

## Admission of observers

### Action 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 Contracting Parties present object.

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties<sup>1</sup> 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.

### The 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 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC64) as of 6 January 2025:

#### States not party to the Convention:

- Guyana – Embassy of Guyana, Brussels

### 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*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 SC64:

##### Intergovernmental

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

##### Non-governmental

- BirdLife International
- ONG APES
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Japan
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

#### 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 7.1:

- Arcus reflexus
- Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)

#### **Recommendation**

7. 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.