

Draft daily report
Day 1 – Tuesday 24 May (Morning plenary session)

10:05 – 12:35 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 1: Opening statements

1. Opening statements were made by:
 - H.E. Eng. Mohamed Al Afkham, Chair of the Standing Committee;
 - Mr Stewart Maginnis, Deputy Secretary-General IUCN;
 - Ms Priyanie Amerasinghe, International Water Management Institute, on behalf of the six International Organization Partners (IOPs); and
 - Ms Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention.
2. Ukraine made a statement on the potential consequences of environmental changes of 20 Ramsar sites as a result of Russian aggression. Interventions were made by France, China, Japan, Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

3. The SC Chair introduced the provisional agenda in document SC59/2022 Doc.2 Rev.1.
4. Some participants raised concerns regarding the inclusion of proposed Agenda item 27 under Other Matters, considering that the issue raised would be more appropriately addressed under other fora. Other participants expressed support for its retention.
5. After some considerable discussion in which participants could not agree on the way forward, advice was sought from the Convention's Legal Advisor, who explained that under recognized international law, consensus indicated that participants were generally in agreement. The legal advisor also drew attention to Rule 39 of the current Rules of Procedure which indicated that, should it not be possible to reach agreement, members of the Standing Committee could vote on the issue, the outcome to be decided by a simple majority.
6. Algeria, China and the Islamic Republic of Iran wished their objections to the inclusion of this agenda item to be reflected in the report of the meeting.
7. A proposal was made to amend the proposed agenda item to: "Consideration of the potential consequences of environmental changes of 20 Ramsar sites in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression". This received widespread support.

8. China wished it to be recorded in the report of the meeting that they had no comment to make on the proposed amended agenda item.
9. Interventions were made by Algeria, Australia, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uruguay.

Decision SC59/2022-01: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional agenda in document SC59/2022 Doc.2 Rev.1, with Agenda item 27 amended to: Consideration of the potential consequences of environmental changes of 20 Ramsar sites in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the provisional working programme

10. The SC Chair introduced the provisional working programme in document SC59/2022 Doc.3. Rev.1.
11. A request was made to bring forward discussion of Agenda item 11 *Report of the Effectiveness Working Group* from Wednesday morning to Tuesday afternoon, between items 10 *Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group* and 21 *Ramsar Regional Initiatives*.
12. A request was also made to remove the proposed closed session on Friday afternoon regarding item 22 *Report of the Co-chairs of the Independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation* and to include this under the same item, to be addressed on Thursday afternoon.
13. Interventions were made by Australia and Republic of Korea.

Decision SC59/2022-02: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional working programme document SC59/2022 Doc.3. Rev.1 as amended.

Agenda item 4: Admission of observers

14. The Secretariat outlined the key paragraphs of document SC59/2022 Doc.4 *Admission of observers*.

Decision SC59/2022-03: The Standing Committee admitted the observers listed in document SC59/2022 Doc.4.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee

15. The United Arab Emirates introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.5 *Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee*.
16. The Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee were thanked for their hard work, particularly under the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic.
17. An intervention was made by China.

Decision SC59/2022-04: The Standing Committee took note of document SC59/2022 Doc.5.

Agenda item 7.1: Report from the Chair of the Selection Committee on the recruitment of the next Secretary General

18. The Chair of the Selection Committee provided an oral update noting that the committee had met on 2 March 2022 and had agreed a timeline. The Committee intended to complete its work by the end of June 2022.

Agenda item 7.2: Report of the Management Working Group

19. The Chair of the Management Working Group introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.7.2 summarizing the work of the group since SC59, held in June 2021 and the report of the Working Group discussions at its meeting on 23 May.

Decision SC59/2022-05: The Standing Committee took note of document SC59/2022 Doc.7.2.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Secretary General

20. The Secretary General introduced document SC59/2022 Doc.6 summarizing the work of the Secretariat from 1 May 2021 to 28 February 2022.
21. The Secretariat was particularly thanked for the work done and its efforts in finding creative ways to support Contracting Parties during the pandemic.
22. Concerns were raised concerning the amount of information provided regarding the Secretariat's support of the project funded by the German Climate Initiative (IKI). In response, the Secretary General indicated that the Secretariat was following its mandate, specifically as set out in paragraph 26 of Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, and reminded Contracting Parties of Annex 3 of the Report and Decisions of SC59 in June 2021 regarding the project. Germany, as funder of IKI, expressed its willingness to answer any questions participants might have on the project.
23. Interventions were made by Algeria, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Youth Engaged in Wetlands.

Decision SC59/2022-06: The Standing Committee took note of document SC59/2022 Doc.6.