

4. The Committee may consider issues on the basis of:
  - (a) Written submissions from any Party with respect to its own compliance;
  - (b) National reports in accordance with Article 21; and
  - (c) Requests from the Conference of the Parties.
5. The Committee shall elaborate its rules of procedure, which shall be subject to approval by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties; the Conference of the Parties may adopt further terms of reference for the Committee.
6. The Committee shall make every effort to adopt its recommendations by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted and no consensus is reached, such recommendations shall as a last resort be adopted by a three-fourths majority vote of the members present and voting, based on a quorum of two-thirds of the members.

## **Article 16**

### **Health aspects**

1. Parties are encouraged to:
  - (a) Promote the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect populations at risk, particularly vulnerable populations, and which may include adopting science-based health guidelines relating to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, setting targets for mercury exposure reduction, where appropriate, and public education, with the participation of public health and other involved sectors;
  - (b) Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on occupational exposure to mercury and mercury compounds;
  - (c) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to mercury or mercury compounds; and
  - (d) Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.
2. The Conference of the Parties, in considering health-related issues or activities, should:
  - (a) Consult and collaborate with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate; and