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Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) / IPEN, Intervention on Compliance
Given by David Azoulay, CIEL, Switzerland

Thank you Mr. President, and thank you for the great presentation of the issue.

I am speaking on behalf of the Center for International Environmental Law, a member organization of the IPEN network.

Being party to these conventions, you all subscribe and support their ultimate goals. A compliance mechanism is essential in this respect.

We are here gathered to discuss how best to implement three conventions, to learn from each other and to build on the experience gathered along the years. In that respect, as outlined by previous speakers, the operation of the Basel Convention and most importantly the benefits that each party can reap from the Convention, has been greatly enhanced by its compliance mechanism. In particular, Parties to the Basel Convention have greatly benefited from including a so called “third trigger mechanism” by the Secretariat.

Supporting previous interventions, including from Swaziland, and building on the experience with the Basel Convention, CIEL and IPEN support the inclusion of a third trigger.

The role of Convention Secretariat is to support the implementation of the Convention and facilitate Parties’ compliance. It is therefore important to allow the Secretariat to fulfill its mission in this regard. Allowing a third trigger would increase the capacity of the Secretariat to support countries, including in accessing more resources to implement fully the Convention.

CIEL and IPEN greatly encourage parties to adopt effective compliance mechanisms for the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, in the spirit of synergies, and for the greater benefit of all Parties. In particular, building on the experience of the Basel Convention compliance mechanism, CIEL and IPEN strongly urge Parties to agree to a so called “third trigger mechanism” by the Convention Secretariat and compliance committee itself.