

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

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Geneva, Switzerland, and Wuhan, China 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Rep.1

**Draft session report
Day 1 – Saturday 5 November (Opening session from Wuhan)**

10.05 – 11.00 Welcome and Opening Ceremony

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. A cultural performance in Wuhan, **China**, was followed by the opening ceremony, held across both venues in Wuhan, People’s Republic of China, and Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The Ramsar flag was symbolically handed over from **the United Arab Emirates**, host of COP13, to **China**, host of COP14.

Agenda item 2: General statements and keynote addresses

3. H.E. President Xi Jinping, People’s Republic of China, underscored the significance of preserving water bodies and wetlands, stressing the need to strengthen cooperation, raise awareness, and scale up action. He emphasized the role of wetlands for protecting biodiversity and providing benefits to people, and drew attention to national efforts to promote wetland conservation, including the suggested establishment of an International Mangrove Center.
4. Opening statements were delivered by:
 - H.E. Wang Guanghua, Minister of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China, who moderated the opening session;
 - Ms. Shen Yueyue, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China;
 - Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, via video;
 - Mr Wang Menghui, Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Hubei Provincial Committee;
 - Mr Bruno Oberle, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature;
 - Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands; and
 - Ms. Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.
5. Youth representatives offered an artistic performance, launching the Wetland Protection Youth Initiative.

6. Drawing the event to a close, moderator Mr Wang Guanghua urged delegates to share experiences and build consensus, achieving meaningful results to promote global ecological protection and governance.