

Admission of observers

Actions requested:

- The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraph 3 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.
- The Standing Committee is invited to approve the participation in the present meeting of observers representing the bodies and agencies listed in paragraph 7.

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties¹ foresee the participation of observers in two categories:
 - the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention; and
 - any body or agency qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-party States

2. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that observers representing the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention may participate upon invitation of the President, “unless at least one-third of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting object”.
3. For observers in this category, the Secretariat had received the following pre-registrations as of 18 June 2021.

United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- United Nations Environment Programme

Bodies and agencies qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

4. Rules 7.1 and 7.2 address the “Participation of other bodies or agencies” as follows:

7.1. Any body or agency, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at meetings of

¹ “Rule 25.5: “Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies.”

the Conference of the Parties may be represented at the meeting by observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

7.2 Bodies or agencies desiring to receive recognition as observers for the purposes of attending meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall submit appropriate documentation to the Secretariat for consideration three months prior to any ordinary meeting and one month prior to an extraordinary meeting.

5. Rule 7.7 requires the Secretariat to notify bodies or agencies that were approved previously of the date and venue of sessions of the Conference of the Parties “so that they may be represented”.

Bodies or agencies previously approved

6. The following bodies or agencies that have been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate at SC59:

Intergovernmental

- Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN
- UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Non-governmental

- Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
- Corporación Montaña
- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- International Center for Environmental Research
- International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (C.I.D.C.E.)
- International Water Management Institute
- Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia (RRC-EA)
- Ramsar Regional Center in Central and West Asia
- Réseau Africain des Jeunes sur les Zones Humides
- Society of Wetland Scientists
- The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Japan

Bodies or agencies seeking approval and that have met the criteria

7. Bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers in accordance with Rule 7.2:
 - Youth Engaged in Wetlands

Recommendation

8. The Chair of the Standing Committee may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraph 3 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.
9. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the participation in the present meeting of observers representing the bodies and agencies listed in paragraph 7.