

ZMWG statement on compliance and monitoring , 8 June 2010

We agree with comments from many of the governments and IPEN about the importance of compliance and reporting matters. The Convention should clearly require relevant, valid, and consistent data in a manner which minimizes the burden to the Parties as necessary to monitor the progress of the Convention.

May I note that suitable inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations may assist in data gathering efforts as well.

Furthermore: An important point which has not yet been raised: the data collected to ensure implementation should be publicly available and accessible through the Convention website. Public availability will ensure transparency and credibility of the implementation progress. Less obviously, perhaps, is that experience shows that public availability of data will also help to promote better data quality – because parties will anticipate broad review of the information provided to the Conference of the Parties.

Finally the INC could consider requesting data gathering activities that would be helpful for the broader goal of measuring the effectiveness of the treaty – beyond compliance. To this end, monitoring fish and marine mammal food sources and associated abiotic environmental monitoring as well as human biomonitoring of hair and blood (that WHO just mentioned) would provide information to measure the broad effectiveness of the totality of Convention requirements over time and would be, we think, a very good idea.