

PROMOTION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION PRINCIPLES IN THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY



22nd WG of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Thematic session on promotion of the principles for the Aarhus Convention in international fora

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EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau



1. Who we are

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

- ❖ Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations
 - around **140 civil society organisations**... including a growing number of **European networks**
 - ...from more than **30 European countries**
- ❖ Over 40 years of EU environmental policy expertise
- ❖ EEB tackles **Europe's most pressing environmental problems**, sustainable development, good governance, participatory democracy and the rule of law in Europe and beyond.
- ❖ www.eeb.org



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

ZERO MERCURY WORKING GROUP



- * Founded/co-coordinated since 2005 – EEB and Mercury Policy Project
- * Over 95 NGOs from more than 50 countries, all regions
- * Aim: Reduce/(where feasible) eliminate mercury supply, use, emissions, exposure, implementing the Minamata Convention
- * www.zeromercury.org

2. Activities in relation to the Aarhus principles

ZMWG TWO PRONGED STRATEGY

Promote strong policies at [EU and] global level (UNEP Partnership initiatives, Regional meetings, Conference of the Parties, INC, OEWG, GC)



- Support NGO activities at national level (Awareness raising, inventories, national action plans, mercury reduction strategies, Minamata Initial Assessments, etc.)



CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE MINAMATA COP PROCESS

- Supporting NGO participation
- Provide input as relevant
- Development of guidance and technical standards
 - Waste thresholds
 - Effectiveness evaluation
 - Interim storage guidance
- Convention revisions
 - Strengthening of Treaty (expand phase out of Convention compliant products and processes, etc.)

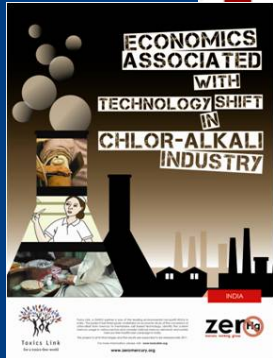
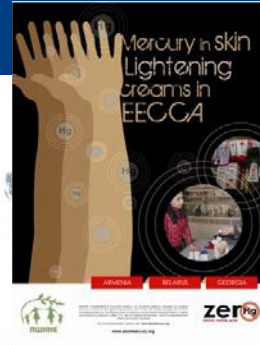


ZMWG SUPPORT FOR NGO PROJECTS WORLDWIDE



ammap.com

Zoom back to world map



Since 2005, funding around 5 projects per year in 30 countries

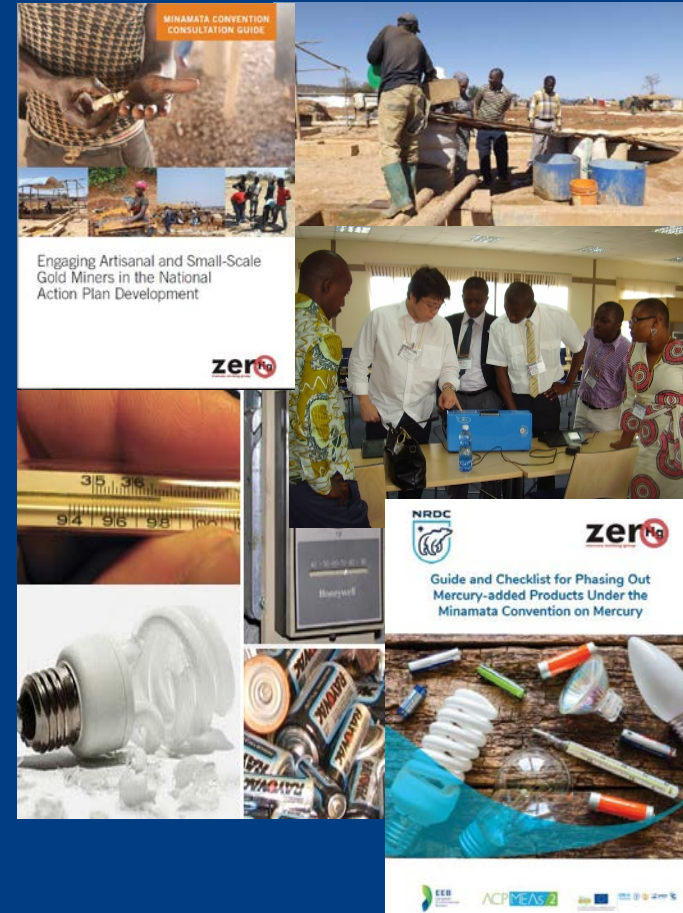


SUPPORTING PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND BUILD NGO CAPACITY

- Identify implementation needs
- Mercury reduction and awareness raising activities
 - ZMWG Checklist for phasing out mercury added products
 - Project on Skin lightening creams
 - Assisting in the development of the ASGM NAPs
- Develop and promote legislation

Capacity building/Awareness raising (GEF SGP)

- Existing NGO partners/countries advance their work – share experiences
- Identify new partners in the regions
- Identify/cooperate with SGP/structures which can provide resources to developing countries NGOs
- Organise three NGO conferences – Africa, Asia, Latin America in 2018,2019



3. Looking at the Aarhus principles in the Minamata Convention

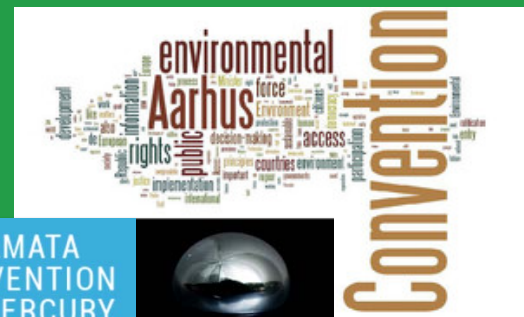
a. Access to information

From Convention Secretariat side

- ✓ Information is available website-EN-FR-ES/ updated regularly/ project database / additional info via Global Mercury Partnership
- ✓ Information can be requested – UN Environment/MC Secretariat responsive to observers
- + Potentially a formal procedure could be outlined for public requests to documents

From Parties' side

- + Provision for information to public needs improvement when citizens/NGOs are to be involved in national processes in preparation for MC meetings



3. Looking at the Aarhus principles in the Minamata Convention

b. Public participation (cont)

- ✓ Observers participate in ad hoc groups
- + Observers participation could be introduced
 - at the Bureau meetings
 - at the Implementation and compliance committee
- + Facilitation of observers' participation needed @ COP, subsidiary bodies (e.g. travel support)



From Parties' side

- ✓ EU Presidency/ some countries may be open to consultation upon request
- + National/EU consultations process need improvement
- + Include NGOs in the national delegations
- ✓ Host country/Switzerland open for consultations
- + Visa process could be facilitated further

4a. Recommendations for the MC Secretariat

- ❖ Continue to expand on provision of information – update the project database, provide Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) reports, inventories, etc. on line.
- ❖ Introduce a formal procedure on request for documents
- ❖ Allow input on developing the COP/event programme, agenda.
- ❖ Ensure NGO statements/positions are put on line during COPs
- ❖ Develop RoP allowing:
 - NGO participation at the Implementation and Compliance committee (ICC).
 - NGO to provide information to the ICC beyond national reports
- ❖ Explore possibility of observers participation at Bureau meetings.
- ❖ Facilitate/support observers' participation @ COP, subsidiary bodies, AHWG etc. (e.g. travel support)



4b. Recommendations for the Parties

- ❖ Improve provision for information to public at national level – website, national consultations.
- ❖ National/EU consultations process need improvement;
 - rather unclear whether countries request/host consultations prior to COP;
 - meeting EU MS back to back with Working Party on International Env. Issues (WPIEI)
- ❖ Encourage involvement/participation of local NGOs in information exchange/ dissemination activities
- ❖ Supporting/funding the work of the Aarhus Centers at country level.
- ❖ Promote/support inclusion of NGOs in government delegations to the COP.
- ❖ Host country could look at the respective visa process and facilitate further/wave it if possible.



Thank you for your attention!

