

SDPI Opening statement at UNEP INC5 Meeting – January 13, 2013

Thanks Mr. Chairman.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI is based in Pakistan, is a participating organization of ZMWG, ISDE, PBC and other networks, including GAIA & IPEN.

Mr. Chairman & distinguished delegates,

IUCN World Conservation Congress at its last session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in September, 2012, which was attended by over 6,500 delegates from across the globe, adopted, SDPI sponsored Motion 169 on global mercury issues, with 88% votes in favor, 10% abstentions and 2% against. At the time of submission of the motion, we already had the support of 92 organizations and major networks working on environment, health and chemicals exposures issues, in 41 countries across the globe.

Through the adopted SDPI sponsored Motion 169, The World Conservation Congress, CALLS on all state representatives of INC to support:

- a. A legally binding global treaty with an objective to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic release of mercury and its compounds, recognizing particularly the vulnerable populations:
- b. Effective measures to reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury use and releases to air, water and land.
- c. A national implementation plan, NIP, for ensuring effective realization of the treaty, and civil society and other stakeholders active role in the development and implementation of the same.
- d. Adaptation of the guidance for the identification and characterization of the contaminated sites and finally, Mr. Chairman,
- e. Adherence to the agreed timetable of the treaty with effective and enforceable treaty compliance provisions.

Distinguished delegates, now the world looks upon you to also protect the environment for the future generations and their health --- this could be the LAST CHANCE.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

For SDPI:

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