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Manufacturing Processes Intervention for Mercury Treaty COP1

Given by Ram Charitra Sah

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I represent the Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) Nepal, a participating organization of IPEN. I would like to make this intervention on behalf of all gold plating workers of Nepal.

Article 5 of the Convention about manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used is a living document, we presume. We felt the strong need for the inclusion of some pertinent issues of **gold plating** using mercury as an intermediate manufacturing process of gold plated items, such as Gold Plated Metal Idols and handicrafts, not only in the case of Nepal, but several other Asian Countries like Japan, Indonesia, India etc. resulting in a very high level of occupational exposure and mercury emissions to the environment.

As per the recent IPEN Global Report, Mercury in Women of Child Bearing Age in 25 Countries ([ipen.org/mercury-and-women](http://ipen.org/mercury-and-women)) of all 6 continents including 2 sites from Nepal, it was found that more than 75% of gold plating women workers have more than 1 ppm of Mercury contamination. The average value was 3.62 ppm and maximum of 28.46 ppm, equivalent to mercury exposure in the ASGM sector.

Hence, on behalf of all Nepalese gold plating workers, I would like to request the delegates to consider the inclusion of the gold plating process under Article 5, Annex B appropriately, and to envision the required control measures to introduce safer alternatives, such as electro plating, should be considered.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.