

## Implementation of Resolution XIII.1 on World Wetlands Day

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress in implementing Resolution XIII.1 on *World Wetlands Day*.

### Background

1. World Wetlands Day has been celebrated by the Convention on Wetlands since 1997. Since then, the Convention has celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February each year in order to help raise public awareness of the importance and value of wetlands. The Secretariat has supported Contracting Parties in their efforts by providing outreach materials and undertaking complementary public outreach. The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (COP13) in 2018 adopted Resolution XIII.1 on *World Wetlands Day*, which invites the UN General Assembly to recognize 2 February of each year, the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands, as World Wetlands Day.
2. The Standing Committee received an update on the progress at its 57th meeting (SC57) in June 2019 and at SC59 in June 2021. A core group of countries led by Costa Rica was established at SC57 to lead the implementation of Resolution XIII.1 and Contracting Parties were encouraged to engage their Permanent Missions in support of the initiative, and invited to consider cosponsoring the draft UNGA resolution. The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to draft talking points and share them with Contracting Parties to enable consistent messaging in support of the initiative, and the present document has been prepared in response.
3. On 7 July 2021 the Governments of Costa Rica, Mexico, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Secretariat of the Convention, held at the margins of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations a high-level virtual event on “Wetlands: Key Enablers for a Resilient and Sustainable Recovery” to provide and space to present the draft resolution to establish 2 February as World Wetlands Day in alignment with the decision of the Contracting Parties during COP13. See records of the event at: <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/wetlands-key-enablers-for-a-resilient-and-sustainable-recovery>.
4. The Secretariat informed the Contracting Parties through Diplomatic Note 2021/10 on *Adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on World Wetlands Day* that the General Assembly, in its 99th plenary meeting, 75th session of 30 August 2021, had adopted the Resolution on World Wetlands Day. The Resolution was co-sponsored by 75 Member States and

can be found in the six official languages of the United Nations at the following address:  
<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F75%2F317&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

5. The Resolution calls on Member States, agencies of the United Nations and other actors to observe the day, and the UNGA invites the Secretariat to provide a report at the next session of UNGA in 2022, providing an opportunity for a submission of a substantive draft resolution on wetlands.