

ZMWG INC 1 statement on supply -9 June 2010

As indicated in INC 1/5, the documents prepared for INC 1 present options that already appear in other agreements, and acknowledge that other options may exist which could be especially suitable for a mercury instrument. In the case of supply, Zero Mercury Working Group believes the INC would particularly benefit from considering additional and more simplified options to reduce supply.

For example, we note many of the supply reduction options identified in Paragraph 30 suggest the need to develop a set of supply targets on a Party and/or supply source basis. We question the need to create something so complex.

Instead, more simply, two principal control measures are proposed. First is the ban on new primary mining and the phase-out of existing primary mining. With respect to the phase-out, we propose an earlier phase out date where the mining is for export purposes, an option not expressly identified in INC 1/5. Second, we propose an export ban of elemental mercury and mercury compounds, except for the purpose of long term sequestration and storage of such mercury or compounds.

To implement this export ban, particular attention should be paid to the fate of mercury from chlor-alkali plants that are closing or converting due to mandates under the agreement.

Where elementary mercury trade may be necessary to accommodate allowable uses, the instrument could simply provide a time and quantity limited exemption process. No exemptions would be allowed for small scale gold mining or uses potentially prohibited by the convention at the time. Exports allowed under an exemption process would require a licensing and reporting system..

We urge consideration of the Zero Mercury Working Group proposal by the INC as you consider treaty supply and trade control measures.