

Admission of observers

Actions requested:

The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraph 3 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties¹ foresee the participation of observers in two categories:
 - the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention; and
 - any body or agency qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-party States

2. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that observers representing the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention may participate upon invitation of the President, “unless at least one-third of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting object”.
3. For observers in this category, the Secretariat had received the following pre-registrations as of 20 May 2019.

United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Bodies and agencies qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

4. Rules 7.1 and 7.2 address the “Participation of other bodies or agencies” as follows:

7.1. Any body or agency, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties may be represented at the meeting by observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

¹ “Rule 25.5: “Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies.”

7.2 Bodies or agencies desiring to receive recognition as observers for the purposes of attending meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall submit appropriate documentation to the Secretariat for consideration three months prior to any ordinary meeting and one month prior to an extraordinary meeting.

5. Rule 7.7 requires the Secretariat to notify bodies or agencies that were approved previously of the date and venue of sessions of the Conference of the Parties “so that they may be represented”.

Bodies or agencies previously approved

6. The following bodies or agencies that have been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate at SC57:

Intergovernmental

- Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Non-governmental

- BAAB Group
- Centre de Formation en Gestion de Ressources Naturelles pour le Développement Agricole et Coopératif de Badja (CFGRN/FAZAO)
- Environment Society of Oman
- International Center for Environmental Research
- ONG Volontariat Pour L'Environnement “VPE”
- Ramsar Center Japan
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- Réseau Africain des Jeunes sur les Zones Humides
- Society of Friend of Cultural and Natural Heritage Varzaneh
- The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- Wetlands International Japan
- WWF Netherlands

Bodies or agencies seeking approval and that have met the criteria

7. No bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers in accordance with Rule 7.2:

Bodies or agencies seeking approval and that have not met the criteria

8. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, but have not provided the information required under Rule 7.2 and are therefore not submitted for approval:
 - Youth Ramsar Japan

Recommendation

9. The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraph 3 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.