

CIEL Intervention on Financial Resources
26 April, 2011

Thank you Mr. President

The Center for International Environmental Law or CIEL, a participating organization of IPEN, would like to briefly comment on Financial Resources. CIEL welcomes the proposals to facilitate the work of the Conference of the Parties with regard to financial resources and mechanisms. However, we would like to emphasize the need to have effective public participation in any decision that is taken by this COP.

Public participation through accredited NGO observers is a well-established principle of public international law, from Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, to decisions by the UN General Assembly in the 1990s, to ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. In the Stockholm Convention, public participation of civil society is referenced in Article 10, and most recently in working document 26 (Consolidated Guidance to the Financial Mechanism).

Public participation allows for accountability, strengthens the legitimacy of decisions made, and helps to provide coherence between regimes. NGOs serve as a valuable link between stakeholders and policy makers.

CIEL is concerned that the first two options proposed for facilitating the work of the Conference of the Parties with regard to financial resources and mechanisms, as contained in working document 27 does not provide for any public participation. In the case of the third option, there is insufficient detail as to how sufficient accountability would be ensured. CIEL suggests that if a contact group is indeed formed on Financial Resources, that this contact group discuss how the Conference may increase the public participation in these or any other options on facilitating work on financial resources and mechanisms.

Thank you Mr. President.