

## **Arrangements for COP14**

### **Running order and process for reviewing draft resolutions**

#### **Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. consider the draft running order of draft resolutions presented in Annex 1 and amend it as necessary, for submission as a recommendation to COP14; and
- ii. endorse the proposed process for managing the revisions of draft resolutions at COP14, as presented in Annex 2, for the information of the Parties at COP14.

#### **Introduction**

1. The provisional agenda for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) includes 25 agenda items, one of which encompasses the consideration of 23 draft resolutions. As the draft resolutions should all be adopted on the final day, there are only four or five days available for concluding all discussions and reaching agreement on these 23 drafts. There is therefore considerable time pressure to achieve this goal.
2. The present document addresses two issues to help ensure that the work can be accomplished within the time available and that Parties can access the documentation they require in good time and in the three working languages of the Convention:
  - the running order for consideration of draft resolutions; and
  - the process for managing draft resolutions (and other documents).

#### **Running order for consideration of draft resolutions**

3. From the discussion of draft resolutions at the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59 resumed session, May 2022), it is possible to identify the draft resolutions that are likely to require more time for Parties to reach agreement on the outcome. These items can be taken up early in the agenda of COP14 to allow the maximum amount of time for discussions. Remaining items could be taken in the order in which they appear in the provisional agenda.
4. On this basis, the Secretariat has prepared a suggested running order of draft resolutions, for consideration by the Standing Committee.
5. The Committee is invited to consider the draft running order in Annex 1 and to amend it as necessary, for submission as a recommendation to COP14.

## Process for reviewing draft resolutions and other documents

6. The Secretariat wishes to ensure that, at COP14, Parties have access to the documentation they need, in good time and in all the official languages of the Convention, in order to reach agreement on proposals and amendments in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and to avoid any misunderstanding of what is being adopted.
7. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Punta del Este, 2015), documentation problems arose because the number, complexity, timing and variety of formats of proposed amendments exceeded the capacity of the Secretariat to deal with them. In particular, the Secretariat received several different versions of documents resulting from discussions in working groups (contact groups). In some cases, working groups (or some members of groups) continued their discussions after having already given to the Secretariat the revised draft resolutions for translation. This resulted in multiple versions of some documents. Several documents from working groups came to the Secretariat very late.
8. These problems were mostly avoided at COP13 (Dubai, 2018) through following a procedure that was proposed to the Standing Committee in advance (at SC55 in [document SC55 Doc.4.2](#)) and then presented at the start of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. At SC55, the Secretariat suggested that an amendment to the Rules of Procedure could be considered in order to reduce the burden on the COP Bureau to have to review every proposed amendment to a draft resolution. Parties were reluctant to consider proposing an amendment to the rules at that time, and this was therefore not proposed to the COP. It could be considered at a future meeting of the Standing Committee.
10. Meanwhile, the Secretariat presents, in Annex 2, the proposed process for managing the revisions of draft resolutions at COP14. This is based on the process followed at COP13.

**Draft running order for consideration of draft resolutions  
at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties**

Agenda item	Agenda title	Document number
18.1	Draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters	COP14 Doc.18.1
18.7	Draft resolution on how to structure, write and handle Convention documents and messages	COP14 Doc.18.7
18.16	Draft resolution on review of the Ramsar Criteria, and delisting of Ramsar Sites located in territories which are not recognized at the UN level as part of the territory of the submitting country	COP14 Doc.18.16
18.6 and 18.5	Draft resolution on options to continue the review of all previous Resolutions and decisions	COP14 Doc.18.6
	Draft list of Resolutions that are effectively defunct	COP14 Doc.18.5
18.9	Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – Operational Guidelines	COP14 Doc.18.9
18.22	Draft resolution on establishment of the International Mangrove Center in the framework of the Ramsar Convention	COP14 Doc.18.22
18.20	Draft resolution on protection, management and restoration of wetlands as [nature-based solutions] [ecosystem-based approaches] to address the climate crisis	COP14 Doc.18.20
18.8	Draft resolution on enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions	COP14 Doc.18.8
18.19	Draft resolution on integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategy	COP14 Doc.18.19
18.14	Draft resolution on strengthening Ramsar connections through youth	COP14 Doc.18.14
18.2	Draft resolution on the responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention on Wetlands	COP14 Doc.18.2
18.3	Draft resolution on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ramsar Convention	COP14 Doc.18.3
18.4	Draft resolution on review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and key elements for the fifth Strategic Plan	COP14 Doc.18.4
18.10	Draft resolution on the new CEPA approach	COP14 Doc.18.10

18.11	Draft resolution on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards	COP14 Doc.18.11
18.12	Draft resolution on updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention	COP14 Doc.18.12
18.13	Draft resolution on wetland education in the formal education sector	COP14 Doc.18.13
18.15	Draft resolution on the status of Sites in the List of Wetlands of International Importance	COP14 Doc.18.15
18.17	Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025	COP14 Doc.18.17
18.18	Draft resolution on enhancing the conservation and management of small wetlands	COP14 Doc.18.18
18.21	Draft resolution on waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar Site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates	COP14 Doc.18.21
18.23	Draft resolution: Thanks to the Host Country, China	COP14 Doc.18.23

### **Proposed process for managing the revision of draft resolutions**

1. When a draft resolution is introduced in a plenary session of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, it may be:
  - adopted without amendment;
  - rejected; or
  - amended.

#### *Draft resolutions adopted without amendment or rejected*

2. If a draft resolution is adopted without amendment, or if it is rejected, no further action is required of the Secretariat.

#### *Draft resolutions to be amended*

3. When a draft resolution is introduced and discussed, Parties may propose amendments.
4. Rule 34.4 provides that "... amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Contracting Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Conference Bureau." The rules are silent regarding the role of the Conference Bureau.
5. Under the current Rules and practice, if amendments are proposed to a draft resolution introduced in a plenary session, the document may be, either:
  - a. referred to the Secretariat for the production of a revised document; or
  - b. referred to a "friends of the Chair" group or a working group (contact group / consultative group / drafting group).
6. Accordingly, in order to ensure that documentation can be provided in time for consideration in the three working languages, the Secretariat suggests that, if the COP agrees:
  - a. if a document is referred to the Secretariat for revision:
    - i. Parties that have proposed an amendment should, within two hours after the end of the session where the amendment was introduced, send to the Secretariat, by email, an electronic copy of the document concerned, with the proposed amendment shown using "tracked changes"; (to avoid confusion, please provide a separate email for each draft resolution);

the Secretariat will then:

  - ii. prepare a revision of the draft resolution in the official languages, on the basis of the proposed amendments received, using square brackets where necessary to highlight alternative texts;
  - iii. present the revised draft to the Conference Bureau for approval to forward to the plenary session; and

- iv. translate and publish the revised draft on the Convention website for all participants to view, for final discussion and adoption in a plenary session;
- b. if a document is referred to a working group:
- i. one person from the group should be nominated as responsible for communicating the final recommendations of the group to the Secretariat;
  - ii. the working group will discuss the document and prepare a revision in Word format showing, in tracked changes, the proposed deletions and additions that the group recommends for adoption, using square brackets to highlight alternative texts where the working group does not achieve consensus;
  - iii. only when the working group has completed its considerations, the designated rapporteur or chair of the working group will transmit to the Secretariat, by email, the revised version of the document;
  - iv. the Secretariat will present the revised draft to the Conference Bureau for approval to forward to the plenary session; and
  - v. the Secretariat will translate and publish the revised draft on the Convention website for all participants to view, for discussion and adoption in a plenary session during the final days of the meeting.
7. To ensure that all documentation can be processed and translated in time for discussion in the final days of COP14, the results from each working group should be submitted to the Secretariat before 18:00 on 10 November. This will enable revision, translation and publishing to be completed in accordance with Rule 34.5, that is by the end of 11 November, which is set aside for free time and excursions.
8. The Secretariat will publish revisions of draft resolutions, drafts of daily summary reports and other information for meeting participants on its website.

**PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF  
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AT COP14**

