

Decision 7/CP.9

Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 5/CP.7 and 29/CP.7,

Recognizing the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries under Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention,

Having considered the progress report of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, under the terms of reference adopted by decision 29/CP.7;
2. *Decides* that new experts may be nominated to the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, or existing members of the group may continue in office, as determined by the respective regions or groups;
3. *Invites* Parties included in Annex II to the Convention to contribute funding towards supporting the activities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to facilitate the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group;
5. *Decides* to review, at its eleventh session, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the group, and to adopt a decision thereon.

*9th plenary meeting
12 December 2003*