

**Decision 18/COP.5**

Programme of work for the group of experts

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision 17/COP.4,

*Recalling also* document ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2,

*Taking note* of decision 17/COP.5, adopted by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its fifth session, on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, including the establishing of a group of experts,

1. *Invites* the Parties and relevant organizations to submit in writing to the secretariat their recommendations on the programme of work to be undertaken by the group of experts. The recommendations, which should be provided no later than 1 February 2002, should not exceed five pages in length;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to transmit the recommendations received from the Parties to the members of the Bureau of the CST;

3. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to review and synthesize the recommendations, which should constitute the main elements of the programme of work for the group of experts, and to define the programme of work for the group of experts and communicate it to the Parties;

4. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST, in consultation with the regional groups and the secretariat, to make the necessary arrangements for selection of the appropriate experts, bearing in mind the programme of work of the group of experts defined by the Bureau of the CST and the procedures outlined in paragraph 11 of the annex to decision 17/COP.5;

5. *Decides* that the programme of work for the group of experts will be decided in this manner on a one-time basis only, and that in future the programme of work for the group of experts will be determined by the CST, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the annex to decision 17/COP.5.

*11th plenary meeting  
12 October 2001*