Draft resolution to be presented to the General Assembly

World Wetlands Day

***The General Assembly*,**

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto, under the section “Criteria for the proclamation of international years”, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14 under section II of the annex, which stipulate that a year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

*Reaffirming* that wetlands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human well-being,

*Acknowledging* that wetlands are among the ecosystems with the highest rates of decline, loss and degradation, considering also that indicators of current negative trends in global biodiversity and ecosystem functions are projected to continue in response to direct and indirect drivers such as rapid human population growth, unsustainable production and consumption and associated technological development[[1]](#footnote-1),

*Taking into account* that wetlands are essential to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), related to poverty eradication, food and nutrition, healthy living, gender equality, water quality and supply, energy supply, reduction of natural disasters, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure, sustainable human settlements, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, ocean, seas and marine resources, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems,

*Recalling* SDG 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation, and its Target 6.6, which seeks to protect and restore water-related ecosystems; and also Recalling SDG 14, which encourages the conservation of coastal and marine areas, and SDG 15, related to life on land, and its Target 15.1, which seeks to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, including wetlands, in line with obligations under international agreements9,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat10 (the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands) in ensuring the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, and its contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world,

*Taking into account* that the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is co-custodian of SDG Indicator 6.6.1 which monitors change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time, and that the Convention is a Partner Agency for SDG Indicators 6.5.1, 14.5.1 and 15.1.211,

*Noting* Decision III/21 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and thus recalling the role of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as the lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the CBD, and recognizing the important contribution that the Ramsar Convention has made towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2021,

*Recognizing* that 170 States had become Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as of July 2019 and that the Ramsar Convention Secretariat provides outreach materials to help raise public awareness of the importance and value of wetlands on 2 February each year, the anniversary of the date of the conclusion of the text of the Convention, in 1971,

*Taking note* of the outcome of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 29 October 2018, and in particular its Resolution XIII.1, which “invites the United Nations General Assembly to recognize 2 February of each year, the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands, as World Wetlands Day“*,*

1. *Decides* to proclaim the 2nd of February, the day of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat12 (the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), as World Wetlands Day,
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, international and national non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe and raise awareness of World Wetlands Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities;
3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, and that such activities would be subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wetlands Day and, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, and invites the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session about the implementation of the present resolution.

9 Resolution 71/313

10 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 996, No. I-14583

11 Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, 13 February 2019

12 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 996, No. I-14583

1. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, document IPBES/7/10/Add.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)