

Annotated agenda

1. Opening statements

- 1.1 Chair of the Standing Committee (United Arab Emirates)
- 1.2 Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 1.3 International Organization Partners (WWF)
- 1.4 Secretary General of the Convention

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Chair of the Standing Committee will put under consideration the adoption of the provisional agenda (document SC57 Doc.2 Rev.1).

3. Adoption of the provisional working programme

The Chair of the Standing Committee will put under consideration the adoption of the working programme (SC57 Doc.3).

4. Admission of observers

The Deputy Secretary General will introduce document SC57 Doc.4 with the list of registered observers whose attendance must be approved by the Standing Committee.

5. Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General will present her report highlighting the work of the Secretariat since COP13 in October 2018 (SC57 Doc.5).

6. Report of the Management Working Group

- Report on the selection process of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the triennium 2019-2021 in accordance with Resolution XII.5.
- Report on the Establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel.

The Chair of the Management Working Group will present its report to the Standing Committee on the above items.

7. Financial and budgetary matters – report of the Subgroup on Finance

7.1 Report on financial matters for 2018 and 2019 (SC57 Doc.7.1)

7.2 Report of the auditor on the financial statements 2018 (included in item 7.1)

7.3 Status of annual contributions (SC57 Doc.7.3)

7.4 Small Grants Fund – Proposal for final beneficiaries (SC57 Doc.7.4)

The Chair of the Subgroup on Finance will present the report of the Subgroup with recommendations on financial matters for Standing Committee consideration.

8. Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention

Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention* requests that the Standing Committee, at its first full meeting following each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, identify, with the support of the Secretariat, a limited set of urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands, in the framework of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the broader environmental agenda, to receive enhanced attention during the coming triennium.

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.8 *Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention* for Standing Committee consideration.

9. Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention

The Chair of the Working Group will present the report of the Working Group in accordance with the terms of Resolution XIII.5 *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention* and document SC57 Doc.9.

10. Report of the Effectiveness Working Group and approval of the terms of reference of the Group

The Chair of the Working Group will present the report on the progress of its activities and the terms of reference of the Group for Standing Committee consideration and approval (SC57 Doc.10).

11. Final reports of the Chairs of retired working groups

In paragraph 10 of Resolution XIII.3 on *Governance of the Convention*, the Chairs of the retired working groups listed in Annex 1 of the Resolution were invited to provide to the Standing Committee the final report on the outcome of their work, to be posted on the Convention website by the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC57). Consequently, all reports are provided in items 11.1 to 11.6:

11.1 Transition Committee (SC57 Doc.11.1)

11.2 Resource Mobilization Working Group (SC57 Doc.11.2)

11.3 Working Group on CEPA Implementation (SC57 Doc.11.3)

11.4 Facilitation Working Group (SC57 Doc.11.4)

11.5 Language Strategy Working Group (SC57 Doc.11.5)

11.6 Staffing Working Group (SC57 Doc.11.6)

12. Report of the Executive Team

12.1 Terms of reference of the Executive Team

At its 13th meeting (COP13, Dubai, 2018) the Conference of the Contracting Parties, through Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, paragraph 16, requested the Executive Team to define its terms of reference for approval by the Standing Committee at SC57.

The Chair of the Standing Committee will introduce document SC57 Doc.12 with the terms of reference of the Executive Team for Standing Committee consideration and approval.

13. Review of the Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.13 *Review of the Rules of Procedure*. The Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat – on the basis of the input provided at SC57, and with additional input from interested Parties – to prepare revised Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties and new Rules for the Standing Committee (to apply *mutatis mutandis* to other subsidiary bodies) for consideration at SC58.

14. Review of all previous Resolutions and decisions

At COP13, the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, which includes in paragraphs 24 and 25 specific requests related to the review of previous Resolutions and decisions. The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.14 *Review of all previous Resolutions and decisions* for Standing Committee consideration.

15. Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)

15.1 Establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel

(Proposal to assume the responsibilities assigned in Resolution XII.9 *The Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programme* and in accordance with Decision SC50-08 tasked to the Working Group on CEPA Implementation to develop a new approach for supporting CEPA implementation: paragraphs 25 and 26 of Resolution XIII.5 *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*.)

The Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel will request that the newly-formed Panel present to SC58 its proposal to assume the responsibilities assigned in Resolution XII.9 *The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024* to develop a new approach for supporting CEPA implementation (SC57 Doc 15.1)

15.2 Report of the Secretariat on World Wetlands Day

The Secretariat will present a verbal report on the activities undertaken for World Wetlands Day 2019. In addition, the Secretariat will present the progress on the actions to implement paragraph 7 of Resolution XIII.1 on *World Wetlands Day*, in which the Conference of the Contracting Parties “invites the United Nations General Assembly to recognize 2 February of each year, the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands, as World Wetlands Day”.

15.3 Implementation of Resolution XIII.1 on World Wetlands Day (UN request)

16. Work plan of the Secretariat for 2019-2021

The Secretary General will introduce document SC57 Doc.16 with the work plan of the Secretariat for 2019-2021. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the Secretariat's integrated Annual Plan for 2019 and Triennial Plan for 2019-2021, which reflects the structure and format adopted in Decision SC54-10.

17. Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.17 *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the report on progress in implementing Resolution XIII.7 on synergies.

17Bis Contributions of the Convention to the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020

18. Observer status in the United Nations General Assembly

The Standing Committee discussed the issue of the observer status at its 54th and 55th meetings (SC54, April 2018 and SC55, Dubai, October 2018). SC55 adopted Decision SC55-12: *"The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat, with support from an informal group of interested Contracting Parties, to bring forward a structured proposal, taking into account the various options, for consideration at SC57."*

Bolivia will present the report of the informal group of interested Contracting Parties. The Standing Committee will decide on the way forward according with the recommendations of the informal group on the observer status.

19. Ramsar Convention Resource Mobilization Work Plan

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.19 *Ramsar Convention Resource Mobilization Work Plan*. The Work Plan has been updated to reflect the priorities identified in Annex 3 of Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the Convention's Resource Mobilization Work Plan.

20. Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, including work plan for 2019-2021

The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel will present the work plan for 2019-2021 (SC57 Doc.20 Rev.1) for Standing Committee consideration and approval.

21. Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14

21.1 Report of the Secretariat on COP13

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc 21.1 *Report of the Secretariat on COP13*. The Standing Committee is invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat regarding lessons learned from COP13 and consider as appropriate suggestions raised in relation to potential improvement of processes established by Contracting Parties.

21.1Bis Oral report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Award on Innovation

21.2 COP14 Host and establishment of the Subgroup on COP14

COP14 Host

The 13th Conference of the Parties noted that no offer had been received to host the 14th meeting. Consequently, the Conference established a new deadline for the submission of offers, one month before SC57, that is, by 24 May 2019.

The Secretariat will present an update of the offers received to host COP14 by the deadline. The Standing Committee will decide on the host of COP14 based on the offers received.

Establishment of the Subgroup on COP14

The Chair will invite the establishment of the Subgroup on COP14 with a representative of each of the six Ramsar regions.

22. National Reports for COP14

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.22 *Draft format for National Reports to COP14*. The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the COP14 National Report form for finalization and issuing to Contracting Parties as soon as possible after SC57.

23. Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.23 Rev.1 *Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*. The Standing Committee is invited to advise on activities to be undertaken by regional representatives on the Standing Committee and those Contracting Parties directly concerned.

24. Ramsar Advisory Missions: Operational guidance

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.24 *Ramsar Advisory Missions: Operational guidance*. The Standing Committee is invited to adopt the operational guidance for Ramsar Advisory Missions and instruct the Secretariat to publish the operational guidance on the Convention website to be used when preparing future Ramsar Advisory Missions.

25. Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2018 and 2019, and establishment of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group.

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.25 *2019 update on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives*.

The Standing Committee will take decisions on the allocation of funds from the 2019 Ramsar core budget line D "Support to Regional Initiatives" (Resolution XIII.2) to provide start-up funding to newly established Initiatives for their activities in 2019. In addition, the Standing Committee will consider the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group and the allocation of funds, according to paragraph 9 of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021* and Standing Committee Decision SC56-07.

26. Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.26 *Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium*. The Standing Committee is invited to provide guidance for the accreditation process for the 2019-2021 triennium, including membership of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC), the role of the Secretariat, and the process and timeline for the 2019-2021 triennium; and consider requesting the IAC to review the process.

27. 58th meeting of the Standing Committee

27.1 Implications of joint meetings of the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

The Secretariat will introduce document SC57 Doc.27 *Implications of joint meetings of the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel*. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the review provided on options for and implications of joint meetings of the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel; and consider the scenarios proposed and provide guidance to the Secretariat on how to proceed with the organization of STRP23 and SC58.

27.2 Dates of the 58th meeting

The Secretariat will note the dates for SC58 in 2020 for the approval of the Standing Committee.

28. Adoption of the report of the meeting

The record of the meeting will be presented for approval by the Chair of the Standing Committee.

29. Any other business

30. Closing remarks