

Decision 17/COP.1

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties may, in principle in its ordinary session, and as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Terms of reference and modalities of work

2. The Conference of the Parties shall, in principle in its ordinary session, determine the terms of reference and modalities of work of each ad hoc panel, including its duration.

Composition and number of ad hoc panels

3. Ad hoc panels shall be composed of experts whose names are taken from the roster of independent experts, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, and broad and equitable geographical representation. They shall have scientific or other relevant backgrounds and field experience.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the composition of each ad hoc panel according to the specific needs of each case and shall designate a coordinator from among members of the panel to conduct the work and prepare the report. The number of members of any ad hoc panel shall not exceed twelve.

5. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the composition of the ad hoc panels reflects local and traditional knowledge and expertise.

6. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the number of ad hoc panels which, in principle, shall not exceed three at any one time.

Reports of ad hoc panels

7. Ad hoc panels shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee may not amend or revise the reports of ad hoc panels. However, it may comment or make recommendations based upon them.

8. Reports of ad hoc panels shall be in the public domain and, where appropriate, be disseminated through different mechanisms to all interested Parties.