

## **IPEN intervention on Supply and Trade by Yuyun Ismawati**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The supply and trade of mercury should take into account the health, social, economic and environmental costs of the options. In addition, we would like to point out that international trade includes a substantial component of illegal trade that many countries have stated they are not able to monitor.

We think that there are six key points that need to be considered in the Supply and Trade of mercury:

1. Primary mercury mining should simply be banned and not exempted for uses allowed under the treaty. The date should be on the signing of treaty.
2. Reporting should include identifying mercury supply sources as stated in Annex A; prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of mercury from these sources; and prohibiting export.
3. A national authority should be designated and a control system on mercury import and export should be established, and may need to be catalysed with financial support for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
4. A licensing system should regulate trade of mercury and the treaty should require annual reports to the Secretariat including amounts and destinations.
5. In regards with the key players of mercury supply and trade, we would like to support the Philippines's position. Mercury traders, brokers, and companies that recover or recycle products or wastes containing mercury should be regulated by Parties. A register should be established which is maintained by the secretariat and available to the public. We make this proposal because studies conducted by IPEN show that miners in impoverished communities are not given much choices to extract gold since the gold buyers and gold traders are also the suppliers of mercury.
6. The import or export of mercury for use in ASGM should be prohibited. If this toxic trade is allowed, it will be extremely costly to countries. Costs will include healthcare spending to treat mercury intoxication of miners, their families and communities; economic harms to the fishing industry; the economic cost of damage to intelligence in children, and huge cleanup costs for new contaminated sites. Some say that prohibiting mercury trade for ASGM will increase illegal traffic. This is absolutely NOT true. It is widely known that more than 90% of mercury used in ASGM is already illegally traded. In this sense, prohibiting import or export of mercury for ASGM simply means preventing huge harms to human health and the environment.

One final argument made by proponents of toxic trade of mercury is that millions of poor people will suffer because they depend on mercury for their ASGM livelihood. This is a false choice since mercury already enters the country illegally and is not even required for ASGM. The treaty should promote robust, appropriate and affordable of non-mercury techniques and make them available for miners to allow them improve their livelihood and their quality of life.

Finally, we must not create a needless exemption for toxic trade of mercury that creates more harm. If we want to call the treaty, the Minamata Convention, we cannot endorse an approach that creates new Minamatas.

Thank you Mr. Chair.