Thank You Mr Chair,

As India is taking the floor for the first time in INC2 we would like to thank the Government of France for their warm hospitality in welcoming the delegates for this second INC meeting. We would also like to thank the INC Secretariat for preparing the documents for consideration of INC and organization of this meeting.

India has always been committed to the principle of consensus in decision making in respect of substantive matters under multilateral environmental agreements as this reiterates collective decision-making and reflects shared responsibilities and commitment.

India would like to highlight the concern regarding draft Rules of Procedure that would govern the INC process. I would like to share with this august gathering that during INC 1 also, India had intervened on the same issue of Rule 38.1 of Rules of Procedure. It was requested that Rule 38.1 of Rules of Procedure, which talks about decision-making on substantive items by 2/3 majority, to be bracketed.

India would like to reiterate the same and would like to request to bracket Rule 38.1 of the Rules of Procedure before we all move forward to negotiate on any matter including the Rules of Procedure.

I would like to state again that India has always led from the front on all environmental issues and will continue doing so. At the same time, to ensure the fairness, equity, shared
responsibility and collective commitments and actions, in all multilateral processes, consensus based decision making is indispensable.

Thank you Mr Chair.