



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

## **Diplomatic Note 2020/9**

### **Cancellation of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, and has the honour of updating them regarding the cancellation of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention.

The 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58), originally scheduled to be held from Monday 22 June to Friday 26 June 2020, was rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak to take place from Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2020, at the headquarters of the Convention Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland.

Taking into account the directives of the Swiss authorities, the continuing status of confinements and travel restrictions across the world, and the fact that international meetings have been either cancelled or postponed, the Standing Committee determined that it would not be possible to physically convene SC58 on the rescheduled dates. The Committee decided to cancel SC58, and to address at its 59th meeting (SC59) in 2021 the outstanding agenda items that were not addressed at the intersessional meetings held on 22 and 24 June 2020.

The Standing Committee further decided that decisions that are required by the Rules of Procedure to enable the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to take place as planned should be taken intersessionally, namely: 1) to approve the dates and provisional agenda for COP14; 2) to approve the process for preparing draft resolutions; and 3) to approve the dates for SC59 in 2021.

The Standing Committee stressed that Working Groups and the Secretariat are to continue working under the existing mandates and that the Working Groups can, when so needed, consult with the Standing Committee including through information meetings, and that written reports on progress of the Working Groups would be appreciated. The financial situation of the Secretariat will continue to be monitored by the Standing Committee with reports and recommendations from its Subgroup on Finance.

The Secretariat of the Convention will inform all Contracting Parties and observers of the dates of SC59 in due time.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands respectfully avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions and Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties to the Convention the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 2 October 2020

