Thank you, Mr. President,

The Zero Mercury Working Group, is an international coalition of over 110 public interest NGOs from more than 55 countries.

Zero Mercury congratulates all governments that have ratified the Convention this last year, along with those who are completing their MIAs.

To promote the Convention's implementation, we participated on each of the intersessional expert groups and provided input. We have further been supporting the work of the Global Mercury Partnership on Mercury added products. In parallel, our NGO partners mainly in Africa and Asia, have been supporting their respective governments with their ratification and implementation of certain Treaty provisions - mercury added product phase outs and Artisanal Small scale gold mining.

Earlier this year we organized a regional meeting for the Latin American and Caribbean region, following the Asian and African ones in 2018, in collaboration with the GEF and UNDP Small Grants Programme to build NGO capacity to support implementation of projects on mercury source and use reduction. Overall, over 90 NGO representatives from more than 50 countries attended the meetings and already 3 new projects have been initiated in Malaysia, Burkina Faso and Antigua and Barbuda.

Under our global skin lightening cream campaign, a new targeted testing round showed 60% of the creams collected, from 12 countries, with high mercury content from 40 to over 100,000 ppm. 65 out of the 95 high mercury creams were purchased from the internet.

After the release of the reports – we are happy to share with you, that Amazon US and UK have removed from their platforms, the high mercury products we found, and eBay is reviewing the report as well.

This work is complemented with a report intended to support the work of the Parties on enforcement measures to restrict these toxic products, including successful national examples and practices from countries. The reports and the executive summary are available at our booth and website.

Enforcement work is now becoming very important. To assist the task, ZMWG has developed a poster summarizing the Parties' immediate obligations, provided USBs with enforcement tools, and training modules which can be found at our booth.

We are looking forward to working with all of you and assisting Parties towards our common goal – Making mercury history.

Thank you.