

**Decision 14/COP.3**Early warning systems

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 12/COP.2 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology,

*Having reviewed* the contributions of Parties received by the secretariat on early warning systems<sup>1/</sup>,

*Taking note* of the reports prepared by the secretariat for the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology on early warning systems,

*Taking note also* of the existence of networks of early warning systems and desertification monitoring and assessment at the national, subregional and regional levels,

1. *Decides* to appoint an ad hoc panel composed of 10 experts with the following terms of reference: relating to early warning systems, to review and elaborate on the following technical topics emerging from national reports of Parties and regional forums on implementation of the Convention:

(a) Data collection, accessibility and integration;

(b) Evaluation and prediction of drought and desertification, and measures for preparedness, in cooperation with the follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(c) Dissemination of information to end-users on the applications of early warning systems and desertification monitoring and assessment, and strengthening of appropriate response mechanisms, particularly in the national action programmes to combat desertification;

2. *Invites* the relevant institutions which have operational responsibilities in areas related to desertification and drought and information systems drawn from each thematic programme network in various regions to provide experts and/or reference materials in order to support the ad hoc panel;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the functioning of this ad hoc panel.

*11th plenary  
25 November 1999*

---

<sup>1/</sup> ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6.