



**Statement on international cooperation of Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)
Minamata COP 4.2 – 24 March 2022, Bali, Indonesia**

Thank you, Madame President,

To promote the Convention's implementation, members of ZMWG participated on each of the intersessional expert groups – waste thresholds, releases, effectiveness evaluation and review of the annexes A and B, and provided input.

Earlier this year, under the Global Mercury Partnership on Products, we were involved in several webinars, in these cases focusing on skin lightening creams and lamps.

Our NGO partners have been supporting their respective governments with their ratification and the implementation of certain Treaty provisions. Mercury-added product phase out work has been ongoing in Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines. Roadmaps towards phasing out mercury added products have been developed, complemented by market studies on the transition to mercury free alternatives, legal gap analysis as well as outreach to customs officials. Partners have been also contributing to our skin lightening cream campaign.

Under the third phase of the EU/UNEP African Caribbean Pacific Multilateral Environmental Agreements Programme (ACP MEA III), assistance is being provided to the governments of Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda to carry out work towards phasing out mercury added products. Activities build on earlier work and in addition will be looking at developing mercury free product procurement strategies, as well as pilot projects on single stream product management. A new cooperation started also, with an NGO in Uganda towards phasing out mercury on ASGM.

As always, we look forward to working collaboratively assisting Parties towards our common goal – Making mercury history.

Thank you.