

Thank you Mr. Chair

The effective implementation of this treaty will depend in large part on the adequacy of its financial and technical implementation. We strongly believe the following characteristics and principles should be included treaty text:

The mechanism should include a Dedicated Fund to ensure adequate resources are available to facilitate compliance and discourage noncompliance.

The mechanism should operate under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties, who will ensure resources are allocated consistent with COP priorities, and the resources are allocated by a transparent process that provides for diverse decision-making and representation of the parties.

Each Party should include in its reports submitted pursuant to Article 22 (Reporting) information describing the outcomes of activities conducted using these funds.

An interim funding source will be needed to finance action plan development and mercury use/release reduction activities before the Convention comes into force.

Lastly, the private sector must assume its fair share of financial responsibility in achieving Convention objectives, even within the developing world. The Principle of polluter pays must be incorporated in the text of this article particularly where the private sector can and should bear this responsibility. For this reason, compliance should not be "contingent" upon financial assistance.

Through these criteria, NGO's seek to establish adequate financial support and accountability as the twin pillars of promoting Convention effectiveness.

Thank you Mr. Chair