



a toxics-free future

13 March, 2016

Mercury Wastes (Article 11) Intervention by IPEN for INC7

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am speaking on the behalf of IPEN

Civil Society Organizations have witnessed that mercury waste and its improper handling poses a significant risk to many communities, therefore IPEN suggests we should pay special attention to this flow of mercury into the environment.

INC7 should adopt guidance for waste thresholds focused on preventing health and environmental damage rather than establishing threshold levels reflecting other interests.

We urge delegates to resist the temptation to quote "clean up" wastes with weak standards since they will pose an ongoing threat to human health and the environment. The total mercury concentration of waste should be the standard be used as the basis for defining mercury waste.

Wastes with a concentration of 2 mg/kg or more mercury should be defined as mercury wastes. Current techniques for contaminated site remediation can reduce mercury concentrations in soil to this level or below.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.