

Report of the Secretariat on COP14

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of this report;
- ii. take note of the likely timing for COP14;
- iii. take note of the indicative timeline of events and deadlines leading up to COP14; and
- iv. approve the provisional agenda for COP14.

Background

1. At its 57th meeting (SC57) the Standing Committee accepted by acclamation the offer of China to host the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) in Wuhan, China.
2. The Standing Committee adopted Decision SC57-18 as follows: "The Standing Committee established the Subgroup on COP14, chaired by China and also comprising Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, to oversee the COP14 planning process and to develop ideas regarding the celebration of the Convention's 50th anniversary in 2021, seeking the support of other Contracting Parties as required."

Progress with preparation for COP14

3. Between 3 and 5 December 2019, Secretariat staff met representatives of the host country, including Wuhan Municipality and the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, in Wuhan to visit potential venues, identify possible dates and discuss meeting requirements and logistics.
4. At this meeting the draft host country agreement was presented by the Secretariat and discussed with the host country. The Secretariat shared lessons and best practices from previous COPs of the Convention on Wetlands, as well as the experiences of the COPs of other Multilateral Environmental Conventions (MEAs), that the host country is encouraged to replicate.
5. During the meeting, the option of a high-level segment was discussed, with the host country indicating its intent to plan and organize such an event.

6. A follow-up planning meeting was scheduled for 3 February 2020, in conjunction with a World Wetland's Day celebration event in Beijing, to further discuss COP14 planning and logistics including the date, venue and theme. The meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
7. The Secretariat held a teleconference with the host country on 4 March at which the host country provided an update on the COVID-19 situation in China; a number of matters were discussed related to the planning of COP14, including its timing, venue, theme and programme, and the convening of the COP14 Working Group. The host country has indicated that the likely timing will be the autumn of 2021; it anticipates being able to propose the exact dates in advance of SC58 in order for the Standing Committee to approve the dates. The proposed location remains Wuhan Municipality.
8. China as the Chair of the COP14 Working Group contacted members in mid-March, and the Group agreed to use electronic exchange of documents instead of having a teleconference. China subsequently circulated for comments information on progress and ideas on preparation of COP14, and will revise the document accordingly within the Group.
9. The Working Group has requested time to meet during SC58 before the agenda item on COP14 preparation, so that the host country can provide further updates on planning and preparations and the Working Group can contribute to the planning and preparation efforts of the host country.
10. Given that there will be a number of advances and actions taken in regards to the planning of COP14 between the published date of the present report and SC58, China will be making an oral report to SC58 with the most current information and progress on its efforts.

Timeline leading up to COP14

11. An indicative timeline has been prepared using November 2021 as a likely date for COP14, as shown in Table 1 below. The timeline can be adjusted accordingly once the dates for COP14 have been approved by the Standing Committee.

Table 1 Indicative timeline leading up to COP14

Date	Event
November 2021	14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14)
August 2021	COP14 documents published
May 2021	59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59)
February 2021	Submission of proposals for draft resolutions
February 2021	SC59 documents published ¹
To be determined	Pre-COP regional meetings ²

12. Document SC58 Doc.20.4 *Process for preparation and review of draft resolutions* also addresses this timeline and the process of preparing draft resolutions for consideration at COP14. The document also considers the place of pre-COP regional meetings in the process.

¹ Includes the publishing of draft resolutions for consideration at SC59.

² The purpose, format and timing of pre-COP regional meetings is to be informed by the Effectiveness Working Group.

COP14 provisional agenda

13. The Rules of Procedure adopted by COP13 indicate that the Secretariat “shall prepare the provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting for consideration and approval by the Standing Committee at its annual meeting in the year following the meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties” (Rule 8) and “shall notify all Contracting Parties of the dates, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary meeting at least 12 months before the meeting is due to commence” (Rule 5.1).
14. Rule 9 indicates that “The provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:
 - a) The report of the Secretary General on the work related to the Convention;
 - b) Items arising from the articles of the Convention;
 - c) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;
 - d) Items referred to in Rule 15 of the present Rules of Procedure;
 - e) Any item proposed by a Contracting Party and received by the Secretariat before the provisional agenda is approved by the Standing Committee;
 - f) A comparative report on actual versus projected expenditures and human resource needs over the past triennium for the work of the Convention and the operation of the Secretariat.”
15. Standing Committee is accordingly requested to approve the provisional agenda for COP14 in Annex 1 of the present document, which has been prepared in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Annex 1
COP14 provisional agenda

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

Wuhan, China, 2021

Provisional Agenda

- I Opening of the Meeting
- II General Statements and Keynote Addresses
- III Adoption of the Agenda
- IV Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
- V Election of the President and Vice-Presidents and remarks by the President
- VI Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees
- VII Admission of Observers
- VIII Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee
- IX Report of the Secretary General and overview of the implementation of the Convention at the global level
- X Report on implementation of the CEPA Programme 2016-2024
- XI Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
- XII Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XIII Secretariat's report on administrative and financial implications of draft Resolutions
- XIV Financial report for 2019-2021 by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee Subgroup on Finance and proposed budget for the triennium 2021-2024
- XV Election of Contracting Parties for the Standing Committee 2021-2024
- XVI Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee
- XVII Report of the Credentials Committee
- XVIII Report on the discussions, conclusions and recommendations in the preceding sessions
- XIX Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations
- XX Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XXI Any other business
- XXII Adoption of the report of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XXIII Close of the meeting

Provisional working programme

Day 1

Registration of delegates (continues each day)

60th meeting of the Standing Committee (subsequently to meet as the Conference Bureau)

Regional meetings (including discussions on Contracting Parties to be proposed for election to the Standing Committee. Plenary agenda item XIV)

Meetings of Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Day 2

Registration (continued)

Regional meetings

Opening ceremony and welcoming statements (includes **Agenda items I and II** and Ramsar Award Ceremony)

Day 3

Registration (continued)

Meeting of the Conference Bureau

Plenary Session

- III **Adoption of the agenda**
 - IV **Adoption of the Rules of Procedure**
 - V **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents and remarks by the President**
 - VI **Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees**
 - VII **Admission of Observers**
 - VIII **Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee**
- Plenary Session**
- IX **Report of the Secretary General and overview of the implementation of the Convention at the global level**
 - X **Report on implementation of the CEPA Programme 2016-2024**
 - XI **Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)**
 - XII **Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**
 - XIII **Secretariat's report on administrative and financial implications of draft Resolutions**

Day 4

Registration (continued)

Meeting of the Conference Bureau

Plenary Session

- XIV **Financial report for 2019-2021 by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee Subgroup on Finance and proposed budget for the triennium 2021-2024**
- XV **Election of Contracting Parties for the Standing Committee 2021-2024**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee**

- Plenary Session**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee** (continued)
Regional Meetings to prepare and canvass views for the upcoming sessions

Day 5

Registration (continued)
Meeting of the Conference Bureau (with Standing Committee 2021-2024 appointees as observers)

- Plenary Session**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee** (continued)

- Plenary Session**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee** (continued)

Day 6

Registration (continued)
Meeting of the Conference Bureau with Standing Committee 2021-2024 appointees as observers

- Plenary Session**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee** (continued)

- Plenary Session**
- XVI **Consideration of the draft Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee** (continued)
Preparatory meeting of the appointees to the incoming Standing Committee 2021-2024

Day 7

Registration (continued)
Meeting of the Conference Bureau (if needed) with Standing Committee 2021-2024 appointees as observers

Day 8

Registration (continued)
Meeting of the Conference Bureau with Standing Committee 2021-2024 appointees as observers

- Plenary Session**
- XVII **Report of the Credentials Committee**

- XVIII **Report on the discussions, conclusions and recommendations in the preceding sessions**
Plenary Session
- XIX **Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations**

Day 9

Registration (continued)
Meeting of the Conference Bureau with Standing Committee 2021-2024 appointees as observers

- Plenary Session**
- XIX **Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations (continued)**
Plenary Session
- XX **Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**
- XXI **Any other business**
- XXII **Adoption of the report of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**
- XXIII **Close of the meeting**

61st meeting of the Standing Committee (incoming members to elect officers and subgroup members, and agree the date and venue of the first full meeting)