

## **ZMWG Statement on Capacity Building , Minamata COP 5, Geneva, Monday 30/10**

Thank you, Madame President,

I am talking on behalf of the ZMWG.

We are very happy to see that work towards phasing out Mercury added products (MAP) has been getting more traction and attention this year. Indeed, the work in this area needs to be reinforced as also mentioned at the ICC report.

The ZMWG became a co-lead of the Global Mercury Partnership on Products and together with the US EPA, several informative webinars and meetings were organized contributing to the Parties' preparation for the COP.

We have been supporting capacity building with our NGO partners in 3 African and 4 Asian countries, who have been assisting their respective governments with the implementation of Mercury added product phase out provisions and focus on skin lightening creams.

Our global skin lightening cream campaign, contributing to raising this issue, would have not been possible without the wide NGO network and we want to thank our partners for their support, as well as our funders for their trust.

Under the third phase of the EU/UNEP African Caribbean Pacific Multilateral Environmental Agreements (ACP MEA III) Programme, assistance is also being provided to three Caribbean governments. The countries are developing their mercury added phase out national action plans, and mercury free product procurement strategies were already adopted by different authorities. A regional conference that we organized together with CARICOM, brought together 14 out of 17 Caribbean states who had the opportunity to draft their roadmaps towards phasing out MAPs.

Complementary to this work, the ZMWG had the opportunity to assist more governments as a resource, at the Global Workshop on MAPs organized by the Secretariat last June. We do appreciate this acknowledgement to our work.

You are welcome to pass by our booth where we can share our experiences and tools towards phasing out mercury added products and in relation to skin lightening creams.

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

Thank you.