

11 March, 2016

Financial Resources & Mechanism (Art. 13 ) Intervention by ISACI for INC7

Given by Imogen Ingram, Island Sustainability Alliance (Cook Islands) ISACI

Agenda item 2b16 GEF Guidance – Doc 7/8

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

ISACI is a participating organization with IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network).

We echo for statements from the GRULAC region about inclusion of activities in relation to Art. 16 Health Aspects in the guidance document 7/8.

Further we would like to draw attention to activities under Art. 12 of the Convention on contaminated sites. We in the Pacific Small Island Developing States do NOT have contaminated sites resulting from industrial activity. But in our landfills there are products containing mercury that have become hazardous wastes, and so these landfills are suspected contaminated sites for the purposes of Article 12.

We note from Paragraph 4 under Art. 13 of the Convention that full account will be taken of the special needs and circumstances of SIDS with regard to funding. Although under the Basel Convention there is some guidance re mercury-containing wastes, we feel that more is needed to address our needs.

We would need to take to develop national action plans using BAT/BEP guidance, to put in place short-term containment to prevent further spread of contamination by dust, vapour or leachate, and in the medium-term undertake clean-up activities.

We do not yet have the resources or effective capacity to carry out these tasks and in this regard, we would need GEF assistance to build our national capacity and strengthen our institutional frameworks. We are therefore pleased that we will be eligible for support under this guidance Paras 7 and 8.

We support this aspect of the GEF guidance which would greatly help Pacific SIDS in the implementation of the Minamata Convention and in the protection of human health and the environment.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.