knowledge, use and management of wetlands as a source of food, livelihood, and apothecary, may be different to those of their male counterparts.

Women also have vital knowledge about water resources, including water quality and reliability, and are key to the success of wetlands development protection. Yet women's knowledge and roles in wetlands management is still largely unrecognized, and social and economic norms often reinforce unequal participation and decision-making.

Moreover, women also have different access to and control over natural resources and information about how protection categories and norms shape the way in which wetlands are managed, affecting their rights and customary uses of wetland products and services. For these reasons, ignoring issues related to how women and men interact and manage wetlands may prevent effective and efficient conservation, sustainable use and equitable access to benefits of these protected areas.

The use of a gender approach in dealing with the socio-environmental dynamics of wetlands can open avenues and opportunities for achieving equality between women and men by considering their unique interests, demands and expectations. A gender approach to wetland conservation and management also considers the ethnic-cultural characteristics of the population and emphasizes affirmative actions to address women's disadvantageous position and condition in many societies.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands through its 2002 Resolution VIII.19 has acknowledged the need to take gender and social issues into account when managing wetlands. With its 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties approaching, the Convention is in a unique position to review and update the manner in which gender equality and women's empowerment are treated within its framework. Learning from similar processes, particularly those from the Rio Conventions, this draft resolution calls for the

establishment of a process to increase awareness among contracting Parties on the linkages between gender equality and wetland management, while encouraging them to report on their ongoing actions.

*Financial implications of implementation*

Paragraph (number and key part of text)	Action	Cost (CHF)

**Draft Resolution XIII.xx**

**Gender and wetlands**

1. *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes that women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledges that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
2. *Emphasising* the importance of coherence between gender-responsive climate and biodiversity policies and the balanced participation of women and men in the implementation of the Convention.
3. *Highlighting* that the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification have recognized the importance of addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment in their implementation;
4. *Noting* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their related outcomes, among others.
5. *Having in mind* the agreed conclusions from the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, entitled "challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls"
6. *Recognizing* that women play a crucial role in the provision, management and safeguarding of wetland resources, especially water, as well as in conserving the culture, folklore, music, mythology, oral traditions, customs, and traditional knowledge around wetlands, among others, and that special attention should be paid to the specific needs of women because they are disproportionately affected by inadequate water facilities;
7. *Further recalling* that the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024<sup>1</sup> anticipates the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup> will have on wetlands and that the plan should be

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<sup>1</sup> The 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2015). At: [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2016\\_2024\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Para. 15, 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

implemented as a contribution to the other internationally agreed environmental goals and targets;<sup>3</sup>

8. *Acknowledging* that the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024, in its paragraph 38, encourages contracting Parties to synergize their efforts aimed at implementing the Convention with measures that take to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, among other global multilateral environmental agreements, as they deem appropriate.

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

9. Encourages contracting Parties to mainstream a gender perspective in their implementation of the Convention, in particular with respect to their implementation of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and the Programme on Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024, considering the crucial role of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of wetlands, paying special attention to their specific needs;
10. Request the Conference of the Parties to include, as part of the midterm review process of the Strategic Plan, ways in which Parties might mainstream a gender perspective in their implementation of the Convention;
11. Encourages also the Secretariat to support contracting Parties mainstreaming a genderperspective in the Strategic Plan of the Convention, as well as in the Programme on Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024, including through financial and non-financial resources;
12. Request the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to analysed the benefits to wetland management and wise use that derive from taking a gender perspective, and developed guidance on how to integrated gender issues in the implementation of the Convention, and submit proposals to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;
13. Invites Contracting Parties, in collaboration with the Secretariat to:
  - (a) Train and awareness-raising for all delegates on issues related to gender and wetlands;
  - (b) Strengthen the skills and capacity of all delegates for equal participation of women and men in RAMSAR meetings through training on, inter alia, negotiation skills, the drafting of legal documents and strategic communication
14. Requests the Secretariat to conduct mandatory training for all staff regarding gender equality and mainstreaming and designate a staff member as the Secretariat's lead expert on gender issues responsible for assisting all Parties on this topic, providing additional training as needed to enhance his/her expertise.;
15. Requests the Secretariat to explore means by which it can generate aspirational goals consistent with the UN Secretary General's System-wide strategy on gender parity and report back to the Parties at COP-14 on this effort.

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<sup>3</sup> Para. 37, 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

16. Invites contracting Parties to consider increasing the participation and representation of women in their national delegations and as chairs/facilitators of formal and informal negotiating groups;
17. Encourages contracting Parties to give due consideration to a balanced gender representation among representatives within each region as well as in the bodies of the Convention,
18. Encourages contracting Parties to include, where applicable, sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in their national reports, including information on differentiated impacts and benefits accrued by women and men as a result of wetland management and conservation actions, taking into account Sustainable Development Goals information;
19. Request the Secretariat to support contracting parties, upon request, to strengthen their national statistic systems to improve the incorporation of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in their national reports; and,
20. Request the Secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on the gender relevant and sex-disaggregated information provided by contracting Parties in national reports, including the actions of the Secretariat in this regard.