

Decision 18/COP.7

Early warning systems

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the ad hoc panels on early warning systems as well as the recommendations of the Bureau of the CST,

Recognizing that benchmarks and indicators, and monitoring and assessment work have been identified as integral components of early warning systems for drought and desertification,

Noting that scientific research, including work on models, is an essential part of developing operational drought and desertification early warning systems,

Noting further the importance of disseminating the outputs of early warning systems to local governments, communities and NGOs,

Recalling that early warning systems are often constrained by bio-physical conditions, land use systems and their variability,

Bearing in mind the assistance provided by the GoE for the development of short- and long-term early warning systems,

Taking into account the observations and recommendations made by the CST and its GoE during the seventh session of the CST,

1. *Invites* relevant United Nations organizations, international bodies, agencies and developed country Parties to assist developing country Parties in the development of early warning systems by providing technological and financial support;
2. *Requests* the GoE, as far as possible, to carry out its work programme on early warning systems by integrating relevant benchmarks and indicators, as well as monitoring and assessment components, and to report to the CST at its eighth session.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*