

ZMWG statement on 20 bis

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to intervene on 20bis

We rise in strong support of programs to identify and protect populations at risk, through the development and implementation of health-based guidelines targeting mercury exposure reduction. We therefore urge governments to include dedicated treaty text to address this.

We note that while some developed countries have established risk communication programs to warn vulnerable populations at risk from exposure to mercury, many countries have not.

In addition, we urge governments to support mercury bio-monitoring in populations at risk and with the sea foods they eat.

Bio-monitoring is an important tool to identify and characterize exposure in high risk populations, including Indigenous peoples, and to evaluate progress in reducing exposure to mercury.

Finally, we anticipate WHO would provide information, technical and coordination to assist the parties in this important area.

Thank you.