

**Decision 18/COP.6**

Early warning systems

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Considering* the reports and recommendations of the ad hoc panels on early warning systems as well as the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology,

*Recalling* decision 14/COP.4 to reappoint an ad hoc panel on early warning systems,

*Noting* with appreciation the publication on early warning systems prepared in accordance with decision 14/COP.5,

*Bearing in mind* the work of the Group of Experts in assisting in developing short-term and long-term early warning systems,

*Taking into account* the observations and recommendations made by the CST and its Group of Experts during the sixth session,

1. *Invites* the Parties, according to their financial and technical capacities, to carry out pilot studies on early warning systems utilizing the recommendations of the ad hoc panel, and to report on progress to the CST. These reports should not exceed ten pages in length, and they should be transmitted to the secretariat no later than four months before the seventh session;
2. *Encourages* Parties and international organizations to provide technical and financial support to developing country Parties wishing to carry out such pilot studies on early warning systems.

*9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
3 September 2003*