

Future administration of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Note by the Secretariat.

Following agenda item 9 plenary discussion on 2 November, and in follow-up to Denmark's intervention on this matter, Denmark has prepared proposals for:

- a) a revised text of DOC. SC43-13 Alternative 1; and
- b) a new alternative text for DOC. SC43-13 Alternative 1, entitled below "new alternative 1 A"

For consideration by Sc43 in its further discussions on this matter.

COP11 Draft Resolution XI.xx revised alternative 1 and new alternative 1 A

COP11 Draft Resolution XI.xx (alternative 1)

**Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat under the administration of
UNEP**

CONFIRMING

RECALLING

RECALLING

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION

NOTING with appreciation the balanced compilation of the documentation carried out by the a working group appointed in November 2011 by the Standing Committee at its 43 meeting providing the contracting parties with sufficient information to reach a position;

RECOGNIZING

RESOLVING

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THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. DECIDES that the Ramsar Secretariat should be institutionally hosted by the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) according to terms agreed upon with UNEP,
2. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to appoint 3 representatives from the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention to represent the Standing Committee as head of delegation and delegates in the negotiations with UNEP

3. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to conclude the negotiations TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the extent to which the result of the negotiations with UNEP on the terms of hosting arrangement, transition conditions and transition process meets the requirements of the Convention to secure the secretariat in its ability to carry out its functions and meet the expectation of the Conventions ability to decide upon important issue concerning the secretariat;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to transmit the Resolution of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat to the Executive Director of UNEP with a request to initiate negotiations between UNEP and the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention in order to draft a formal hosting agreement and an agreement on the conditions of the transition and on the transition process;
5. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to inform the Executive Director of UNEP that the draft agreements needs to be endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention before formally agreed upon with UNEP and recognising the need for a similar decision process within UNEP and the United Nations.
6. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to inform the Executive Director of UNEP that the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention wish to see the following issues included in the agreements with UNEP reflecting the contributions from UNEP, IUCN, the secretariat as well as concerns raised by the contracting parties throughout the process. The Contracting Parties expects the agreements with UNEP to
 - improve the capacity and operation of the Ramsar Secretariat to support and facilitate the implementation of the Convention and serve the interest of the Contracting Parties and serve the process of the global biodiversity agenda in close cooperation with the other related conventions and organisations,
 - to secure at least similar or preferable enhanced secretariat capacity, quality, services and facilities under UNEP hosting arrangements,
 - to secure full transfer of the existing secretariat staff with no re-application for positions, respecting the existing contractual obligations and for this purpose explore all reasonable possibilities in contractual matters, if necessary including a reached understanding with IUCN as stated by UNEP in its contributions,
 - secure that the transition costs is covered by UNEP including additional staff requirements, legal support and staff counselling,
 - mandate the recruitment of the Secretary General and senior secretarial staff to the Ramsar Standing Committee including a consultation process with the Executive Director of UNEP,
 - outline the competence of both the Standing Committee and UNEP when it comes to decisions concerning the general management of the secretariat,
 - reduce the negative impact for IUCN of the transfer of the secretariat from IUCN to UNEP by reaching an agreement on the housing arrangement with IUCN to host the secretariat at the IUCN premises in Gland for a period of 5 years,
 - to leave the question of a possible relocation to an open process, where member countries can bid for the future location of the secretariat;
7. RECOGNISES that the possible outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development – Rio+20 - taking place shortly before the COP11 of the Ramsar

Convention, might result in decisions concerning the institutional framework of international environmental governance including environmental conventions and therefore

8. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee and the appointed negotiation team to take into consideration the need for more time to conclude negotiations with UNEP in order reflect upon and if appropriate include the possible consequences of decisions of the Rio+20 Conference in the draft agreements with UNEP before endorsing them to the Standing Committee.
9. REQUEST the Secretary General to support the Standing Committee and the negotiation team in any possible way in order to reach an agreement with UNEP,
10. CALLS UPON the Contracting Parties to collaborate, as appropriate, with the Ramsar Secretariat to ensure the implementation of the agreement reached with UNEP.

COP11 Draft Resolution XI.xx (alternative 1 A)

Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat under the administration of UNEP

CONFIRMING

RECALLING

RECALLING

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION

NOTING with appreciation the balanced compilation of the documentation carried out by the a working group appointed in November 2011 by the Standing Committee at its 43 meeting providing the contracting parties with sufficient information to reach a position;

RECOGNIZING

RECOGNIZING that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development – Rio+20 - taking place shortly before the COP11 of the Ramsar Convention, might result in decisions concerning the institutional framework of international environmental governance including environmental conventions and therefore can lead to a reform of UNEP;

RESOLVING to facilitate the current and future work of the Ramsar Secretariat without further unnecessary delay

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. REQUESTS UNEP to consider how best to include the Ramsar Secretariat into an organisational reformed UNEP;
2. REQUESTS UNEP - when appropriate in the process of a reform of UNEP – to forward to the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention a proposal on the future hosting arrangement for the Ramsar Secretariat within a new organisational set up for UNEP, including the conditions for the transition process
3. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to transmit the Resolution of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat to the Executive Director of UNEP with a request to initiate the draft of such a proposal when appropriate to initiate negotiations between UNEP and the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention when appropriate in order to draft a formal hosting agreement and an agreement on the conditions of the transition and on the transition process;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to inform the Executive Director of UNEP that the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention wish to see the following issues included in a proposal from UNEP reflecting the contributions from UNEP, IUCN, the secretariat as well as concerns raised by the contracting parties throughout the process. The Contracting Parties expects the future agreements with UNEP to
 - improve the capacity and operation of the Ramsar Secretariat to support and facilitate the implementation of the Convention and serve the interest of the Contracting Parties and serve the process of the global biodiversity agenda in close cooperation with the other related conventions and organisations,
 - to secure at least similar or preferable enhanced secretariat capacity, quality, services and facilities under UNEP hosting arrangements,
 - to secure full transfer of the existing secretariat staff with no re-application for positions, respecting the existing contractual obligations and for the purpose explore all reasonable possibilities in contractual matters, if necessary including a reached understanding with IUCN as stated by UNEP in its contributions,
 - secure that the transition costs is covered by UNEP including additional staff requirements, legal support and staff counselling,
 - mandate the recruitment of the Secretary General and senior secretarial staff to the Ramsar Standing Committee including a consultation process with the Executive Director of UNEP
 - Outline the competences of both the Standing Committee and UNEP when it comes to decisions concerning the general management of the secretariat.
 - reduce the negative impact for IUCN of the transfer of the secretariat from IUCN to UNEP by reaching an agreement on the housing arrangement with IUCN to host the secretariat at the IUCN premises in Gland for a period of 5 years
 - to leave the question of a possible relocation to an open process, where member countries can bid for the future location of the secretariat
5. REQUESTS the Standing Committee after receiving a proposal from UNEP to appoint 3 representatives from the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention to represent the Standing Committee as head of delegation and delegates in the negotiations with UNEP

6. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to conclude the negotiations TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the extent to which the result of the negotiations with UNEP on the terms of hosting arrangement, transition conditions and transition process meets the requirements of the Convention to secure the secretariat in its ability to carry out its functions and meet the expectation of the Conventions ability to decide upon important issue concerning the secretariat;
7. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to inform the Executive Director of UNEP that the draft agreements needs to be endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention before formally agreed upon with UNEP;
8. RECOGNIZES the need for a similar decision process within UNEP and the United Nations;
9. REQUESTS the Secretary General to support the Standing Committee and the negotiation team in any possible way in order to reach an agreement with UNEP; and
10. CALLS UPON the Contracting Parties to collaborate, as appropriate, with the Ramsar Secretariat to ensure the implementation of the agreement reached with UNEP.