

Statement from the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Substantive Session of the Ad hoc open-ended Working Group Established by General Assembly 72/277

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands would like to thank UNEP for the invitation to participate in this first substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended Working Group and the co-chairs for the opportunity to comment.

As we have indicated on writing to UNEP, in the report the description of the Convention on Wetlands, present a gap in the level of detail that is provided for the other multilateral environmental agreements in section III.C. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of freshwater, marine and coastal wetlands and their resources. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) serves as the Depositary for the Convention. The Convention is registered as a Multilateral Agreement under the United Nations Treaty Series on 17 February 1976.

The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Currently 170 countries are Parties to the Convention from all the world's geographic regions many of them present here.

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat has formal agreements with other multilateral environmental agreements, including the CBD, CMS and UNCCD, to work collaboratively in common areas of interest and works with the other 7 biodiversity related Conventions under the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

With regard to challenges and gaps, at its 13th meeting (in Dubai, 2018), the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention decided to review the governance structure of the Convention for the purpose of recommending revisions (as necessary) that further enhance the effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, and efficiency of the Convention in order to reduce administrative burden and speed up the processes to achieve the mission of the Ramsar Convention.

Thank you Madam/Mr co-chair.