

Decisions of the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

Decision SC61-01: The Standing Committee adopted the agenda in document SC61 Doc.2, noting that working groups established or re-established under COP14 Resolutions would be discussed under Agenda item 5 *Establishment of other subgroups and working groups (as required)*.

Agenda item 3a): Election of the Chair

Decision SC61-02: China was elected as Chair of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 3b): Election of the Vice-Chair

Decision SC61-03: Gabon was elected as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 4: Election of the Chair and members of the Subgroup on Finance

Decision SC61-04: The Standing Committee elected the following Contracting Parties as members of the Subgroup on Finance, noting that the Subgroup was open to participation of interested Parties: Morocco, representing the Africa region; Japan, representing the Asia region; Georgia (if accepting this nomination), representing the Europe region upon confirmation; Brazil, representing the Latin America and the Caribbean region; the United States, representing the North America region; Australia, representing the Oceania region and Mexico, as the outgoing Chair of the Subgroup on Finance. China, Panama, Switzerland and Togo expressed interest in being members of the Subgroup on Finance.

Decision SC61-05: The Standing Committee agreed to defer consideration of the election of the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance until the Subgroup members could consult and submit recommendations to the Standing Committee for it to decide via electronic means.

Agenda item 5: Establishment of other subgroups and working groups (as required)

Ramsar Youth Working Group

Decision SC61-06: The Standing Committee agreed to appoint the Youth Focal Point for Australia as the interim Chair of the Ramsar Youth Working Group until its membership elected the Chair at its first meeting.

Decision SC61-07: The Standing Committee agreed that the membership of the Ramsar Youth Working Group comprised the following Contracting Parties: Congo, representing the Africa region; Iraq and Iran (Islamic Republic of), representing the Asia region; Austria and Slovakia,

representing the Europe Region; Colombia, representing the Latin America and the Caribbean region; and Mexico, representing the North America Region.

Independent Advisory Committee of the Wetland Cities Accreditation

Decision SC61-08: The Standing Committee appointed the Republic of Korea as the contact point to coordinate with support from the Secretariat the establishment of the new Independent Advisory Committee membership.

Decision SC61-09: The Standing Committee deferred the decision on the new membership of the Independent Advisory Committee to SC62 and acknowledged expressions of interest for membership of the Independent Advisory Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Rwanda, representing the Africa Region; China and Iran (Islamic Republic of), representing the Asia Region, and the Republic of Korea as the Technical Advisor; Czechia, representing the Europe Region; the United States of America, representing the North America Region; and Colombia, representing the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Strategic Plan Working Group

Decision SC61-10: The Standing Committee agreed that:

- it nominated Brazil and Canada as Co-Chairs to the Strategic Plan Working Group, which would be confirmed by the Group intersessionally, along with the Vice-Chair; and
- the membership of the existing Strategic Plan Working Group would be expanded to include the following Contracting Parties: China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Eswatini, Iraq, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Subgroup on COP15

Decision SC61-11: The establishment of the Subgroup on COP15 was deferred to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 6: Dates and venue of the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee
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Decision SC61-12: The Standing Committee agreed to hold its 62nd meeting (SC62) in Gland, Switzerland, from 4 to 8 September 2023.