

**Decision 20/COP.3**

Resolution of questions of implementation,  
arbitration and conciliation procedures

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling also* article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

*Recalling further* article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

1. *Decides*, in accordance with articles 27 and 28 of the Convention, to convene during its fourth session an open-ended ad hoc group of experts to examine and make recommendations, taking into account the documents prepared by the secretariat<sup>1/</sup> and in light of the progress of the negotiations on the same matters in other relevant environmental conventions, on the following issues:

- (a) Procedures for resolution of questions of implementation;
- (b) Annex on arbitration procedures;
- (c) Annex on conciliation procedures;

2. *Invites* Parties to communicate their views to the secretariat by 31 May 2000 in writing on how to take this matter forward;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to compile these views for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to update the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1, as necessary, to reflect the progress achieved in this area in other relevant conventions, and prepare new documents for consideration at its fourth session.

*12th plenary  
26 November 1999*

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<sup>1/</sup> ICCD/COP(3)/7, ICCD/COP(3)/18.