

Financial and budgetary matters: Status of annual contributions

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the status of annual contributions as of 31 December 2024;¹
- ii. acknowledge the status of assessed contributions as of 31 December 2024 as part of the audit process;
- iii. note the actions listed in paragraphs 14, 16, 17 and 18 to continue encouraging the payment of annual contributions;
- iv. note the change in annual contributions receivable and in the annual provision against contributions receivable in 2024; and
- v. note the status of the African voluntary contributions as of 31 December 2024.

Background

1. Article 6.6 of the Convention states that:

“Each Contracting Party shall contribute to the budget according to a scale of contributions adopted by unanimity of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting of the ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties.”

2. Annual (assessed) contributions from Contracting Parties are used to finance the Convention’s core budget. Each year, the Secretariat invoices Parties for their annual contributions. Swiss franc (CHF) invoicing is based upon the approved core budget and the current United Nations Scale of Assessment, adjusted on a *pro rata* basis to reflect which States are Parties to the Convention at the beginning of the year.
3. In Resolution XIV.1 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, in paragraphs 17 and 18, the Conference of the Contracting Parties:

“17. URGES Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties;” and

¹The Secretariat will publish an updated revision of the present document in January 2025.

“18. REQUESTS the Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties that have outstanding contributions in excess of three years and assist them to identify appropriate options to rectify the situation and to request a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each meeting of the Standing Committee and Conference of the Contracting Parties on activities taken in this regard and results achieved; and AGREES that the Standing Committee should continue to consider appropriate action concerning Parties that have neither paid their outstanding contributions nor submitted a payment plan for this purpose.”

4. Through Decision SC63-28, item vii, the Standing Committee noted that financial reports for 2024 and 2025, along with the report on annual contributions, would be prepared as of 30 September 2024 for consideration by Standing Committee at its 64th meeting (SC64).
5. The Secretariat will publish a revision of the present document in January 2025 in advance of SC64, updated to show the contributions received by 31 December 2024.
6. The Secretariat anticipates that the audited 2024 financial statements will be finalized and published on the Convention website in April or May 2025. Consequently, final documents on financial matters and annual contributions as of 31 December 2024 will be submitted to SC65 in July 2025.

Status of annual contributions

7. The table in Annex 1 of the present document shows, for all the Contracting Parties listed in alphabetical order, the status of annual contributions at 1 January 2024, all payments received in 2024 until 30 September 2024, and the status of annual contributions at that date.
8. As shown in the table in Annex 1, as of 30 September 2024, CHF 1,747K of contributions due for 2024 had not been received, corresponding to 36% of the CHF 4,845K contributions expected for 2024. The total not received for the years prior to 2024 was CHF 1,506K. Therefore, the total of contributions due but not received was CHF 3,253K.
9. By 30 September 2024, contributions for 2024 had not been received, or not received in full, from 99 Contracting Parties (compared to 83 at the end of 2023).
10. The Standing Committee considered the external auditor’s proposal on group confirmation of outstanding Contracting Party balances in response to Decision SC57-40 and, in Decision SC58-18, decided that it would acknowledge the status of the annual contributions intersessionally. However, SC64 is taking place in January 2025 before the start of the audit of 2024 accounts, and so the Standing Committee may acknowledge the status of assessed contributions as of 31 December 2024 during the meeting.

Actions for 2025

11. In accordance with Resolution XIV.1, paragraph 18, the Secretariat will continue to engage with Contracting Parties on contributions not received, and especially those due for more than three years at the end of 2024, including with the Contracting Parties that have never paid any contribution.

12. In accordance with Decision SC54-26, and in line with other Conventions, the Secretariat continues to publish the updated status of contributions on the Convention website on a monthly basis², in the same format as the table presented in Annex 1.
13. Resolution XIV.1, paragraph 19, “requests Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee to engage Parties from their respective regions with outstanding contributions to encourage them to identify appropriate options to rectify the situation”. Regional Representatives may wish to share with the Standing Committee their efforts, outcomes and challenges encountered in implementing this request of the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its 14th meeting (COP14).
14. In 2025 the Secretariat will continue, as in 2024, to share with Regional Representatives the status of outstanding contributions on a quarterly basis, for further action in line with the above instructions.
15. In accordance with Decision SC57-44, and following the experience of other Conventions, the Secretariat will continue to encourage timely payments of annual contributions by sending out reminders.
16. In accordance with Decision SC58-15, the Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions are invited to agree on a payment plan in discussion with the Secretariat, and the Secretariat is instructed to work with Parties which have been able to pay outstanding contributions, particularly the long-standing ones, to identify good practices and efforts that could be shared.
17. Any continued increase in the total of outstanding contributions will result in further increases in the provisions for outstanding contributions in the budget, thus decreasing the savings and resources available for the regular budget of the Secretariat.

African voluntary contributions

18. At COP10, through paragraph 23 of Resolution X.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, the Contracting Parties of Africa assessed with an annual contribution of less than CHF 2,000 agreed to increase their payments to that level. The difference between CHF 2,000 and their assessed contribution was to be in the form of a voluntary contribution specifically earmarked for African Ramsar Regional Initiatives.
19. Voluntary contributions received from the Contracting Parties in the Africa region until 30 September 2024 amounted to CHF 1,000. The table in Annex 2 of this document presents the total voluntary contributions received until 30 September 2024.
20. In Resolution XIV.1, paragraphs 24 and 25, the Contracting Parties agreed on the process of the allocation of these contributions.
21. In 2024 the Secretariat consulted the African Regional Representatives to the Standing Committee to decide on the use of the balance of the African voluntary contributions of CHF 30K at the end of 2023. The Regional Representatives decided to allocate the funds to cover the costs of African delegates to the regional preparatory meeting for COP15, to be held in Marrakesh from 7 to 10 January 2025.

² See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/convention-wetlands-monthly-status-assessed-contributions>; the table is also accessible from <https://www.ramsar.org/about/the-secretariat>.

Annex 1

Status of assessed contributions as of 30 September 2024 (in CHF)

Country	Status as of 1 January 2024			Received as of 30 September 2024			Status as of 30 September 2024		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2024	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2024	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2024	Received for future years
Albania	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	5,337	-	-	-	-	-	5,337	-
Andorra	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Angola	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000	-
Antigua and Barbuda	16,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	16,000	1,000	-
Argentina	115,194	35,204	-	-	-	-	115,194	35,204	-
Armenia	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	103,361	103,361	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	-	33,246	-	-	33,246	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	1,469	-	-	1,469	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Bahrain	-	2,644	-	-	-	-	-	2,644	-
Bangladesh	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Barbados	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Belarus	-	2,007	-	-	2,007	-	-	-	-
Belgium	-	40,541	-	-	40,541	-	-	-	-
Belize	12,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	12,000	1,000	-
Benin	-	1,000	2,005	-	-	-	-	-	1,005
Bhutan	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Botswana	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Brazil	-	98,562	-	-	-	-	-	98,562	-
Bulgaria	-	2,742	-	-	2,662	-	-	80	-
Burkina Faso	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Burundi	8,151	1,000	-	8,151	-	-	-	1,000	-
Cabo Verde	18,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	1,000	-
Cambodia	4,000	1,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Cameroon	12,247	1,000	-	-	-	-	12,247	1,000	-
Canada	-	128,674	47,051	-	81,623	175,951	-	-	175,951
Central African Republic	5,605	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,605	1,000	-
Chad	3,155	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,155	1,000	-
Chile	7,364	20,564	-	7,364	5,254	-	-	15,310	-
China	-	746,880	-	-	746,880	-	-	-	-
Colombia	-	12,045	-	-	12,045	-	-	-	-

Country	Status as of 1 January 2024			Received as of 30 September 2024			Status as of 30 September 2024		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2024	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2024	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2024	Received for future years
Comoros	11,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,000	1,000	-
Congo	10,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	1,000	-
Costa Rica	12,104	3,378	-	-	2,468	-	9,636	3,378	-
Côte d'Ivoire	-	1,077	586	-	-	-	-	491	-
Croatia	-	4,456	-	-	4,456	-	-	-	-
Cuba	37,554	4,651	-	-	-	-	37,554	4,651	-
Cyprus	-	1,763	-	-	-	-	-	1,763	-
Czechia	-	16,647	16,647	-	-	-	-	-	-
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	24,846	1,000	-	-	-	-	24,846	1,000	-
Denmark	-	27,076	-	-	27,076	-	-	-	-
Djibouti	21,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	21,000	1,000	-
Dominican Republic	-	3,281	-	-	3,068	-	-	213	-
Ecuador	23,473	3,770	-	-	-	-	23,473	3,770	-
Egypt	-	6,806	-	-	6,806	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	2,999	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,999	1,000	-
Equatorial Guinea	10,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	1,000	-
Estonia	-	2,154	-	-	2,154	-	-	-	-
Eswatini	3,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,000	-
Fiji	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Finland	-	20,417	-	-	20,417	-	-	-	-
France	-	211,421	-	-	211,421	-	-	-	-
Gabon	5,236	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,236	1,000	-
Gambia	12,261	1,000	-	-	-	-	12,261	1,000	-
Georgia	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Germany	-	299,212	-	-	299,212	-	-	-	-
Ghana	-	1,175	1,656	-	-	-	-	-	481
Greece	31,826	15,913	-	-	15,913	-	15,913	15,913	-
Grenada	11,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,000	1,000	-
Guatemala	2,007	2,007	-	-	-	-	2,007	2,007	-
Guinea	10,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	1,000	-
Guinea-Bissau	16,110	1,000	-	-	-	-	16,110	1,000	-
Honduras	-	1,000	179	-	-	-	-	821	-
Hungary	-	11,164	-	-	11,164	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	1,763	-	-	-	-	-	1,763	-
India	-	51,117	-	-	49,495	-	-	1,622	-

Country	Status as of 1 January 2024			Received as of 30 September 2024			Status as of 30 September 2024		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2024	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2024	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2024	Received for future years
Indonesia	-	26,881	-	-	26,881	-	-	-	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	92,152	18,165	-	14,086	-	-	78,066	18,165	-
Iraq	31,478	6,267	-	31,478	-	-	-	6,267	-
Ireland	-	21,495	-	-	-	-	-	21,495	-
Israel	27,468	27,468	-	-	-	-	27,468	27,468	-
Italy	4,766	156,142	-	-	-	-	4,766	156,142	-
Jamaica	-	1,000	25	-	975	-	-	-	-
Japan	-	393,318	-	-	307,604	-	-	85,714	-
Jordan	3,182	1,077	-	-	-	-	3,182	1,077	-
Kazakhstan	-	6,512	-	-	6,512	-	-	-	-
Kenya	-	1,469	531	-	-	-	-	938	-
Kiribati	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Kuwait	-	11,457	-	-	11,457	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	4,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	1,000	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	2,448	-	-	2,448	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	15,531	1,763	-	-	-	-	15,531	1,763	-
Lesotho	-	1,000	205	-	795	805	-	-	805
Liberia	18,110	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,110	1,000	-
Libya	59,151	1,000	-	-	-	-	59,151	1,000	-
Liechtenstein	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	3,770	-	-	-	-	-	3,770	-
Luxembourg	-	3,329	-	-	-	-	-	3,329	-
Madagascar	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Malawi	1,966	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,966	1,000	-
Malaysia	-	17,039	-	-	17,039	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	1,000	2,060	-	-	-	-	-	1,060
Malta	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Marshall Islands	8,161	1,000	-	-	-	-	8,161	1,000	-
Mauritania	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Mauritius	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	59,784	-	-	59,784	-	-	-	-
Monaco	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Mongolia	4,000	1,000	-	4,000	806	-	-	194	-
Montenegro	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Morocco	2,693	2,693	-	2,693	-	-	-	2,693	-
Mozambique	5,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	5,000	1,000	-
Myanmar	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Namibia	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-

Country	Status as of 1 January 2024			Received as of 30 September 2024			Status as of 30 September 2024		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2024	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2024	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2024	Received for future years
Nepal	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000	-
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	-	67,422	-	-	67,422	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	15,130	-	-	15,130	-	-	-	-
Nicaragua	7,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	1,000	-
Niger	16,192	1,000	-	-	-	-	16,192	1,000	-
Nigeria	125,975	8,911	-	-	-	-	125,975	8,911	-
North Macedonia	11,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	11,000	1,000	-
Norway	-	33,246	-	-	-	-	-	33,246	-
Oman	15,848	5,435	-	-	-	-	15,848	5,435	-
Pakistan	13,570	5,582	-	6,081	-	-	7,498	5,582	-
Palau	18,987	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,987	1,000	-
Panama	134	4,407	-	134	4,294	-	-	113	-
Papua New Guinea	7,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	1,000	-
Paraguay	-	1,273	-	-	-	-	-	1,273	-
Peru	616	7,981	-	616	7,981	-	-	-	-
Philippines	-	10,380	-	-	10,380	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	40,982	-	-	40,982	-	-	-	-
Portugal	-	17,284	-	-	17,284	-	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	12,629	126,030	-	12,629	107,961	-	-	18,069	-
Republic of Moldova	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Romania	-	15,276	-	-	15,276	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation	182,730	91,365	-	-	-	-	182,730	91,365	-
Rwanda	2,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Saint Lucia	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Samoa	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Sao Tome and Principe	17,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	17,000	1,000	-
Senegal	6,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	6,000	1,000	-
Serbia	-	1,567	-	-	1,567	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	7,377	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,377	1,000	-
Slovakia	-	7,589	-	-	7,589	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	3,868	-	-	3,868	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	11,947	-	-	11,947	-	-	-	-
South Sudan	10,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	1,000	-
Spain	-	104,487	-	-	104,487	-	-	-	-

Country	Status as of 1 January 2024			Received as of 30 September 2024			Status as of 30 September 2024		
	Not received for prior years	Anticipated for 2024	Paid for future years	For prior years	For 2024	For future years	Not received for prior years	Not received for 2024	Received for future years
Sri Lanka	-	2,203	-	-	2,203	-	-	-	-
Sudan	18,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	18,000	1,000	-
Suriname	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	42,647	-	-	42,647	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	-	55,524	-	-	55,524	-	-	-	-
Syrian Arab Republic	7,348	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,348	1,000	-
Tajikistan	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Thailand	5,003	18,018	-	5,003	18,018	25	-	-	-
Togo	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	1,812	-	-	1,812	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	-	1,000	448	-	-	-	-	552	-
Türkiye	-	41,374	-	-	41,374	-	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	14,989	1,665	-	-	-	-	14,989	1,665	-
Uganda	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Ukraine	5,484	2,742	-	5,209	-	-	275	2,742	-
United Arab Emirates	-	31,091	-	-	31,091	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	214,212	214,212	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	13,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	13,000	1,000	-
United States of America	-	1,065,799	80,996	-	-	-	-	984,803	-
Uruguay	-	4,505	-	-	4,412	-	-	93	-
Uzbekistan	15,385	1,322	-	1,322	-	-	13,741	1,322	-
Vanuatu	1,901	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,901	1,000	-
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	329,506	8,568	-	-	-	-	329,506	8,568	-
Viet Nam	-	4,554	-	-	4,554	-	-	-	-
Yemen	16,000	1,000	-	867	-	-	15,133	1,000	-
Zambia	7,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	1,000	-
Zimbabwe	-	1,000	193	-	-	-	-	807	-
Total	1,635,142	4,844,799	470,156	129,014	2,630,100	176,782	1,506,128	1,747,089	179,328

Annex 2

Voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties in the Africa region as of 30 September 2024

Contracting Party	Total potential voluntary contributions 2009-2024 (CHF)	Voluntary contributions received up to 31 December 2023 (CHF)	Total voluntary contributions received, 1 January - 30 September 2024 (CHF)	Total voluntary contributions received for up to 30 September 2024 (CHF)
Angola	3,000	0		0
Benin	16,000	9,956		9,956
Botswana	16,000	6,000		6,000
Burkina Faso	16,000	0		0
Burundi	16,000	1,000		1,000
Cabo Verde	16,000	0		0
Cameroon	16,000	0		0
Central African Republic	16,000	0		0
Chad	16,000	10,000		10,000
Comoros	16,000	4,000		4,000
Congo	16,000	3,246		3,246
Côte d'Ivoire	15,769	4,000		4,000
Democratic Republic of Congo	16,000	0		0
Djibouti	16,000	0		0
Equatorial Guinea	16,000	0		0
Eswatini	11,000	0		0
Gabon	16,000	1,625		1,625
Gambia	16,000	0		0
Ghana	15,475	5,000		5,000
Guinea	16,000	5,000		5,000
Guinea-Bissau	16,000	0		0
Kenya	14,243	10,531		10,531
Lesotho	16,000	3,795		3,795
Liberia	16,000	0		0
Libya	3,532	0		0
Madagascar	16,000	10,874		10,874
Malawi	16,000	5,929		5,929
Mali	16,000	15,000	1,000	16,000
Mauritania	16,000	0		0
Mauritius	16,000	15,000		15,000
Mozambique	16,000	3,000		3,000
Namibia	16,000	7,000		7,000
Niger	16,000	0		0
Rwanda	16,000	3,000		3,000
Sao Tome and Principe	16,000	0		0
Senegal	16,000	2,000		2,000

Contracting Party	Total potential voluntary contributions 2009-2024 (CHF)	Voluntary contributions received up to 31 December 2023 (CHF)	Total voluntary contributions received, 1 January - 30 September 2024 (CHF)	Total voluntary contributions received for up to 30 September 2024 (CHF)
Seychelles	16,000	4,000		4,000
Sierra Leone	16,000	0		0
South Sudan	11,000	0		0
Sudan	16,000	0		0
Tanzania, United Republic of	16,000	0		0
Togo	15,000	11,000		11,000
Tunisia	10,856	0		0
Uganda	16,000	8,828		8,828
Zambia	16,000	200		200
Zimbabwe	12,000	0		0
Total	689,875	149,984	1,000	150,984