

Decision 14/COP.4

Early warning systems

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 14/COP.3 to appoint an ad hoc panel on early warning systems,

Recalling also the follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Taking note of the report of the ad hoc panel on Early Warning Systems^{1/}, and the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject^{2/},

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. *Re-appoints* an ad hoc panel on early warning systems to be composed of 10 experts in order to examine further the following:

(a) Critical analysis of the performance of early warning and monitoring and assessment systems, linking traditional knowledge and early warning systems, especially in the areas of the collection of data, dissemination of information and measuring for drought preparedness;

(b) Methods for and approaches to the prediction of drought and monitoring of desertification, particularly the method of analysing vulnerability to drought and desertification, especially at the local, subnational and national levels, with special regard to new technological developments;

(c) Mechanisms to facilitate an exchange of information between scientific and technological institutions, in particular focusing on national and subregional networks on the prediction of drought and monitoring of desertification;

(d) More detailed measures for drought and desertification preparedness, in cooperation with the approaches, from hazard protection to risk management, adopted by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the functioning of the ad hoc panel, including the provision of additional expertise, particularly in the area of participatory planning and legal advice.

*12th Plenary
22 December 2000*

^{1/} ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4.

^{2/} ICCD/COP(4)/INF.7.