



## ESDO-ZMWG Intervention – Waste Thresholds

October 31, 2023, Minamata COP5, Geneva, Switzerland

Thank you, Madam President.

ESDO, Bangladesh on behalf of the ZMWG had the opportunity to follow the work on Waste Thresholds and participated at the technical meeting earlier this year.

ESDO and ZMWG are opposed to a 25 mg/kg threshold, which would allow vast quantities of mercury-contaminated waste to escape treatment and be used in ways that can lead to further contamination such as agricultural application as soil improvement and reuse in the construction industry. Such a threshold would further allow waste incinerator bottom ash and sewage sludge to avoid regulation as mercury wastes under the treaty. In many developing and undeveloped countries, waste management is uncontrolled, leading to open dumping and unlicensed disposal<sup>i</sup>.

As a result, a higher level of protection is needed to ensure the safety of communities in these areas. As there are a substantial number of national thresholds already in place as discussed during the expert group.

***ESDO-ZMWG support a decision for setting a threshold on mercury, which should be as low as possible with a maximum 10 ppm. We also agree that a review process should be kept open, to consider the revision of these thresholds latest at COP7.***

I thank you Madam President.

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<sup>i</sup> See e.g., South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs, State of Waste Report, 2018, available at [https://soer.environment.gov.za/soer/UploadLibraryImages/UploadDocuments/141119143510\\_state%20of%20Waste%20Report\\_2018.pdf](https://soer.environment.gov.za/soer/UploadLibraryImages/UploadDocuments/141119143510_state%20of%20Waste%20Report_2018.pdf), Toxics Link, On the Edge: Potential Hotspots in Delhi, 2014, available at <http://toxicslink.org/docs/Report-On-the-Edge.pdf>, UNEP, Africa Waste Management Outlook, 2018, available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25514>, UNEP, Waste Management Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018, available at [file:///C:/Users/dlennett/Downloads/Residuos\\_LAC\\_EN%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/dlennett/Downloads/Residuos_LAC_EN%20(2).pdf).