

Decisions of the 54th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

Decision SC54-01: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional agenda.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the provisional working programme

Decision SC54-02: The Standing Committee adopted the revised provisional working programme (Doc. SC54-3 Rev.2 and its addendum) as well as the proposed working method.

Agenda item 4: Admission of observers

Decision SC54-03: The Standing Committee admitted the observers listed in document Doc. SC54-4 Rev.1.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Management Working Group

Decision SC54-04: The Standing Committee accepted the report of the Management Working Group and endorsed its recommendations.

Agenda item 11: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA):
11.1: Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel
11.2: Report of the CEPA Implementation Working Group

Decision SC54-05: The Standing Committee approved the reports of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel and the Chair of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation.

Agenda item 17: Ramsar Convention Resource Mobilization Work Plan

Decision SC54-06: The Standing Committee noted the Resource Mobilization Work Plan and confirmed that it should be further developed by the Secretariat, taking the Standing Committee's comments and COP13 decisions into account, and a revised text tabled for consideration by SC57.

Agenda item 15: Observer status in the United Nations General Assembly

Decision SC54-07: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat, in conjunction with interested Parties, to continue exploring options for gaining access to meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and related high-level fora.

Agenda item 21.1: Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services (Submitted by the Republic of Korea – document Doc. SC54-21.1)

Decision SC54-08: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document Doc. SC54-21.1 for consideration at COP13, with revisions reflecting the amendments proposed.

Agenda item 21.11: Draft resolution on World Wetlands Day (submitted by the United Arab Emirates – document Doc. SC54-21.11)

Decision SC54-09: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document Doc. SC54-21.11 for consideration at COP13, with revisions reflecting the amendments proposed.

Agenda item 12: Work plan of the Secretariat for 2018 and proposed format for 2019-2021

Decision SC54-10: The Standing Committee took note of and approved the Secretariat's 2018 work plan and endorsed the proposed format of the Secretariat's work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium, subject to account being taken of the points raised by Parties.

Agenda item 18.3: Preparation of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Process for review of draft resolutions (document Doc. SC54-18.3)

Decision SC54-11: The Standing Committee: took note of document Doc. SC54-18.3 *Preparation of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties – Process for review of draft resolutions*; invited Parties with comments on the document to communicate these in writing to the Secretariat; and decided that the Committee should review a revised version at SC55, taking any such comments into account.

Agenda item 26: World Wetlands Day 2018, 2019 and 2020 (document Doc. SC54-26)

Decision SC54-12: The Standing Committee decided that the themes for World Wetlands Day during the 2019-2021 triennium would be:

- **2019: Wetlands and climate change**
- **2020: Wetlands and biodiversity**
- **2021: Wetlands and water**

Agenda item 27: The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards 2018 (partly in closed session)

Decision SC54-13: The Standing Committee decided that the 2018 Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards would be presented as follows:

- **The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Wise Use: Mr Eduardo de Miguel, Fundación Global Nature, Spain**
- **The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Innovation: Pronatura, Asociación Civil, Mexico**
- **The Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetland Champion: Youth Climate Action Network, Samoa**
- **The Ramsar Merit Award: Mr Ma Guangren, China.**

Agenda item 28: Wetland City Accreditation (partly in closed session)

Decision SC54-14: The Standing Committee decided that the report of the Independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation would be taken forward for further consideration and announcement at COP13, and that the Wetland City Accreditation list would be under embargo until then.

Agenda item 29: Dates and venues of the 55th and 56th meetings

Decision SC54-15: The Standing Committee decided that its 55th meeting would be held on 21 October 2018 from 10:00 to 13:00, and its 56th meeting on 29 October 2018 from 18:30 to 19:30, both in the Festival Arena, Dubai.

Agenda item 9: Report of the Facilitation Working Group
Agenda item 21.8: Draft resolution on Improving the efficiency of structure and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)
Agenda item 10: Roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee

Decision SC54-16: The Standing Committee decided to submit both the draft resolutions in documents Doc. SC54-9 and Doc. SC54-21.8, as originally drafted, for consideration at COP13. The Standing Committee noted that both proposals were based on the recognition of a need to review the mechanism for providing governance and guidance for the Convention. The Committee discussed both proposals without reaching a conclusion on how to bring them together. The Committee encouraged interested Parties to continue multilateral discussions on this issue in preparation for COP13 to seek mutually agreeable solutions to achieve a common goal. The Committee also noted that COP 13 could benefit from considering these two draft resolutions together.

Decision SC54-17: The Standing Committee decided to forward the text of the draft resolution contained in document Doc. SC54-10 *Roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee*, as drafted, for consideration at COP13.

Agenda item 13: Language strategy – document SC54-Com.1

Decision SC54-18: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.1 for consideration at COP13, without further substantive amendment.

Agenda item 21.2: Draft resolution on cultural values, indigenous peoples and local communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands – document SC54-Com.2

Decision SC54-19: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.2 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendment tabled by Senegal.

Agenda item 21.3: Draft resolution on conservation and management of small wetlands – document SC54-Com.4

Decision SC54-20: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.4 for consideration at COP13, without further substantive amendment.

Agenda item 21.7: Draft resolution on wetlands in West Asia – document SC54-Com.5

Decision SC54-21: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.5 for consideration at COP13, without further substantive amendment, noting that some Parties would raise concerns during COP13.

Agenda item 21.9: Draft resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems – document SC54-Com.6

Decision SC54-22: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.6 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendments tabled by Brazil, Switzerland (on behalf of Finland) and the United States of America.

Agenda item 8: Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention – document SC54-Com.8

Decision SC54-23: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.8 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendment tabled by France (on behalf of Finland), and accommodation of South Africa's proposal on resource mobilization in the draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters (SC54-Com.7).

Agenda item 21.16: Draft resolution on gender and wetlands – document SCC54-Com.9

Decision SC54-24: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.9 for consideration at COP13, without further substantive amendment.

Agenda item 21.10: Draft resolution on the enhanced protection and management of sea turtle breeding, feeding and nursery areas and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites – document SC54-Com.10

Decision SC54-25: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.10 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion in square brackets of the amendments listed by France as not having consensus support, and removal of the attribution of amendments.

Agenda item 7: Report of the Subgroup on Finance

Decision SC54-26: The Standing Committee approved the Report of the Subgroup on Finance and the recommendations it contained.

Agenda item 7: Financial and budgetary matters: Budget scenarios for 2019-2021 and draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters – documents SC54-Com.7 (7.3) and SC54-Com.7 Addendum (version with annexed tables)

Decision SC54-27: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.7 and its Addendum for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendments tabled by South Africa and Brazil.

Agenda items 21.6 and 21.15: Draft resolution on wetlands, peace and security – document SC54-Com.3 Rev.1

Decision SC54-28: The Standing Committee noted that a number of Parties had concerns about the draft resolution contained in document SC54.Com.3 Rev.1, and would seek its further development at COP13; and instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution, subject to the addition of an explanatory note making these reservations clear and referring to the positions taken by individual Parties in the record of SC54.

Agenda item 21.14: Draft resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions – document SC54-Com.15

Decision SC54-29: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.15 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the amendment tabled by the United Kingdom, supported by Argentina, Australia and Uruguay.

Agenda item 20.2: Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021 and their Operational Framework – document SC54-Com.11

Decision SC54-30: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to conduct a review of the legal status of Ramsar Regional Initiatives and the implications for the Convention; and to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.11 and its Annex for consideration at COP13, with both the text of the draft resolution and the Annex placed in square brackets, but otherwise without additional amendment, noting that Parties held a range of views requiring further discussion at the COP.

Agenda item 21.4: Draft resolution on Ramsar Advisory Missions – document SC54-Com.12

Decision SC54-31: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.12 for consideration at COP13, without further substantive amendment.

Agenda item 14: Draft resolution on Enhancing the Convention's implementation, visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions – document SC54-Com.13

Decision SC54-32: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.13 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendments tabled by Switzerland and the Secretary General, wording of which would be finalized in consultation with UNEP.

Agenda item 21.5: Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands – document SC54-Com.14

Decision SC54-33: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.14 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the additional amendments tabled by Canada and Brazil and the minor amendments previously submitted by the Russian Federation.

Agenda item 21.13: Draft resolution on intertidal wetlands - document SC54-Com.16

Decision SC54-34: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.16 for consideration at COP13, with the amendments already introduced, shown in square brackets.

Agenda item 30: Adoption of the report of the meeting

Decision SC54-35: The Standing Committee approved the draft summary reports of the first three days of SC54, subject to the inclusion of any minor amendments to be communicated to the Secretariat in writing; and decided that the draft summary report for the final (fourth) day would be reviewed by the Vice Chair, and, once approved by him, circulated in the three official languages of the Convention to Standing Committee members. Any final comments could be made at this stage, to be communicated to the Secretariat, in writing, within a specified deadline.

Agenda item 31: Any other business

Decision SC54-36: The Standing Committee, in closed session, approved the report of the Working Group on Staffing and accepted its recommendations, contained in Annex 3.