

**Draft daily report**  
**Day 1 – Tuesday 24 May (Afternoon plenary session)**

**14:30– 18:35 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee**

**Agenda item 10: Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group**

1. Australia, as chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group, introduced the Group's report in document SC59/2022 Doc.10. The Group had met the previous day and had prepared draft terms of reference for a Strategic Plan Working Group for the Fifth Strategic Plan (SP5), available on the Ramsar website as document SC59/2022 Com.1.
2. Participants proposed various amendments to document SC59/2022 Doc.10 and were asked to submit these, and any comments on document SC59/2022 Com.1, electronically to the Secretariat so that amended versions of both documents could be prepared for further consideration at the present meeting.
3. Interventions were made by Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Agenda item 11: Report of the Effectiveness Working Group**

4. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as chair of the Effectiveness Working Group, introduced the Group's final report in document SC59/2022 Doc.11 along with the draft resolution contained in its annex, noting that both were the outcome of consensus within the group.
5. Participants noted that one item in paragraph 15 remained in square brackets and sought clarification as to how this would be resolved. Additional amendments were also proposed.
6. The Chair of the Working Group stated that they would consult informally with Contracting Parties which had commented, and would provide a revised draft for further consideration by the Committee.
7. Interventions were made by Australia, Brazil, China, France, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Agenda item 21.2: Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives
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8. The Secretariat introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.21.2. In item iii in the first part of the document, regarding the proposed new Ramsar Regional Initiative in the Southern African Development Community region, the Secretariat proposed changing “consider” to “approve”.
9. Concern was expressed that the consultant’s assessment referred to in paragraph 22 of the document contained errors that had been incorporated into the draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2022-2024 in document SC59 Doc. 21.1. Concern was also raised regarding the lack of financial information from some RRI, as noted in paragraph 9 of the document.
10. Interventions were made by Costa Rica, Japan, Republic of Korea, Uganda and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia.

**Decision SC59/2022-07: The Standing Committee took note of the annual reports submitted by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2021 in accordance with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*.**

**Decision SC59/2022-08: The Standing Committee approved the proposed new reporting format for Ramsar Regional Initiatives contained in Annex 2 of document SC58 Doc.22.2.**

**Decision SC59/2022-09: The Standing Committee approved the proposal for a new Ramsar Regional Initiative in the Southern African Development Community region, within the framework of the Convention, in line with paragraph 12 of Resolution XIII.9, contained in document SC59 Doc.21.2.**

**Decision SC59/2022-10: The Standing Committee took note of and approved the review by the Secretariat’s Legal Adviser of existing relevant Resolutions and decisions on Ramsar Regional Initiatives, in line with paragraph 30 of Resolution XIII.9 and contained in document SC58 Doc.22.4.**

**Decision SC59/2022-11: The Standing Committee took note of the summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives operating during the period 2019-2021, in Annex 3 of document SC59 Doc.21.2, prepared by the Secretariat for submission to COP14 in line with paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9.**

Agenda item 21.1: Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2022-2024; Agenda item 24.9 Proposed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – the basics ( <i>submitted by Sweden</i> ); Agenda item 24.10 Proposed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – COP14-COP15 ( <i>submitted by Sweden</i> ); Agenda item 24.11 Proposed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – addressing old decisions ( <i>submitted by Sweden</i> )
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11. Costa Rica, as chair of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, introduced the outcome of the Group’s work in document SC59 Doc. 21.1 and its annexed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2022-2024. The Chair of the Working Group drew attention to those parts of the text that were still in square brackets, and sought input as to how these could be resolved.

12. Participants made various observations and recommended courses of action to address those parts of the document, and were asked to submit these electronically to the Secretariat so that a revised version could be completed.
13. After some debate, Sweden was invited to present the three draft resolutions on Ramsar Regional Initiatives that it had submitted (documents SC59/2022 Doc.24.9, SC59/2022 Doc.24.10 and SC59/2022 Doc.24.11). Sweden explained that: the first of these was intended to include long-standing agreements that would not need to be addressed at each COP; the second would include matters of specific interest for the forthcoming COP; and the third would address old decisions and Resolutions that were no longer valid and could be retired.
14. After further debate, the Chair of the Standing Committee established an open-ended contact group to examine the various proposed draft resolutions and report back to the Committee with recommendations for a way forward. He charged the contact group with determining its own terms of reference.
15. Interventions were made by Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Japan, Mexico, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia.

Agenda item 24.3: Draft resolution on development of legal indicators to measure the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention (*Submitted by Burkina Faso*)

16. The SC Chair introduced document SC59 Doc.24.3, noting that Burkina Faso, the proponent of the draft resolution, was not present at the meeting.
17. Several participants expressed concern that such a resolution, as currently drafted, would be difficult to implement and would have financial implications. They believed the activities proposed should be further considered among Parties, with their inputs leading to the possible submission of a proposal after COP14. It was noted that this issue could also be considered in the development of the Fifth Strategic Plan (SP5), and that the Standing Committee had identified a review of policy and legal frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands as a priority cross-cutting issue at SC57.
18. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to contact Burkina Faso to relay the concerns raised by the Committee and request that it consider withdrawing the draft resolution, and report back any response received.
19. Interventions were made by Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Japan, Slovenia and Uruguay.

Agenda item 24.17: Proposed draft resolution – Online drafting and preparatory negotiations of documents (*Submitted by Sweden*)

20. Sweden introduced the proposed draft resolution in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.17, indicating that this was intended to improve the efficiency of work under the Convention and emphasizing that online preparatory work was not intended to replace face-to-face negotiations.
21. During discussion, several participants noted they considered the intent behind the proposal to be sufficiently well captured in the proposed draft resolution prepared by the Effectiveness

Working Group under Agenda item 11. Concern was also expressed about the possible financial implications of implementing such a resolution. It was suggested that part of the content of the proposed draft resolution might be further elaborated in a set of voluntary guidelines prepared for Contracting Parties. The possibility of establishing a pilot phase for COP15, if necessary through a brief associated resolution, was also raised.

22. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked Australia, Brazil, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to meet informally and propose a way forward.