



**GEF NGO Network Statement during 44th GEF Council Meeting
on Considering the GEF being the Financial Mechanism for the Mercury Convention
19 June 2013**

On behalf of the Civil Society Organizations, we support the appointment of GEF as the financial mechanism of the Minamata convention in Mercury. We believe that the overall effectiveness of treaty implementation by developing countries is related to effective operation of the financial mechanism.

We also believe actions on funding must take full account of the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries and least developed countries. Relaxation of co-finance requirements should be considered to facilitate least developed countries and small island developing states seeking support from the GEF Trust Fund.

Financial support to assist governments and others in implementing the treaty is likely to be prioritized to obligatory measures. However we state the need of a broader financial support for important activities including inter alia:

- a) clean up activities to identify and characterize contaminated sites and for cleanup of priority sites which harm both local communities and contribute to global mercury exposure.
- b) development of National Implementation Plans to ensure the ability of developing countries to set priorities and establish a comprehensive understanding of national sources. Financial and technical assistance to countries in preparation of their NIPs could help establish a country-driven plan with tangible outputs for implementation and compliance.
- c) national assessments of emissions and releases from mercury pollution sources including small-scale gold mining (ASGM) present in more than 70 countries.
- d) design of products and processes that minimize the use of mercury and generation of mercury containing waste.

In the interim period we believe resources should be provided to parties to enable ratification of the convention and early actions including rapid assessment and detailed inventory of mercury pollution sources; development of specific legislation; investment to facilitate moving away from manufacture or mercury-added products or processes using mercury; capacity building workshops on storage, mercury containing products and available alternatives.

Projects related to the mercury treaty initiated by non-governmental organizations should be supported both through the GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP) as well as medium and large scale projects. In this regard, the GEF SGP allocation for chemicals and wastes should be enhanced