



Guiding Principles for Zero Mercury Working Group Activities

October, 2009

1. **Our Goal and Mission**

The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) strives for zero supply, demand, and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources, with the goal of reducing mercury in the global environment to a minimum. Our mission is to advocate and support the adoption and implementation of a legally binding instrument which contains mandatory obligations to eliminate where feasible, and otherwise minimize, the global supply and trade of mercury, the global demand for mercury, anthropogenic releases of mercury to the environment, and human and wildlife exposure to mercury.

2. **Endorsing the Shared Platform for a Mercury Treaty**

Any public interest, non-governmental organization can join the ZMWG by endorsing our goal and mission, and committing to work collaboratively in accordance with these ZMWG Guiding Principles.

3. **Developing and Implementing a Shared Path to Victory**

We agree to develop and maintain unified positions on major policies, strategies, and tactics related to the negotiation and implementation of the mercury treaty, to the maximum extent feasible. When a particular situation makes prior consultation impossible, we agree not to offer positions, or to respond to positions advanced by others, on behalf of the ZMWG without first discussing and receiving support for the position from other ZMWG members in accordance with Guiding Principle 7.

4. **Coordinating and Communicating on INC Strategies, Tactics, and Resources**

We agree to coordinate and consult with each other on major strategic and tactical decisions to the maximum extent feasible, and to do so in a timely manner and transparent way. We further agree to discuss and make decisions related to allocation of relevant resources, such as travel assistance, in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner. This does not mean every ZMWG member must participate in the same activities or at the same level of effort, but that each member should have the opportunity to contribute and participate as much as she or he is able, subject to available resources.

5. **Avoiding "Surprises"**

If one of us, on behalf of our individual organization, intends publicly to release a written or spoken statement that may contradict or substantially diverge

from agreed ZMWG positions, then we will inform other members and provide them advance notice of the statement as early as possible.

6. Speaking on Behalf of the Group

We agree that any member may speak for the ZMWG as long as the member's statement is within the scope of previously agreed ZMWG positions and otherwise conforms with these guiding principles. When a member wishes to make a statement that is not within the scope of previously agreed ZMWG positions, then the member should make clear that she or he is not speaking on behalf of the ZMWG.

7. Decision Making

We will aim for consensus among our members on major decisions, to the maximum extent feasible. In the case of formal, written ZMWG statements that go beyond the substantive scope of previously agreed positions, consensus means all ZMWG members should have an opportunity to provide input on the matter in a timely manner if they choose to, either in person, by teleconference, or via the ZMWG list serve, and no member has formally objected to (i.e., blocked) the decision from being taken. However, we recognize there may be extraordinary circumstances where consultation with all ZMWG members is not possible (e.g., a position statement must be quickly prepared at a treaty negotiation meeting). Under those circumstances, consensus among the diverse ZMWG members present shall suffice.

8. Showcasing ZMWG

We agree to showcase ZMWG through coalition-branded materials and a website to be maintained by the European Environmental Bureau.

9. Further Development of the Working Group

We recognize that the informality and flexibility of the ZMWG have contributed to our ability to focus on achieving our shared goals and to respond quickly and strategically to challenges that arise in the mercury treaty negotiation and implementation process. Bearing that in mind, we acknowledge that it may become desirable over time for us to develop further arrangements for how ZMWG should operate, and we agree to consider such arrangements if one or more of us proposes them.