

September 25th, 2017

ZMWG COP 1 Reporting Intervention

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of the Zero Mercury Working Group, an international coalition of over 95 public interest NGOs from more than 50 countries.

We would also like to thank the Government of Switzerland for their warm hospitality as well as UN Environment, the Bureau and the Secretariat for all their work and in preparation for this meeting.

Dear delegates, we know you have a lot to read, but please take the time to review the recently released UN Environment report on global mercury supply, trade and use, available on the UN Environment Knowledge website. The report indicates:

1. Global mercury production has increased during the last 10 years, particularly in the last 5 years. Worse yet, the increase is largely from primary mercury mining, the dirtiest and least preferred mercury supply source. We are moving in the wrong direction;
2. Much of the increased mercury production is to supply ASGM, through both legal and illegal channels;
3. Understanding and addressing these ASGM supply flows, as part of enhanced national and regional ASGM mercury reduction activities, must be an immediate and extremely high Convention priority; and
4. Existing data collection mechanisms, particularly COMTRADE, are not adequate for what is needed.

This is why we support annual reporting on mercury production and trade as proposed in the EU CRP 2 . Timely and accurate production and trade data will promote better and more efficient government responses to the challenges identified in the report.

The EU CRP will not burden most countries, since most countries are not significant mercury producers. Nevertheless, for reporting generally, we believe capacity building and training is a good use of Convention resources. Thus, we urge you to support Specific International Programme financial assistance for information collection, data base management, and reporting, particularly for the first several reporting cycles when systems for data collection are being established.