

Admission of observers

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties foresee the participation of observers in two categories:
 - the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention; and
 - any body or agency qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-party States

2. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that observers representing the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention may participate upon invitation of the President, “unless at least one third of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting object”.
3. For observers in this category, the Secretariat had received the following registrations as of 18 October 2021:

United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Bodies and agencies qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

4. Rules 7.1 and 7.2 address the “Participation of other bodies or agencies” as follows:
 - 7.1. *Any body or agency, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties may be represented at the meeting by observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.*
 - 7.2 *Bodies or agencies desiring to receive recognition as observers for the purposes of attending meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall submit appropriate documentation to the Secretariat for consideration three months prior to any ordinary meeting and one month prior to an extraordinary meeting.*
5. Rule 7.7 requires the Secretariat to notify bodies or agencies that were approved previously of the date and venue of sessions of the Conference of the Parties “so that they may be represented”.

Bodies or agencies previously approved

6. The following bodies or agencies that have been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate in the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties:

Non-governmental bodies or agencies:

- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Ramsar Center Japan
- Stetson University College of Law
- University at Buffalo School of Law
- Wetlands International Japan

Bodies or agencies seeking approval that have met the criteria

7. No bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers in accordance with Rule 7.2.

Recommendation

8. The President may invite the organizations listed in paragraphs 3 and 6 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one third of the Parties present object.