

Thank you Mr Chairman

As this is the first time I have spoken I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your Bureau on your election and to congratulate participants in the room on the progress being made this week on the important task of developing a comprehensive global response to the challenges posed by mercury.

Mr Chairman, the World Coal Institute is an industry association. Its corporate members represent more than a quarter of global coal production and more than a third of all exported coal.

Mercury is NOT traded, used or intentionally produced by our industry.

However, it is well-known that mercury is present in coal as a minor constituent which is released to air during combustion. Therefore, the issue of most interest to our membership is that covered by INC.1/5 Section E, "Provisions to reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury".

The coal industry will work with governments and other stakeholders, particularly with the users of our products, to minimise and eliminate unintentional mercury release from the use of coal.

We welcome the comment from IPEN during Tuesday's plenary discussion of capacity building in which, in highlighting "desirable characteristics for a financial mechanism", they specifically included the ability to "help developing countries fulfil their treaty obligations **without compromising poverty reduction goals.**"¹

While coal provides 40% of the world's electricity it is an *essential* element in economic development and poverty eradication globally. Our efforts here must be effective in eliminating harmful emissions of mercury; however, they should not harm access to affordable and stable electricity in either developed or developing countries.

In this regard, there are existing technologies being used in power plants to control nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide emissions that are coincidentally reducing mercury emissions by 90%. In fact three plants operating in Korea are reporting mercury emission reductions of more than 90%. This demonstrates that coal use is technically compatible with responsible mercury management.

A critical focus for any mercury instrument then must be to encourage the rapid global deployment of these technologies and practices so that the world can continue to meet its mercury emissions objectives *and* its poverty reduction goals.

Thank you

Milton Catelin, Chief Executive

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¹ Earth Negotiations Bulletin – Mercury INC 1 Highlights – 8 June 2010