



**COP14**  **2022**

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”**

**Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

**Resolution XIV.20**

**The Ramsar Convention’s response to  
environmental emergency in Ukraine relating to the damage of its  
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)  
stemming from the Russian Federation’s aggression**

1. IN VIEW OF the resolutions of the 11th emergency special session of the UN General Assembly: ES11/1 of 2 March 2022 “Aggression against Ukraine”, ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 “Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine”, and ES-11/4 of 12 October 2022 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”;
2. RECALLING UN General Assembly resolutions 68/262 of 27 March 2014 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, 71/205, 72/190, 73/263, 74/168, 75/192 and 76/179 “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”, and 73/194, 74/17, 75/29 and 76/70 “The problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black and Azov seas”;
3. REAFFIRMING the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters;
4. REAFFIRMING ALSO the principle of customary international law, as restated in UN General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, entitled “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”, that no territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal;
5. WELCOMING the legally binding provisional order by the International Court of Justice of 16 March 2022, ordering the Russian Federation to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine;
6. RECALLING the obligation of all States under the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from the threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

7. RECALLING ALSO the commitment of all Contracting Parties under Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention on Wetlands with respect to the exclusive sovereign rights of the Contracting Party in whose territory the wetland is situated;
8. EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN over the ongoing environmental emergency in Ukraine relating to the damage of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine;
9. STRESSING that the Russian Federation temporarily controlled, as a result of aggression, territories of Ukraine, that include 16 Wetlands of International Importance, and conducted military activities within those Ramsar Sites, and potentially can cause negative impacts to 15 more Ramsar Sites situated in bordering regions and near to front line;
10. RECOGNIZING that the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine makes it impossible to implement conservation, management and wise use measures, as set out in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Convention on Wetlands, with respect to six Ukrainian Ramsar Sites located in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and one Site in the Donetsk Region (located on the Sea of Azov coast) since 2014, to nine Ukrainian Ramsar Sites since 2022, and that further escalation of the situation will lead to similar destruction in 15 additional Ramsar Sites; and
11. NOTING the importance of principles of international cooperation and fulfilment of obligations under the Convention on Wetlands and other multilateral environmental treaties;

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12. RECOGNIZES the devastating impact of the Russian Federation's aggression on the environmental situation in Ukraine, including the disruption of the ecological status of 16 Ramsar Sites and potential damage to another 15 Ramsar Sites within Ukraine;
13. CONDEMNS all environmental damage to Wetlands of International Importance in Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation since the beginning of its aggression against Ukraine in 2014;
14. CALLS upon the Russian Federation to respect in full its obligations arising from the Convention on Wetlands, in particular to cease abuses preventing fulfilment by Ukraine of its exclusive sovereign rights to protect, restore and wisely use the Ramsar Sites within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters;
15. DEMANDS the Russian Federation to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, including from the Ramsar Sites within Ukraine, and to refrain from actions which could further damage the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine;
16. STRONGLY ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to take into account the Russian Federation's aggression and gross violation of international law, including as relevant when deciding on nominations to the leadership positions, including chairmanship and seats in the Standing Committee and or chairmanship or vice chairmanship of working groups and bodies, as well as invitations to events and meetings under the auspices of the Convention on Wetlands, provided that such decisions do not affect the best interests of conservation and protection of wetlands;

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17. REQUESTS the Contracting Parties to take into account the presence of Wetlands of International Importance in the territories of Ukraine under temporary military control of the Russian Federation, and ENCOURAGES them to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to prevent further degradation, damage or change of ecological status of those Wetlands of International Importance;
18. REQUESTS the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands to coordinate actions with the Contracting Parties and relevant national and international organizations to conduct assessments of the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine affected by aggression of the Russian Federation, and advise on appropriate mitigation and restoration measures; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide a report on the assessed damage and mitigation measures to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in addition to providing an update on the implementation of this Resolution to all intervening meetings of the Standing Committee; and
19. INVITES Contracting Parties to provide support, including financial contributions on a voluntary basis, to the Government of Ukraine in coordination with the Secretariat of the Convention for conducting assessment of the damage to the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine arising from the Russian Federation's aggression and to provide assistance to Ukraine for restoration activities of its Wetlands of International Importance.