

Admission of observers

Actions requested:

- The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the participation in the present meeting of observers representing the bodies and agencies previously approved listed in paragraph 6.

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 did not receive any pre-registrations as of 18 May 2022.

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.*
 - 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*

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.”

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 SC59/2022:

Intergovernmental

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

Non-governmental

- BirdLife International
- International Center for Environmental Research
- International Water Management Institute
- Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia (RRC-EA)
- The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Japan
- WWF-Ukraine
- Youth Engaged in Wetlands

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

7. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, but have not met the criteria under Rule 7.2 and are therefore not submitted for approval:
 - Association for research on environmental management and sustainable development

Recommendation

8. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the participation in the present meeting of observers representing the bodies and agencies previously approved listed in paragraph 6.