

Admission of observers

Actions requested:

The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the organizations listed in paragraph 6 of the present document to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one third of the Parties present object.

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties¹ 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 registration for the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC63) as of 20 May 2024:

United Nations and its specialized agencies

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, previously approved)

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*

¹ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-rules-procedure-cop14>. Rule 25.5: “Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies.”

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.

Bodies or agencies previously approved

5. The following bodies or agencies that have already been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate at SC63:

Intergovernmental

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Non-governmental

- BAAB Group
- Centre de Formation en Gestion de Ressources Naturelles pour le Développement Agricole et Coopératif de Badja (CFGRN/FAZAO)
- Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE)
- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited de México A.C.
- Environment Society of Oman
- Global Nature Fund
- Group on Earth Observations Secretariat
- International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
- International Water Management Institute
- Malaysian Nature Society
- OISCA International India
- ONG APES
- Programme de Développement Humanitaire et Logistique
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- Réseau Association Khnifiss
- Sustainable Environment Food and Agriculture Initiative
- The Council of Technical Education & Training
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Japan
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- WWF

Bodies or agencies seeking approval which have met the criteria

6. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers in accordance with Rule 7.2:

- Coalition Climat pour la Biodiversité et le Développement
- Fair Carbon Association
- New World Hope
- Observatoire Indépendant des Tourbières

Bodies or agencies seeking approval which have not met the criteria

7. The following bodies or agencies informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, but did not provide the information required in accordance with Rule 7.2 and are therefore not submitted for approval:
- Association for Research on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (AREMD) Cameroon
 - ADE Togo
 - Africa for Education and Development
 - Arcus Reflexus
 - Association Jeunesse et Conseil
 - Association JILIJ DJERBA
 - BCRC/SCRC Senegal
 - Centre for Youth and Literacy Development
 - Climate Action Network Arab
 - climatepost.net
 - Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network
 - Global Peace and Development Organization
 - Green Economy for environment and climate justice
 - Gouvernorat de Kinshasa
 - Hoste Hainse
 - International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
 - Moroccan Association Green Economy for Environment and Climate Justice
 - ONG La Clé de l'Assainissement et de la Protection de l'Environnement (CAPE)
 - Organisation des Jeunes Engagés pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté (OJELCP)
 - Society for International Law and Public Policy (SILPP)
 - World Welfare Association

Recommendation

8. The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the organizations listed in paragraph 6 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one third of the Parties present object.