

Draft daily report
Day 3 – Thursday 26 May (Afternoon plenary session)

15:30 – 19:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 12: Review of the Rules of Procedure

1. The Secretariat introduced document SC59 Doc.12, noting that it was an update of a document originally prepared for SC58, prepared by the Secretariat and the Ramsar Legal Adviser.
2. During discussion, participants stated they considered that further work was needed on the issue.
3. Interventions were made by Switzerland and Uruguay.

Decision SC59/2022-16: The Standing Committee noted document SC59 Doc. 12.

Agenda item 13: Review of all previous Resolutions and decisions

4. The Secretariat introduced documents SC59 Doc.13, SC59 Doc.13.1, SC59 Doc.13.2 and SC59 Doc.13.3, noting that these were the response to a number of Standing Committee decisions and seeking guidance on how best to proceed with reviewing previous Resolutions and decisions.
5. During discussion participants thanked the Secretariat for the work it had undertaken to date. They acknowledged the scale and complexity of the task and were concerned that future work should not put undue pressure on the Secretariat's resources and capacity. There was agreement that document SC59 Doc. 13.2 *Draft list of Resolutions that are effectively defunct* could be forwarded to COP14 for its consideration.

Decision SC59/2022-17: The Standing Committee agreed to forward document SC59 Doc. 13.2 *Draft list of Resolutions that are effectively defunct* to COP14 for its consideration.

Decision SC59/2022-18: The Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat produce options to continue the review of all previous resolutions and decisions for consideration at COP14. It should cover:

- Options for prioritizing the consolidation of Resolutions by theme, including but not limited to, ranking from a list of identified topics, or undertaking a consolidation exercise associated with new resolutions;

- **An estimate of the timeframes and resources required for the Secretariat to undertake this work.**

The Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat prepare a draft resolution with the above elements for consideration and approval by COP14.

Agenda item 17.1: Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel

6. Sweden, as Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel, introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.17.1, noting that its Annex 2 contained the text of a draft resolution on the new CEPA approach. This drew on the results of a survey of CEPA focal points, summarised in Annex B of the document.
7. During discussion, the report was widely welcomed and Sweden was thanked for its work. There was broad support for the new approach to CEPA outlined in the report. Concerns were raised regarding the use of the term “nature-based solutions” in the draft resolution. Some participants stated that these should be deleted or replaced with the term “ecosystem-based approaches”. Other participants wished to retain the term “nature-based solutions”. Concern was also raised regarding changes in governance included in the proposed draft resolution. Some participants considered that these went beyond the mandate of the report and wished to see them removed.
8. After further discussion, the Committee agreed that the draft resolution could be forwarded to COP14 for its consideration if the term “nature-based solutions” were replaced with “nature-based solutions/ecosystem-based approaches” in square brackets and if references to governance were also placed in square brackets.
9. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked all those who had made interventions to forward these to the Secretariat so that a revised version of the draft resolution could be prepared.
10. Interventions were made by Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Indonesia, Mexico, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Agenda item 16: Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

11. The Secretariat introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.16. This was an update of document SC59 Doc.16, the annex to which contained the text of a draft resolution. The Secretariat noted that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity had expired. Development of a new MoU and joint work plan would depend on the final outcome of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.
12. During discussion, one Party recognized the actions of the Secretariat to collaborate with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, making the Convention very visible. A proposal was made to amend the draft resolution in the annex of document SC59 Doc.16. Other participants stated that they could not decide on the proposed amendments until they had had the opportunity to examine them more carefully.
13. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked the interested Parties to conduct consultations and to forward the proposed amendments to the Secretariat so that these could be distributed for further consideration by participants.

14. Interventions were made by Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Japan, Mexico and Switzerland.

Agenda item 18: Work plan of the Secretariat for 2022

15. The Secretariat introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.18, containing the Integrated Secretariat Annual Plan for 2022 as an extension of the approved Triennial Plan for 2019-2021, noting that the extension was a result of the postponement of COP14.

Decision SC59/2022-19: The Standing Committee took note of and approved the Integrated Secretariat Annual Plan for 2022 in document SC59/2022 Doc.18.

Agenda item 27: Consideration of the potential consequences of changes of 20 Ramsar Sites in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression
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16. Ukraine read out a statement regarding this Agenda item and asked that it be included in full in the record of the meeting. It is therefore annexed to this report.
17. During discussion, a range of views was expressed. Some participants strongly supported Ukraine's statement; others took issue with it, believing that focusing on this issue was not appropriate and would distract the Convention from fulfilling its mandate. There was general agreement that, when conditions permitted, the status of the Ramsar Sites in question should be assessed and actions undertaken for any restoration needed.
18. Interventions were made by Algeria, Australia, China, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Decision SC59/2022-20: The Standing Committee took note of the intervention made by Ukraine.