

Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm honored to present this intervention on behalf of 6 public interest networks.

IPEN, Global Indigenous People's Caucus, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Health Care Without Harm, Island Sustainability Alliance Cook Islands and the World Federation of Public Health Associations speak in favor of mandatory national implementation plans or NIPs, which we consider as a key ingredient for ensuring the authentic and effective realization of the purpose of the treaty.

In our view, the envisaged mercury treaty should require each Party to establish and implement a NIP. The plan should include, among others, an inventory of mercury supplies, sources, wastes and contaminated sites. In fact, the various National Action Plans required under various articles could be chapters in the NIP. NIPs help inform Parties and donors of the country situation and priorities. If the mercury treaty does not require them, then financial and technical assistance may not be available to help implement the treaty.

The Stockholm Convention provides an example of how NIPs can be useful. Article 7 provides useful language that this INC may wish to consider. The POPs treaty further includes provisions for a "review and update" of such implementation plans on a periodic basis, and the involvement of national stakeholders in the "development, implementation and updating" of such plans.

NIPs also have a role in helping the wider public understand the goals of national implementation by involving civil society in their formulation and execution. The broad civil society, many of them from the grassroots and impacted communities across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, have contributed to the development of NIPs on preventing and eliminating POPs, providing opportunities for people's participation in the treaty development and implementation, and, in the process, catalyzing relevant laws, policies and activities on POPs, notably in developing countries, countries with economies in transition, small island developing states and least developed countries. We recognize that NIPs are essential to ensure compliance.

Inspired by our living experience in promoting the goals of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, we hope that INC3 delegates would find it fitting to ensure that the civil society, including groups championing the health and human rights of children, women, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable groups, has an active role in the development, implementation and success of NIPs.

Finally, we believe that a successful mercury treaty will function through NIPs that can integrate plans for mercury pollution prevention and control in their strategies and programs toward sustainable development.

Thank you.

Manny C. Calonzo
Co-Chair, IPEN
