

## IPEN opening statement

Dear Mr. Chair,

I speak on behalf of IPEN (The International POPs Elimination Network). We thank the secretariat for its work, but in our view, the paper lacks ambition. Mercury pollution represents a large and serious global threat to human health and the environment and a robust and ambitious global response to this threat is needed. Instead, the Measures contained in the Draft elements paper taken as a package, are insufficient to drive the actions that will be needed to reduce releases of mercury to the global environment on the scale required to adequately protect human health and the environment and bring down global mercury pollution so that fish are once again safe to eat.

We therefore call upon national and regional delegations to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to introduce and support strengthening amendments that will lead to the adoption of a sufficiently strong and comprehensive global mercury control treaty so that future generations may be spared the neurological damage from exposure to mercury that prevents children from achieving their full mental potential.

Unfortunately, the secretariat's draft paper presented to INC2 as the proposed basis for negotiations envisions a treaty regime that is largely inspirational and voluntary. If its approach is accepted by the INC, it appears that only a handful of the largest and most industrial developing and transition countries will be subject to critical compliance requirements. At the same time, the financial mechanism proposed in the draft appears to strictly limit the provision of financial and technical support to compliance activities. If this approach is adopted, only a few countries may be fully eligible to receive treaty compliance support from the financial mechanism.

IPEN has other concrete comments which we will present as the discussion proceeds. Thank you very much for your consideration.