

Draft daily report
Day 3 – Thursday 26 May (Morning plenary session)

10:10 – 13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 8.1: Report on financial matters for 2019-2021 and 2022 including the audited statements for 2021

Agenda item 8.2: Status of annual contributions

Agenda item 8.3: Budget scenarios for 2023-2025 and draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters (* includes a draft resolution)

Agenda item 8.4: Potential financial implications of draft resolutions

1. Mexico, as chair of the Subgroup on Finance, introduced documents SC59/2022 Doc.8.1, SC59/2022 Doc.8.2, SC59/2022 Doc.8.3 and SC59/2022 Doc.8.4, these representing the outputs of the Subgroup's work, noting that document SC59/2022 Doc.8.3 contained a draft resolution on *Financial and budgetary matters*. He commended the Secretariat for its meticulous financial management and thanked his colleagues for their hard work under the challenging circumstances of the pandemic. He noted that the subgroup had met on 23 May 2022. Its report was available as document SC59/2022 Com.2.
2. During discussion, minor amendments to document SC59/2022 Com.2 were proposed. One participant, supported by several others, suggested that the Secretariat find ways of encouraging Contracting Parties to pay their annual contribution in a timely fashion, noting that Contracting Parties making voluntary contributions might like to consider the state of annual contributions should they wish to attach conditions to the disbursement of those funds. They asked that this view be reflected in the report of the meeting.
3. The report of the Subgroup was approved with the suggested minor amendments. The Chair announced that the Subgroup would meet again briefly to check whether adjustments were needed as a result of the discussions. If needed, these would be reflected in the revised report.
4. Interventions were made by Brazil, Chad, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland and Uruguay.

Decision SC59/2022-14: The Standing Committee approved the report of the Finance Subgroup contained in document SC59/2022 Com.2, with minor amendments.

Agenda item 24.16: Draft Resolution on the Establishment of the International Mangrove Center in the Framework of the Ramsar Convention (*Submitted by China and cosponsors*)

5. China introduced the draft resolution in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.16, noting that Cambodia's co-sponsorship had now been officially approved. China was willing to host an international mangrove centre.
6. During discussion, the importance of mangroves as components of wetland ecosystems was widely acknowledged. However, serious reservations were expressed concerning gaps in information in the draft resolution, particularly concerning proposed governance and funding mechanisms. Some participants asked whether the proposed centre might more appropriately form the basis for a Ramsar Regional Initiative.
7. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked China to consult with other interested Contracting Parties and report back to the Committee with proposals for a way forward.
8. Interventions were made by Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, China, Dominican Republic, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Sweden.

Agenda item 24.13: Draft Resolution on Waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates (*Submitted by Australia, in consultation with the Chair of the STRP*)

9. Australia introduced the draft resolution in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.13, noting that it was the output of work undertaken over a number of years, and drew on a policy brief prepared by STRP.
10. Participants largely welcomed the draft resolution. Some made suggestions for minor amendments to the text.
11. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked all those with amendments to forward these to the Secretariat so that a revised version of the draft resolution could be prepared for later consideration.
12. Interventions were made by Costa Rica, China, Finland, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the representative of the STRP, and Wetlands International.

Agenda item 22: Report of the Co-chairs of the Independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation

13. Austria, as Co-chair, introduced the report of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) on Wetland City Accreditation in document SC59/2022 Doc.22. He summarised the work of the IAC and reported that all 25 cities that had applied for accreditation had been accepted. These were:
 - Canada: Sackville.
 - China: Hefei; Jining; Liangping; Nanchang; Panjin; Wuhan; Yangcheng.
 - France: Belval-en-Argonne; Seltz.
 - Indonesia: Subaraya; Tanjung Jabung Timur.
 - Islamic Republic of Iran: Bandar Khamir; Varzaneh.

Iraq: Al Chibayish.
Japan: Izumi; Niigata.
Morocco: Ifrane.
Republic of Korea: Gochang; Seocheon; Seogwipo.
Rwanda: Kigali.
South Africa: Cape Town.
Spain: Valencia.
Thailand: Sri Songkhram District.

14. During discussion, participants lauded members of the IAC for their hard work and commitment and emphasised the importance of Wetland City Accreditation in raising the profile of the Convention.
15. Interventions were made by Canada, China, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Indonesia and Islamic Republic of Iran.

Decision SC59/2022-15: The Standing Committee took note of the 25 cities that had been approved for Wetland City Accreditation and accepted the report of the Co-chairs of the Independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation in document SC59/2022 Doc.22.

Agenda item 24.8: Draft Resolution on Updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention (*Submitted by Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Austria and China*)

16. The Republic of Korea introduced the draft resolution in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.8, thanking the IAC for its work and drawing attention to Annex I of the document, which contained a proposal for operational guidelines for Wetland City Accreditation.
17. During discussion it was noted that implementation of the draft resolution would have some financial implications. It was recalled that Resolution XII.10 on *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention* specifically excluded the use of core funds in the accreditation process, and concern was expressed that a precedent might be set.
18. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked those concerned to confer and present a revised proposal later in the meeting.
19. Interventions were made by Austria, Japan, Sweden and the United States of America.

Agenda item 24.12: Draft Resolution on Strengthening Ramsar Connections Through Youth (*Submitted by Australia and Costa Rica*)

20. Australia, as co-sponsor, introduced the draft resolution in document SC59/2002 Doc.24.12.
21. The draft resolution was widely welcomed and supported in discussions, with participants suggesting some minor amendments.
22. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked all those who had suggested amendments to forward these to the Secretariat so that a revised version of the draft resolution could be prepared.
23. Interventions were made by Australia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France in its capacity as President of the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Sweden,

Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Youth Engaged in Wetlands.