

Thank you Mr. Chairman
INC5, Geneva Switzerland
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I am Ram Charitra Sah, speaking on behalf of the Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), actively engaged in research, publication, awareness raising on mercury among others in Nepal. CEPHED is a Partner organisation of IPEN, ZMWG and HCWH.

Situation of mercury contamination and its impacts in developing country like Nepal and hopefully in other countries is going to be increased. Since each suspected products, process, sites, biological and environmental samples we tested have found varied level of mercury contamination. As this treaty aims to protect human health and environment from mercury, **how the provision like developing country could be exempted from taking action and/or entitled to delay to take protective actions is justified as mentioned in the Article 8 and 8 bis ?**

Further, if entitlement of delaying the compliance measures is going to remains in the treaty text, it will be nothing more than the deliberate negligence for the developing countries known to be already impacted. Secondly, it also undermine the potential as well as progressive steps of envisioning mercury free health care policy, successful pilot projects, and awareness raising on mercury taken by some of the government from developing countries like Nepal.

There are many references and evidences of contamination of mercury in human and environment from developing countries is enough to recognize and enact strong regulatory, technical and institutional frameworks in their respective countries rather entitling of delay taking actions as special provision under 8 bis. **This is same as delay justice is denied justice.**

Therefore, I sincerely remind and request this imminent gathering that there should be no exemption provision to delay any appropriate legal and technical measure of controlling mercury pollution and its impact by any and especially of any developing countries as people and environment in those areas are more vulnerable.

Thank you very much.

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