

IPEN Intervention on Financial Resources

26 April, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chair

IPEN understands that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be unable to meaningfully reduce and eliminate POPs from their territories without access to significant financial and technical support. IPEN therefore strongly supports a Convention financial mechanism with adequate and predictable financial resources which fully meets the needs of Parties. This will require not only the participation of donor countries but also mainstreaming chemical safety issues into development agenda and the financial contributions of the private sector in the form of, for example, Polluter Pays Principle.

Civil society participation in Convention implementation is an important, underutilized resource. Often governments and IGOs think narrowly of our contribution as limited to public awareness-raising activities, but there is a great deal of expertise in many POPs-related issues including participation in NIPs development and implementation, characterization of hotspots, implementing projects on biomonitoring, and others. These are important examples and IPEN believes strongly that POPs projects implemented by civil society can make significant contribution to global environmental benefits. However, this contribution also requires support. The financial mechanism guidance should recommend activities that promote information generation and dissemination, education, training, public participation and awareness-raising of stakeholders and the general public.

IPEN believes that it would be helpful for Convention provisions to provide Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States privileged access to the Convention financial mechanism. This should include a relaxation on co-finance requirements, assistance in developing funding proposals, and other measures.

Finally, IPEN would appreciate COP support for providing guidance to the GEF on the importance of supporting NGOs with the capacity to do so to execute regional and global GEF Medium Sized Projects in the POPs focal area. In the past, this has been a very effective mechanism that has resulted in more than 200 tangible project results in 65 GEF-eligible countries.

Thank you for consideration of our review.