

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

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

Ramsar COP14 Rep.6

**Draft session report
Day 4 – Tuesday 8 November
(Afternoon plenary session)**

15.10 – 17:50 Plenary session

Agenda item 18: Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee **(continued)**

18.10 Draft resolution on the new CEPA approach

1. **Sweden**, speaking as Chair of the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel, introduced the draft resolution contained in document COP14 Doc18.10, noting that the proposed new CEPA approach had been developed to be integrated into the Convention’s current Strategic Plan, and encouraged cooperation between Contracting Parties on CEPA campaigns.
2. **Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, on behalf of the Members States of the European Union (EU), India, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia and Zimbabwe** welcomed and supported the draft resolution, with amendments, noting the importance of CEPA approaches in supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. **Thailand** further stressed the importance of integrating and mainstreaming new approaches into the public and private sectors, in line with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. **Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the EU**, further noted the need for updated terms of reference for the CEPA Oversight Panel, and proposed the addition of a new annex to the draft resolution to incorporate this.
3. Responding to **Brazil’s** request that the EU make its proposal on the proposed additional annex available for review, the **Secretariat** noted it would make this document available to the Conference.
4. The **President** noted general support for the draft resolution and invited Sweden to work with the Secretariat to develop a revised draft resolution to be addressed at a later plenary session.

18.9 Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – Operational Guidelines

5. **Costa Rica** briefly introduced the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.9, which was based on the work undertaken by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) Working Group and

other interested Parties at the resumed session of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. The **Republic of Korea**, supported by **Togo** and **Uganda**, emphasized the key role of RRI in implementing the Convention, and urged that the Operational Guidelines be transparent regarding the legal status and management of the Initiatives.
7. **Cambodia, Colombia, on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Region, France, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Japan, Panama, the Philippines, and the Seychelles, on behalf of the Africa Region**, generally supported the draft resolution, with amendments, recognizing the value of the RRI as a mechanism for implementing the Convention and empowering regional collaboration. **Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire** and **Uruguay** provided further comments in support of RRI and the work undertaken by the Working Group. **Switzerland** made a note regarding the financial sustainability of the Initiatives and **Togo** proposed an additional amendment.
8. **New Zealand** proposed amendments to be submitted to the Secretariat.
9. The **President**, following agreement from **Costa Rica** and **France, on behalf of the Member States of the EU**, established a contact group to take forward the proposed amendments, and submit a revised draft resolution for presentation at a later plenary session.

18.7 Draft resolution on how to structure, write and handle Convention documents and messages

10. Proponent **Sweden** withdrew the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.7, which was noted by the **President** and removed from the running order.

18.11 Draft resolution on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards

11. As its proponent, **Sweden** introduced the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.11, noting its aim to compile all decisions on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards in a single draft resolution.
12. **Bolivia, China, Colombia, New Zealand, Slovakia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Tunisia** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** supported the draft resolution. **Slovakia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, and Tunisia** requested that future award ceremonies take place at COPs as a general rule. The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** also provided an amendment.
13. **New Zealand**, supported by **Bolivia** and **Colombia**, suggested establishing a Ramsar Indigenous Peoples Conservation Award, to acknowledge transformative projects led or involving Indigenous Peoples.
14. The **President** noted the wide support for the draft resolution, noting that a revised text would be prepared by the Secretariat based on Contracting Parties' comments, and invited Sweden and New Zealand to discuss with the Secretariat the establishment of the proposed new Award, and its administrative and budgetary implications.

18.17 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025

15. The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) **Dr Guangchun Lei** (China), introduced the draft resolution contained in document COP14 Doc18.17, noting that the workplan had been extensively discussed by the members of the STRP, and drew attention to the categorization of future work in thematic areas relating to the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives.
16. **Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU with reservations by Sweden, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela** expressed general support for the draft resolution and appreciation for the STRP's work, highlighting priority areas for implementation and encouraging efficient implementation of the Convention to facilitate the Panel's work. **Czechia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, with reservations from Sweden**, further encouraged the practical and functional design of STRP work packages, and **Brazil** noted it was premature to refer to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets which would be finalized at COP15 of the Convention on Biodiversity in December.
17. **Brazil, Canada, Czechia, New Zealand, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** reported that they would submit amendments.
18. The **President** noted that the draft resolution had received wide support, and suggested that an informal group be formed to develop a revised version based on the Contracting Parties' comments.

18.18 Draft resolution on enhancing the conservation and management of small wetlands

19. **China** introduced the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.18, outlining its aims to provide a framework for the conservation of small wetlands, following guidance to be developed by the STRP.
20. **Cambodia, Canada, Czechia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, on behalf of the Africa Region, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe** generally supported this draft resolution, with amendments, noting the need for specific national, regional and international measures and policies to conserve small wetlands effectively and need for a definition of "small wetlands" by some Parties.
21. The **President** noted the support and comments expressed by Parties, and invited the Secretariat to revise the draft resolution based on the comments received.

18.5 Draft List of Resolutions that are effectively defunct

and

18.6 Draft resolution on options to continue the review of all previous Resolutions and decisions

22. The **Secretariat** introduced the two draft resolutions, noting that document COP14 Doc18.6 included the options for a review of previous resolutions and decisions, with the draft list of resolutions that were defunct included as an annex. The Secretariat noted that none of the past resolutions or decisions would be removed without the decision of the Conference.

23. Amongst the three potential options for consolidation of current resolutions, **Czechia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU with reservations from Sweden, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** expressed a preference for the first option, which stipulates that after each COP, the Standing Committee will select a small number of subject categories from the list of categories of resolutions included in this draft resolution, for which the Secretariat will prepare draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at the following COP.
24. **Mexico, Panama** and **Switzerland** provided amendments to the list of resolutions to be repealed.
25. **Sweden** and **Zambia** suggested retaining the resolutions selected for retirement in a database to facilitate their accessibility.
26. **Japan, Thailand** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** provided additional comments, and **Colombia** requested further information on the consolidation process.
27. **Sweden** offered amendments, noting that it could be counter-productive to take a final decision on the themes prior to the consolidation process.
28. The **President** invited the Secretariat to develop a revised version of the draft resolution based on the comments received, noting that additional comments would be addressed in the morning plenary session on Wednesday 9 November.
29. The **President** closed the session at 17.55.