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## Acknowledge that:

There is a need to promote innovation and upscale enterprise development

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After deliberating on the following:

- **Best Practice Technologies with special reference to:**
  - The Current and possible technologies which may assist in the management of waste in the most efficient and cost effective manner
  - The financial assistance for innovative products and the development skills necessary to make use of current technology
- **Enterprise development with special reference to:**
  - The broadening of economic participation in order to foster the development of businesses owned by historically disadvantaged groups such as women, the disabled and the youth.
  - The provision of technical assistance on the compliance with legislation for small developing enterprises
- **Minamata Convention on Mercury with special reference to:**
  - The toxic nature of Mercury which is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ATSDR 2015 Substance Priority List, and has a wide range of implications on human health.
  - The realization that Mercury is hazardous to the natural environment, and the combined environmental and health costs are mostly felt by the most vulnerable groups in the country (women, children, those living in poverty).
- **Research, Development and innovation with special reference to:**
  - How do we move the discussion from waste management to waste beneficiation?
  - Policy interventions, effective implementation strategies, green money and green jobs; and the need to use this economic sector to empower rural areas and revitalize township economies, and good environmental governance.
  - Identifying potential technologies that can be adapted for the South African context and train and support the e-Waste sector by producing human capacity and methods

## We recognized that:

- Waste collectors require greater support with regards to their role in waste management and need fair and timeous remuneration
- Rural municipalities have a greater difficulty recycling waste due to the lack of resources and infrastructure
- Accessing land for buy-back centres and recycle plants is difficult as available land is owned by traditional leaders and local farmers
- Although there are methods available to reduce the amount of products containing Mercury, there remains a danger in reuse and recycling given the toxic level of Mercury.
- In terms of applying best practices, monitoring processes are major financial costs and are considerably time consuming.
- The complex policy environment has been seen to impede implementation.
- Very little empirical evidence and data that is available, is verified.
- Although sources and extent of Mercury contributors have been identified, there is insufficient information about the Mercury levels in our environment.
- waste beneficiation closer to the source is needed in order to reduce costs.
- There is a need to bring about a level of dignity to waste pickers.
- There is a need to focus technologies on the end process; assist waste pickers and waste at the source.
- Research is needed in order to enhance the uptake on knowledge and apply technology on waste collection.
- There is a need to determine where hazardous and toxic waste such as Mercury fits into the traditional waste hierarchy.
- We need to think about knowledge management more; in order to ensure that research is accessible to local government.
- There is a need to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for South Africa ratifying the Minamata Convention
- There is a need for consultative and collaborative processes between all levels of government, industry, civil society and research institutions to conduct studies and share information on waste management.

## Approval of the Resolution

The Summit approved the resolutions at the closing session of the summit



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA