

Wetland City Accreditation: Establishment of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC)

Submitted by: IAC co-chairs

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to confirm the membership of the Independent Advisory Committee, as described in Table 1 of the present document, for the 2023-2025 triennium.

1. The new membership of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) is to be presented to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) as agenda item 26.1. Decisions that bear reference include:
 - **Decision SC61-08:** The Standing Committee appointed the Republic of Korea as the contact point to coordinate with support from the Secretariat the establishment of the new Independent Advisory Committee membership.
 - **Decision SC61-09:** The Standing Committee deferred the decision on the new membership of the Independent Advisory Committee to SC62 and acknowledged expressions of interest for membership of the Independent Advisory Committee from the following Contracting Parties: Rwanda, representing the Africa Region; China and Iran (Islamic Republic of), representing the Asia Region, and the Republic of Korea as the Technical Advisor; Czechia, representing the Europe Region; the United States of America, representing the North America Region; and Colombia, representing the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.
2. Paragraph 15, Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.10 on *Updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention* prescribes the composition of the IAC as follows:
 - a) A Standing Committee member representative from each of the regions of the Convention;
 - b) A representative of the Convention's International Organization Partners;
 - c) A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
 - d) A representative from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI);
 - e) A representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention;
 - f) A representative of the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Convention;
 - g) Representatives of any concerned Ramsar Regional Initiatives; and
 - h) The Secretary General of the Convention or his/her designated representative (observer).

3. In addition, Annex 1 of Resolution XIV.3 on *The effectiveness and efficiency of the Convention* requires all Groups to designate a Chair and a Co-Chair who will serve as the group's rapporteur over the triennium. According to the IAC's terms of reference in Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.10, the Chair and Co-Chair of the IAC will be elected by IAC members within two months of determination of the full IAC membership.
4. Table 1 below shows the IAC membership nominations received, to be confirmed by the Standing Committee during SC62.
5. Since preparing the last IAC report to the Standing Committee (February 2022), the IAC held eight virtual meetings to further its activities on the Wetland City Accreditation process.

Table 1. IAC membership nominations received to date for the third triennium of the WCA

| IAC membership: According to Resolution XIV.10 | | Nominee | Notes |
|--|---------------|---|---|
| Standing Committee member representing Africa : Rwanda | | Theogene Ngaboyamahina | |
| Standing Committee member representing: Asia : | China | Guangchun Lei (tbc) | Chair candidate (tbd) |
| | [and/or] Iran | Tbc If not identified -> Abbas GOLRIZ (NFP) | |
| Standing Committee member representing Europe : Czechia | | Libuse Vlasakova | Chair candidate (tbc) |
| Standing Committee member representing Latin America and the Caribbean : Colombia | | Ms. María Angélica Mejía Pimienta okmejia@gmail.com | |
| Standing Committee member representing North America : USA | | Lauren Kasperek (tbc) | |
| Standing Committee member representing Oceania : Australia | | Ariana Magini | |
| A representative of the Convention's IOPs : | | WWF: Wenwei Ren (tbc) | |
| A representative of UN-Habitat | | Andrew Rudd | |
| A representative of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) | | Ingrid Coetzee (tbc) | Co-chair candidate (formally expressed) |
| A representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) | | Matthew Simpson | |
| A representative of the CEPA Oversight Panel | | Chris Rostron | |
| Representatives of any concerned Ramsar Regional Initiatives | | RRC-East Asia: Seung Oh Suh | |
| The Secretary General or his/her designated representative (Observer) | | | |
| Technical Advisors | | Denis Landenbergue (previously WWF) Joon-woo Seo (Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea) Michael Steiner (previous IAC chair and Austrian representative for Europe) UNEP (Global Waste Water Initiative) | Technical advisors provide expertise and ensure continuity from the previous trienniums |