

**Decision 18/CP.4**

**Attendance of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations  
at contact groups**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its eighth session on the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the Convention process,<sup>1</sup>

*Affirming* that negotiations under the Convention are a matter for the Parties,

*Considering* that arrangements for the attendance of observers at contact groups should also cover representatives of intergovernmental organizations,

*Recalling* Article 7.6 of the Convention and rules 6 and 7 of the draft rules of procedure being applied,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Decides* that the presiding officers of Convention bodies may invite representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to attend as observers any open-ended contact group established under the Convention process, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session of the Convention body setting up that contact group object, and on the understanding that the presiding officers of such contact groups may determine at any time during their proceedings that they should be closed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

2. *Invites* the presiding officers of Convention bodies, at the time of their establishment of such a contact group, to ascertain if there are objections from Parties to attendance by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at that contact group under the conditions set out in paragraph 1 above.

*2nd plenary meeting  
2 November 1998*

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/1998/6, paras. 81-83.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/CP/1996/2.