



Regional Consultation in the Americas in preparation for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (online)

**April 19-22, 2022
4 pm to 7:00 pm (CEST)**

Summary report

April 19th 2022

Agenda item 1. Welcome to the meeting

1. Mr. José Manuel Mateo Feliz from the Dominican Republic, in the representation of the regional representatives in the Standing Committee for the Americas, gave welcome remarks, encouraging the different delegates from the Americas to make their best efforts so that at COP14, consensus positions can be presented.s.
2. Mrs. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands highlighted the work and commitment of the Contracting Parties in this last extended triennium and with a view to the preparations of the Standing Committee 59 and COP 14. Furthermore, she mentioned the importance of this meeting to strengthen the participation capacity of all countries in the governance of the Convention.

Agenda item 2. Election of the Chair of the meeting

3. Given the nomination made by Uruguay, Mexico was elected by consensus as Chair of the meeting.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Chair put under consideration the provisional agenda, which was approved by consensus.

Agenda item 4. Review the status of implementation of the Convention and establishment of priorities for the new triennium including priorities for the STRP

5. The Secretariat presented a summary of the main achievements, challenges and priorities regarding the implementation of the Convention based on the Global Implementation Report for COP13, as well as the 2019-2021 priorities and challenges in the Americas region. In this regard, Brazil requested clarifications regarding the national reports and the implementation report for COP14, which were addressed by the Secretariat.
6. The Secretariat, on behalf of the STRP Chair, presented a summary of the work plan of this group and the proposed priorities for the next triennium. Regarding this item, Brazil, Costa

Rica, the Dominican Republic and Mexico requested more information and comments on inventories, ecosystem-based adaptation, restoration and the inclusion of gender issues.

Agenda item 5. Roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee members, National Focal Points, STRP Focal Points, and Standing Committee regional representatives

7. The Secretariat presented the roles and responsibilities of the regional representatives in the Standing Committee and the regional categorization of the countries following Resolutions XIII. 4 and XII. 5. Likewise, the regional representatives of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay gave some recommendations on their experience in the last triennium and discussed learned lessons.

Agenda item 6. Nominations of regional representatives to the Standing Committee for the next triennium

8. The Chair consulted the Parties on nominations for the next triennium. In this regard, some countries, such as Brazil, expressed their interest in being regional representatives in the next triennium, as well as Costa Rica, which indicated its interest in continuing as regional representatives for an additional period.

Agenda item 7. Accreditation process

9. The Secretariat explained the accreditation process under the Rules of Procedure for COP14. Concerning this item, the Chair urged the participants to take into consideration the timeframes and forms explained, as well as to explore possible nomination of representatives to participate in the Credentials Committee at COP14. Guatemala made inquiries regarding the different members of the delegation that can participate in COP14, which was clarified by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 8. Discussion of the Draft Resolutions

10. The Secretariat mentioned that 30 resolutions had been received, six prepared by the Secretariat, six by the Working Groups and eighteen by the Contracting Parties. Similarly, the Secretariat explained the order to address the draft resolutions, including those related to administrative and budgetary matters prepared by the Secretariat.

Draft Resolutions prepared by the Secretariat

SC59 Doc 8.3 Budget scenarios for 2023-2025 and draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters.

11. The Secretariat presented the three basic budget scenarios for the consideration of the Standing Committee, and a draft resolution on financial and budget matters, indicating that this document was prepared on the same basis as the previous triennium. The Secretariat clarified the questions from Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador related to the scenarios, the budget of the Ramsar Advisory Missions and Annex 3 of the Resolution. Parties agreed to continue with the discussions of this draft Resolution.

April 20th 2022

12. The Chair provided a summary of the points discussed the previous day, mentioning that the discussion of draft resolution 8.3 would continue.
13. With Mexico support as Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, the Secretariat provided a further explanation of the differences among the three scenarios, as well as on staff costs, performance-based provisions and bonuses. The Secretary General recalled that the administration of projects financed with non-core resources, including fundraising for the Regional Initiatives referred to in paragraph 26 of the draft resolution, is carried out by the Secretariat following Resolution XIII. 2, paragraph 26.

SC59 Doc. 15 Roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee.

14. The Secretariat briefly introduced this draft resolution. The Dominican Republic and Uruguay raised questions regarding nomination procedures for regional representatives in a sub-region, which were addressed by the Secretariat. Similarly, Uruguay mentioned the opportunity that the different Contracting Parties have to participate in the Standing Committee as observers.

SC59 Doc.13.1 Review of all previous Resolutions and Decisions: Process for conducting the review.
SC59 Doc.13.3 Draft consolidated resolution on "Inventories".

15. The Secretariat presented the two documents explaining the procedure carried out for the review process. Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay requested clarification regarding some elements of the draft resolutions, which were addressed by the Secretariat.

SC59 Doc.16 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions.

16. The Secretariat introduced this draft resolution. Regarding the strategic framework for biological diversity, Brazil and Colombia referred to the mechanisms that could be used to avoid duplication of efforts by the Contracting Parties in the preparation of national reports, as well as the indicators and elements of synergy that can be reflected from the Convention in this framework. Likewise, Peru mentioned the efforts Contracting Parties must continue to make at the national level to implement effective coordination mechanisms through the National Wetland Committees. Brazil noted that the use of the term nature-based solutions should be in the context of the UNEA Resolution.

SC59 Doc.23 Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

17. The Secretariat presented this document indicating that it will be updated before COP14. Similarly, called the attention of the Parties to the requests presented by two Contracting Parties, Algeria and the Republic of Mauritius, regarding the designation of Ramsar sites and extension of the Convention in areas not recognized by the United Nations as part of their territories, carried out by Morocco and the United Kingdom. Also, it was indicated that Algeria presented the draft resolution 24.2 on the review of the Ramsar criteria and delisting of Ramsar Sites located in territories that are not recognized at the UN level.

Draft Resolutions submitted by Working Groups

SC59 Doc.11 Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Ramsar Convention

18. The United Kingdom, as Chair of the Working Group on Effectiveness (EWG), presented the process carried out by the group for the preparation of the proposed resolution. Brazil and Costa Rica raised questions related to paragraphs 11, 14 and 15 of the draft resolution, which were addressed by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

April 21st 2022

19. The Chair provided a summary of the items discussed the previous day, mentioning that the meeting will begin with the draft resolutions presented by the Working Groups.

Draft Resolutions submitted by Working Groups

SC59 Doc.21.1 Report of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group on Addressing Resolution XIII.9

20. Costa Rica, as Chair of the Regional Initiatives Working Group, presented the draft resolution contained in document SC59 Doc. 21.1. The Chair explained the process carried out by this group since Standing Committee 57 until the end of the mandate given by the COP in Resolution XIII.9 in the preparation of a new resolution, along with the operational guidelines presented in the Standing Committee 59, in June 2021.
21. After Costa Rica's presentation, there was a break in the discussion of the draft resolution on Regional Initiatives to give the floor to Sweden to present the draft resolutions she had prepared.
22. Sweden introduced the Ramsar Regional Initiatives draft resolutions (SC59Doc. 24.9, SC59Doc. 24.10 and SC59Doc. 24.11), the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical work (SC59Doc. 24.14 and SC59Doc. 24.15), online drafting and preparatory negotiations of documents (SC59Doc. 24.17), how to structure, write and handle Convention documents and messages (SC59Doc. 24.18), the CEPA approach (SC59Doc. 17.1), and the Ramsar Wetland Awards (SC59Doc 24.7). Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay made comments and requested clarification on the consultations carried out in preparation of the different draft resolutions, which were addressed by Sweden. The Dominican Republic noted about the IKI project "Wise use of Caribbean Wetlands for mitigation of climate change and conservation of ecosystem services" implemented under the Regional Initiative for the Conservation of Caribbean Wetlands that is within the framework of paragraph 26 of Resolution XIII.2 and 17 of Resolution XIII.9 agreed at COP13.
23. The Parties then resumed the discussion of the draft resolution and Operational Guidelines on Regional Initiatives. Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay requested clarifications, which were addressed by Costa Rica and the Secretariat.

Sub-regional meetings

24. The Parties continued the discussions in sub-regional meetings of North America-Caribbean and Central America and South America.

April 22nd 2022

25. The Chair provided a summary of the items discussed the previous day, mentioning that the meeting will begin with a summary of the discussions held in the sub-regional meetings and then continue with the previous day pending draft resolutions submitted by the Working Groups and the other items on the agenda.
26. Mexico, as Chair of the sub-regional meeting of North America and the Caribbean, indicated that the delegates discussed points of view on some of the draft resolutions submitted by the Parties and would continue the discussions at the next sub-regional meeting after the plenary.
27. Uruguay, Chair of the sub-regional meeting of Central and South America, indicated that the countries discussed in detail the draft resolutions submitted by Parties that present implications for the operation of the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in order to define regional consensus. In addition, he mentioned that these discussions would continue after the plenary.

Draft Resolutions submitted by Working Groups

SC59 Doc. 10 Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

28. The Secretariat, on behalf of Australia, presented the draft resolution, indicating the process that has been followed in the revision of the fourth Strategic Plan.

Draft Resolutions submitted by Contracting Parties

SC59 Doc.24.12 Draft Resolution on Strengthening Ramsar Connections Through Youth

29. Costa Rica introduced the draft resolution, prepared along with Australia. Uruguay requested clarifications on certain points of the draft resolution, which were addressed by Costa Rica and the Secretariat.

SC59 Doc.24.13 Draft Resolution on Waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates

30. The Secretariat, on behalf of Australia, introduced the draft resolution. Peru and Uruguay asked questions regarding the number of countries that have difficulties with Criterion 6 and the implications for the percentages used. The Secretariat responded to the questions referring to the discussions of the Administrative Management Group and mandates of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 9. Inputs for regional meetings at COP14
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31. The Secretariat indicated that COP14 is scheduled for the week of November 21-29, 2022 in China. In this regard, the Secretariat mentioned that the first day and a half will be devoted to regional meetings, following the discussions held with China in line with Decision SC58-09 of the Standing Committee. Argentina and Uruguay made consultations that were addressed by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting

32. The Secretariat mentioned that the report of the meeting will be sent to the Contracting Parties for comments. Once approved by the Parties, it will be published on the website of the Convention.

Agenda item 11. Closing remarks

33. The Chair thanked all Parties for their active participation, and the Secretariat for organizing the meeting. The Parties thanked Mexico for its role as Chair and the work carried out by the Secretariat. The Deputy Secretary General thanked Mexico and all the Parties for the fruitful meeting and stressed that the Secretariat is available to continue supporting the Parties in their work with a view to the Standing Committee and COP14.
34. The Chair mentioned that the Parties would continue the sub-regional discussions and if time allowed they would return to the plenary to report what was discussed.

Sub-regional meetings

35. The Parties continued the discussions in sub-regional meetings of North America-Caribbean and Central America and South America.
36. Back in plenary, Mexico and Uruguay Chairs of the North America-Caribbean and Central America-South America sub-regional meetings indicated that they would continue discussions with other Parties in the region, with GRULAC Geneva and Parties from other regions.