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Agenda item 14

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 August 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.125](#) and [A/75/L.125/Add.1](#))]

75/317. 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-centred 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, and 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 also 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 on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming further that wetlands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, 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, and considering 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, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change,

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

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and its target 6.6, which seeks to protect and restore water-related ecosystems; Goal 14, on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including its target 14.2, which seeks to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems; and Goal 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 agreements,

Reaffirming the important role of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat¹ (Ramsar Convention) 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 secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is co-custodian of Sustainable Development Goal 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 indicators 6.5.1, 14.5.1 and 15.1.2,

Noting decision III/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, of 15 November 1996,² recalling the role of the Ramsar Convention as the lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the Convention on Biological Diversity,³ and recognizing the important contribution that the Ramsar Convention has made towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,⁴

Recognizing that 171 States had become Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat as of July 2021 and that the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention provides outreach materials to help to raise public awareness of the importance and value of wetlands on 2 February each year, the anniversary of the date of adoption of the Convention, in 1971,

Taking note of the outcome of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 29 October 2018, and in particular its resolution XIII.1, in which the Conference

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

² See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38, annex II.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

invited the 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 2 February, the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), as World Wetlands Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional 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. *Invites* the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wetlands Day, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), and also invites the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session about the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, for appropriate observance.

*99th plenary meeting
30 August 2021*