

*Recognizing* that this Convention and other international agreements in the field of the environment and trade are mutually supportive,

*Emphasizing* that nothing in this Convention is intended to affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from any existing international agreement,

*Understanding* that the above recital is not intended to create a hierarchy between this Convention and other international instruments,

*Noting* that nothing in this Convention prevents a Party from taking additional domestic measures consistent with the provisions of this Convention in an effort to protect human health and the environment from exposure to mercury in accordance with that Party's other obligations under applicable international law,

Have agreed as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **Objective**

The objective of this Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

## **Article 2**

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) "Artisanal and small-scale gold mining" means gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production;

(b) "Best available techniques" means those techniques that are the most effective to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and releases of mercury to air, water and land and the impact of such emissions and releases on the environment as a whole, taking into account economic and technical considerations for a given Party or a given facility within the territory of that Party. In this context:

- (i) "Best" means most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole;