

Draft Resolution on the Postponement of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14)

1. NOTING the Decision of the Standing Committee SC57-17 that accepted by acclamation the offer of China to host the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) in Wuhan in 2021;
2. RECOGNIZING the progress on COP14 preparations by the host country, the Subgroup on COP14 of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat and FURTHER NOTING that the theme of COP14 is wetland actions for people and nature;
3. CONSIDERING that the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties cannot be held in 2021 as initially planned due to constraints arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
and
4. TAKING NOTE of the Decision of the Standing Committee SC59-10 that approved 21 to 29 November 2022 as the proposed dates for COP14 and agreed to submit the new dates for COP14 to the extraordinary meeting of the COP to be held in 2021;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Government of China as the host country of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties for its commitment and progress made on COP14 preparations;
6. DECIDES to postpone the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to 21 to 29 November 2022 due to the exceptional nature of the circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
7. REQUESTS the host country and the Secretariat with the support of the Subgroup on COP14 of the Standing Committee to continue the planning process for a successful [, inclusive and ambitious] COP14 meeting in 2022;
8. [Recognizes that the modalities for organization of the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention respond to the current extraordinary circumstance as related to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not set a precedent for the organization of similar meetings under the Convention in the future.]