

Article 12 – Storage

INC-3, Nairobi, Kenya

- Dr. Shahriar Hossain

IPEN - ZMWG joint intervention on Storage

IPEN and ZMWG see the storage as among key issue that need to be addressed by the future mercury treaty;

We strongly supports the environmentally sound storage of mercury in Article 12. We note that the 3 key issues pertaining to storage in this Article are: (1) the class of mercury that is covered; (2) the development of storage guidelines and national plans; and (3) international and regional coordination and cooperation.

On the first issue, we see the need for a broader coverage of mercury, especially the inclusion of mercury whose classification falls outside of the Basel Convention. In this regard we view alternative 1 of paragraph 1 as a sound basis for further discussion. Second, we would like to express our disagreement with deferring the development of storage guidelines to the Basel Convention, for two reasons: number one; guidelines developed under Basel will not be binding upon countries that are not parties to the Basel Convention but Parties to the mercury treaty; and the Basel guidelines are recommendatory in nature. Second, Basel's jurisdiction is limited to waste, non-waste storage issues is not legally within Basel's remit.

We recommend countries to include a plan for storage in their national implementation plans.

Finally, we support Secretariat assistance to facilitate regional storage planning, but we do not think it is necessary that each single country or region needs to have a storage facility.