

ZMWG Intervention on Interim Storage Guidelines, 25 September 2017

Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm speaking on behalf of the Zero Mercury Working Group.

First we would like to thank the Interim Secretariat for developing the draft guidelines on the interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds, in consultation with an expert group and the Basel Secretariat.

In the introduction to the current draft, the Secretariat suggests both the acceptance of the proposed guidelines for short-term use and that the Secretariat be tasked with preparing revisions for consideration at COP 2.

We agree with the proposed path forward, since the current draft is satisfactory, but note that it is currently lacking elements related to ensuring interim storage facilities are closed in an environmentally sound manner.

Since these facilities are intended for temporary storage, we would expect the facilities would "clean close", leaving no mercury or mercury contamination onsite. It is important that the guidance address closure soon, since we expect storage facilities at mercury product manufacturers and chlor-alkali facilities will be closing soon in response to Convention phase-out requirements.