Second meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

21 May 2024

2 pm - 4 pm CET

gef

UN environment programme

World Health Organization

bri Biodiversity Research Institute

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Before we start, please:

UN environment programme

Keep microphones off unless when making an intervention, cameras are optional

Use the **“Chat”** to ask technical questions or share views

The **meeting will be recorded**. Please indicate if you have any objection

AGENDA

14:00 Opening and scene setting, **US EPA, Minamata Convention, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Updates from the GEF project

14:15 Strengthening legislation and regulations to phase out skin lightening products in line with the Minamata Convention, **Gabon**

14:30 Strengthening national capacities in testing and monitoring the skin lightening products and providing training of custom agents, **BRI**

Updates from the stakeholders

14:45 Antigua and Barbuda update on the Draft Regulation on restricting SLPs and other chemicals in cosmetics, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs**

15:00 Mercury in SLPs: Update on the Global challenges and response, **EEB/ZMWG**

15:10 Consumer product safety pledges – policy guidance, **OECD**

15:20 **Interactive session**: Global communication needs and opportunities , **All**

15:45 Way forward and closing, **All**

OPENING AND SCENE SETTING

- US EPA/co-lead of Products Partnership Area
- Secretariat of the Minamata Convention,
- Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Minamata Convention COP-5 decision on mercury-added cosmetics

Decision MC-5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention

The Conference of the Parties

*1. Invites P*arties and relevant stakeholders to submit information to the Secretariat by **30 June 2024** on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by Parties and others, including the Global Mercury Partnership;

2. Requests the Secretariat to prepare a draft report, compiling and synthesizing the information described in paragraph 1 above, addressing topics such as, but not limited to, the following: phasing out sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics; strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics; advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics; licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities; developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms; and raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members;

3. Also requests the Secretariat to make the draft report mentioned in paragraph 2 above available to Parties and relevant stakeholders by **31 March 2025** so that they can review it and comment on it;

4. Further requests the Secretariat to prepare a final report, taking into account the comments submitted by Parties and relevant stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 3 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

The Executive Secretary issued a letter inviting submission of information on 5 March 2024.

Decision MC-5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Information on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges, is to be reported by 30 June 2024 using the format attached to the Executive Secretary's letter.

Challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics and measures for addressing these challenges:

INFORMATION SUBMISSION FORM

Note: This form is to be used for submission of information on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by Parties and others, pursuant to COP decision MC-5/5 (See Annex).

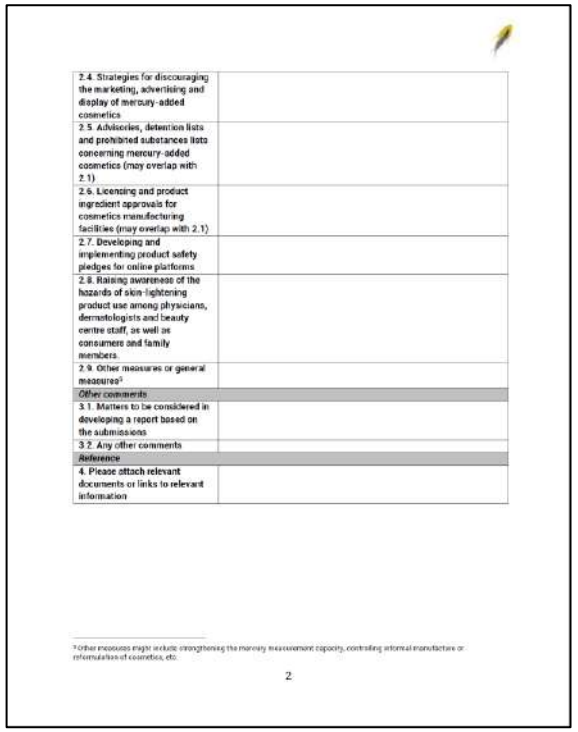
Parties and stakeholders are invited to submit information using this form and email it to the Secretariat (mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org) **by 30 June 2024**.

Should you have any specific questions for clarification, kindly send an email to mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org with a copy to Eliaaku Tode at eliaaku.tode@un.org.

Contact information	
Country/Organization[1]	
Family Name	
Given Name	
Affiliation[2]	
Address	
E-mail	
Challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A to the Convention	
1. Please describe the challenges	
Current and planned measures: Please describe current and planned measures with regard to the following.[3]	
2.1. Regulation of manufacture of mercury-added cosmetics	
2.2. Regulation of import and export of mercury-added cosmetics	
2.3. Regulation of sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics[4]	

[1] If this is a submission from a Party or a non-party government, please provide the name of the country. In case of a submission from other stakeholders, please provide the name of the organization.
[2] Please indicate the ministry, institution, department, section, etc. to which the contact person belongs.
[3] For planned measures, please indicate the date of entry into force where possible.
[4] This might include sales on online platforms.

1



2.4. Strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics	
2.5. Advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics (may overlap with 2.1)	
2.6. Licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities (may overlap with 2.1)	
2.7. Developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms	
2.8. Raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members	
2.9. Other measures or general measures[5]	
Other comments	
3.1. Matters to be considered in developing a report based on the submissions	
3.2. Any other comments	
Reference	
4. Please attach relevant documents or links to relevant information	

[5] Other measures might include strengthening the mercury measurement capacity, controlling informal manufacture or reformulation of cosmetics, etc.

2

The Executive Secretary's letter describes the plan as follows (Some dates have been adjusted):

- 8 May 2024: Convene a Minamata Online session on COP-5 Decisions 5/4 and 5/5
- 2-29 May 2024: Advertise to hire a consultant to draft the report (with financial contribution from the European Union)
- 30 June 2024: Information submission deadline
- July-August 2024: Consultant to develop a draft report
- Sep-Dec 2024: Internal review of the draft report and consultation with UNEP, WHO and Global Mercury Partnership
- Jan 2025: Make the draft report available to Parties and relevant stakeholders on the website for comments; A webinar will be convened to present the draft report
- April 2025: Commenting deadline
- June 2025: Final report for submission to COP-6.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Thank you for your attention

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

WEB: www. minamataconvention.org
MAIL: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org
X: @minamataMEA

#MakeMercuryHistory

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

Platform to exchange information between project and stakeholder on the topic

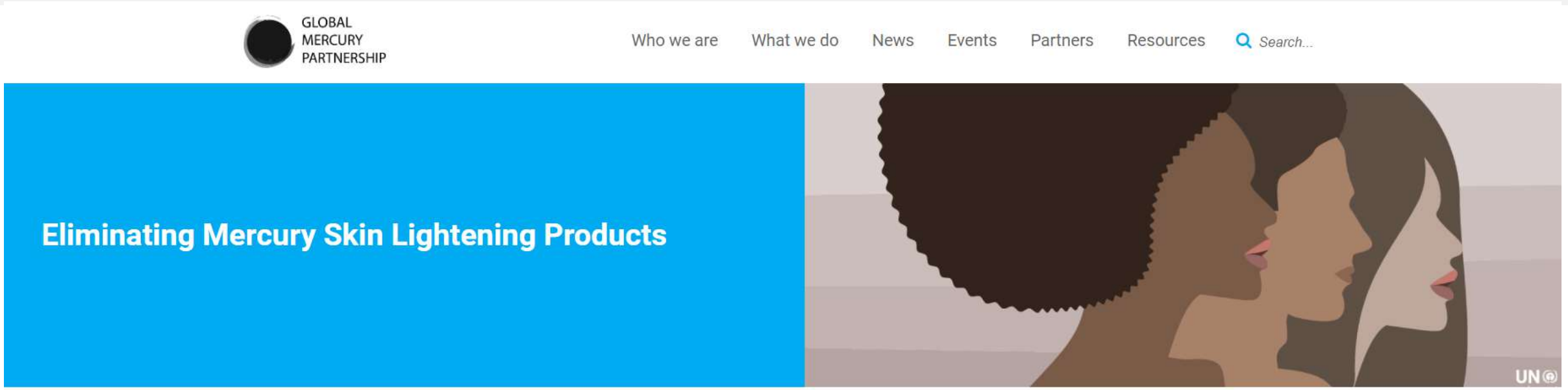
Over 110 members on the mailing list of the group - mercury-in-cosmetics@googlegroups.com

1st meeting – November 2023

UN environment programme

Knowledge hub

https://**www.unep.org**/mercuryfreecosmetics



Strengthening legislation and regulations to phase out skin lightening products in line with the Minamata Convention

Gabon

Strengthening legislation and regulations to phase out skin lightening products in line with the Minamata Convention

Update from SLPs project _Gabon

21,May 2024

Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, NOP, WHO- Gabon

Plan

1. Reminder of the COP Decisions on cosmetics
2. Outcome on strentheginging legal framwork on SLPs
3. Workshop to raise awareness of regulations on SLPs
    - 3.1 National workhop
    - 3.2 Local workshop
4. Challenges
5. Other informations

Conclusion

1. Reminder: COP 5 Decisions on Cosmetics

Decision MC-5/4: Amendments to annexes A and B and feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing processes listed in annex B

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Mercury-added products	Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available[1/]	2020
Cosmetics, including skin-lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available[1/]	2025

[1/] The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury

Decision MC-5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* parties and relevant stakeholders to submit information to the secretariat by 30 June 2024 on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by parties and others, including the Global Mercury Partnership;

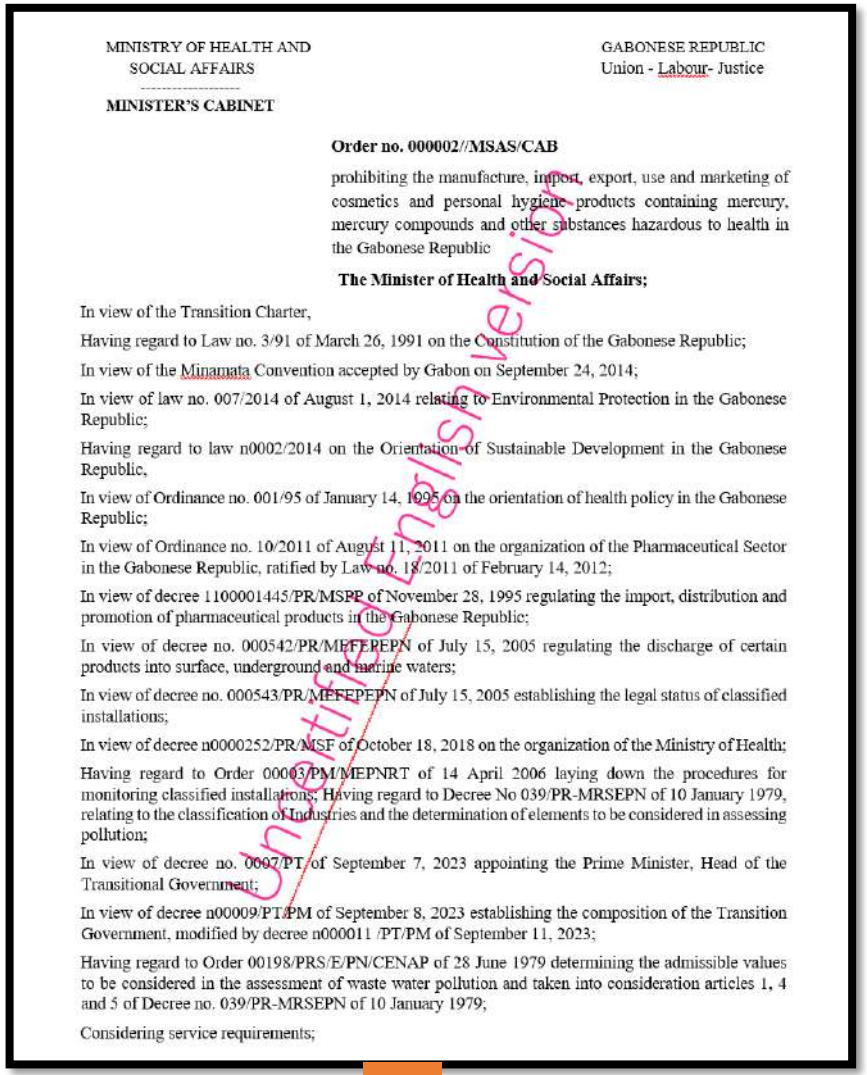
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a draft report, compiling and synthesizing the information described in paragraph 1 above, addressing topics such as, but not limited to, the following: phasing out sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics; strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics; advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics; licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities; developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms; and raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to make the draft report mentioned in paragraph 2 above available to parties and relevant stakeholders by 31 March 2025 so that they can review it and comment on it;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a final report, taking into account the comments submitted by parties and relevant stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 3 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

Activites to implement Decision MC 5/4 and MC 5/5 in context of SLPs GEF Project-Gabon

Outcome: Strengthening the legal framework to eliminate SLPs in Gabon



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S CABINET

GABONESE REPUBLIC
Union - Labour- Justice

Order no. 000002//MSAS/CAB

prohibiting the manufacture, import, export, use and marketing of cosmetics and personal hygiene products containing mercury, mercury compounds and other substances hazardous to health in the Gabonese Republic

The Minister of Health and Social Affairs;

In view of the Transition Charter,

Having regard to Law no. 3/91 of March 26, 1991 on the Constitution of the Gabonese Republic;

In view of the Minamata Convention accepted by Gabon on September 24, 2014;

In view of law no. 007/2014 of August 1, 2014 relating to Environmental Protection in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to law n0002/2014 on the Orientation of Sustainable Development in the Gabonese Republic,

In view of Ordinance no. 001/95 of January 14, 1995 on the orientation of health policy in the Gabonese Republic;

In view of Ordinance no. 10/2011 of August 11, 2011 on the organization of the Pharmaceutical Sector in the Gabonese Republic, ratified by Law no. 18/2011 of February 14, 2012;

In view of decree 1100001445/PR/MSPP of November 28, 1995 regulating the import, distribution and promotion of pharmaceutical products in the Gabonese Republic;

In view of decree no. 000542/PR/MEFEPEPN of July 15, 2005 regulating the discharge of certain products into surface, underground and marine waters;

In view of decree no. 000543/PR/MEFEPEPN of July 15, 2005 establishing the legal status of classified installations;

In view of decree n0000252/PR/MSF of October 18, 2018 on the organization of the Ministry of Health;

Having regard to Order 00003/PM/MEPNRT of 14 April 2006 laying down the procedures for monitoring classified installations; Having regard to Decree No 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979, relating to the classification of Industries and the determination of elements to be considered in assessing pollution;

In view of decree no. 0007/PT of September 7, 2023 appointing the Prime Minister, Head of the Transitional Government;

In view of decree n00009/PT/PM of September 8, 2023 establishing the composition of the Transition Government, modified by decree n00011 /PT/PM of September 11, 2023;

Having regard to Order 00198/PRS/E/PN/CENAP of 28 June 1979 determining the admissible values to be considered in the assessment of waste water pollution and taken into consideration articles 1, 4 and 5 of Decree no. 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979;

Considering service requirements;

Unverified English version

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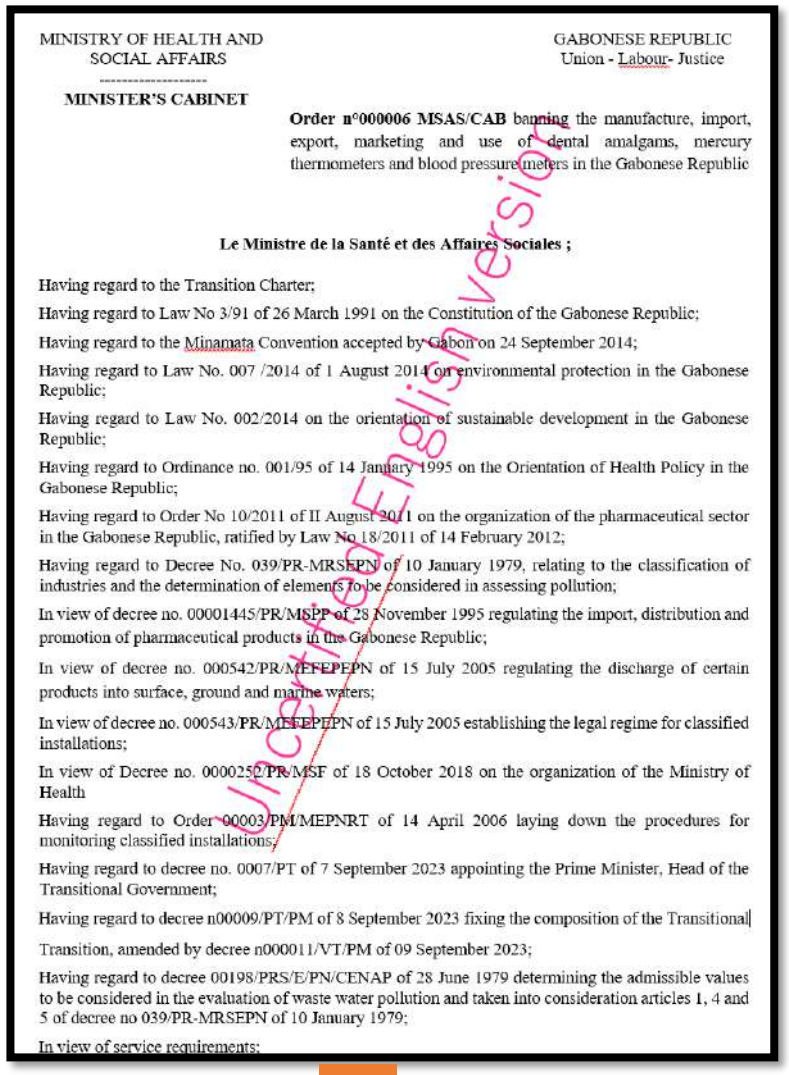

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S CABINET

GABONESE REPUBLIC
Union - Labour- Justice

Order n°000006 MSAS/CAB banning the manufacture, import, export, marketing and use of dental amalgams, mercury thermometers and blood pressure meters in the Gabonese Republic

Le Ministre de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales ;

Having regard to the Transition Charter;

Having regard to Law No 3/91 of 26 March 1991 on the Constitution of the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to the Minamata Convention accepted by Gabon on 24 September 2014;

Having regard to Law No. 007 /2014 of 1 August 2014 on environmental protection in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Law No. 002/2014 on the orientation of sustainable development in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Ordinance no. 001/95 of 14 January 1995 on the Orientation of Health Policy in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Order No 10/2011 of II August 2011 on the organization of the pharmaceutical sector in the Gabonese Republic, ratified by Law No 18/2011 of 14 February 2012;

Having regard to Decree No. 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979, relating to the classification of industries and the determination of elements to be considered in assessing pollution;

In view of decree no. 00001445/PR/MSPP of 28 November 1995 regulating the import, distribution and promotion of pharmaceutical products in the Gabonese Republic;

In view of decree no. 000542/PR/MEFEPEPN of 15 July 2005 regulating the discharge of certain products into surface, ground and marine waters;

In view of decree no. 000543/PR/MEFEPEPN of 15 July 2005 establishing the legal regime for classified installations;

In view of Decree no. 0000252/PR/MSF of 18 October 2018 on the organization of the Ministry of Health

Having regard to Order 00003/PM/MEPNRT of 14 April 2006 laying down the procedures for monitoring classified installations;

Having regard to decree no. 0007/PT of 7 September 2023 appointing the Prime Minister, Head of the Transitional Government;

Having regard to decree n00009/PT/PM of 8 September 2023 fixing the composition of the Transitional

Transition, amended by decree n000011/VT/PM of 09 September 2023;

Having regard to decree 00198/PRS/E/PN/CENAP of 28 June 1979 determining the admissible values to be considered in the evaluation of waste water pollution and taken into consideration articles 1, 4 and 5 of decree no 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979;

In view of service requirements;

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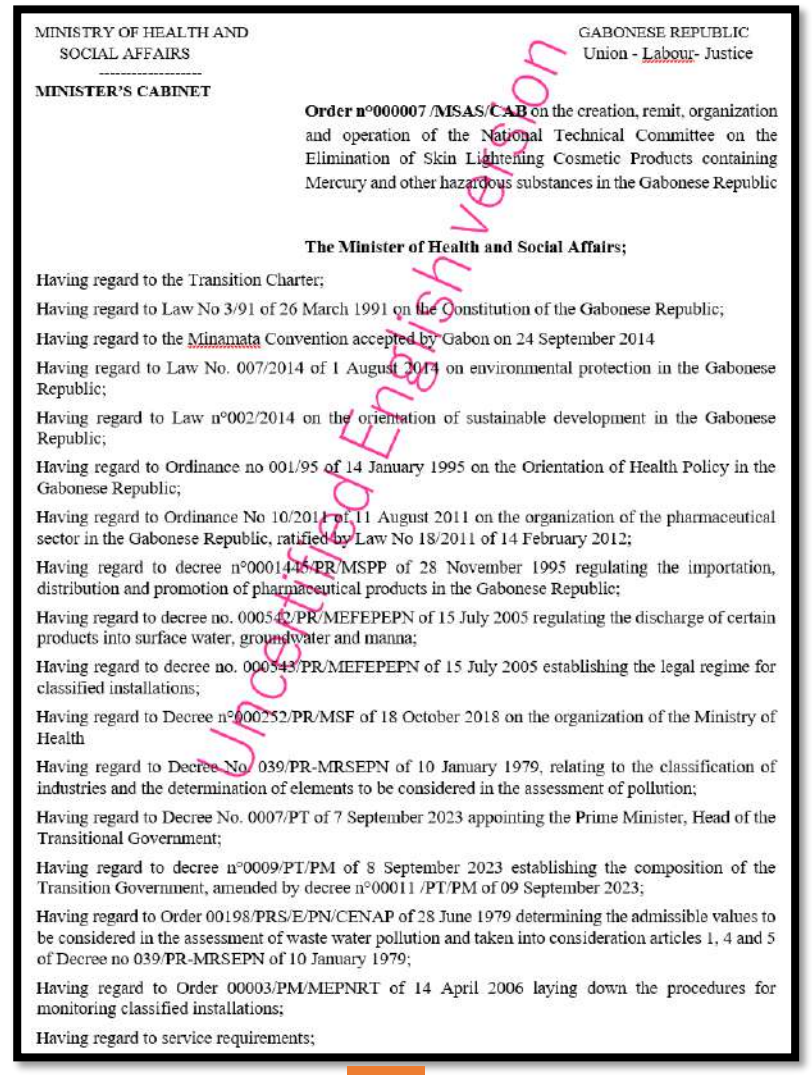

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S CABINET

GABONESE REPUBLIC
Union - Labour- Justice

Order n°000007 /MSAS/CAB on the creation, remit, organization and operation of the National Technical Committee on the Elimination of Skin Lightening Cosmetic Products containing Mercury and other hazardous substances in the Gabonese Republic

The Minister of Health and Social Affairs;

Having regard to the Transition Charter;

Having regard to Law No 3/91 of 26 March 1991 on the Constitution of the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to the Minamata Convention accepted by Gabon on 24 September 2014

Having regard to Law No. 007/2014 of 1 August 2014 on environmental protection in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Law n°002/2014 on the orientation of sustainable development in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Ordinance no 001/95 of 14 January 1995 on the Orientation of Health Policy in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to Ordinance No 10/2011 of 11 August 2011 on the organization of the pharmaceutical sector in the Gabonese Republic, ratified by Law No 18/2011 of 14 February 2012;

Having regard to decree n°00014/5/PR/MSPP of 28 November 1995 regulating the importation, distribution and promotion of pharmaceutical products in the Gabonese Republic;

Having regard to decree no. 000542/PR/MEFEPEPN of 15 July 2005 regulating the discharge of certain products into surface water, groundwater and manna;

Having regard to decree no. 000543/PR/MEFEPEPN of 15 July 2005 establishing the legal regime for classified installations;

Having regard to Decree n°000252/PR/MSF of 18 October 2018 on the organization of the Ministry of Health

Having regard to Decree No. 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979, relating to the classification of industries and the determination of elements to be considered in the assessment of pollution;

Having regard to Decree No. 0007/PT of 7 September 2023 appointing the Prime Minister, Head of the Transitional Government;

Having regard to decree n°0009/PT/PM of 8 September 2023 establishing the composition of the Transition Government, amended by decree n°00011 /PT/PM of 09 September 2023;

Having regard to Order 00198/PRS/E/PN/CENAP of 28 June 1979 determining the admissible values to be considered in the assessment of waste water pollution and taken into consideration articles 1, 4 and 5 of Decree no 039/PR-MRSEPN of 10 January 1979;

Having regard to Order 00003/PM/MEPNRT of 14 April 2006 laying down the procedures for monitoring classified installations;

Having regard to service requirements;

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3. Workshop to raise awareness of regulations on SLPs

3.1 National workshop to raise awareness of regulations banning products containing mercury and other substances hazardous to health

SUMMARY REPORT

National workshop to raise awareness of regulations banning products containing mercury and other substances hazardous to health

Hotel Boulevard, Libreville, February 13 and 14, 2024

GEFSEC ID: 10810, Eliminating mercury skin lightening products

On February 13 and 14, 2024, the BOULEVARD Hotel in Libreville, Gabon, hosted a national workshop to raise awareness of the regulations banning products containing mercury and other substances hazardous to health.

The workshop, part of the project to eliminate mercury-containing cosmetics, was attended by some sixty participants from public and private administrations, universities, institutes, associations, and associations of doctors, pharmacists and midwives.

- Date: 13 - 14 february, 2024

High level participation:

- Minister of Health + Minister of Environmemnt + WHO Representative

Participants:

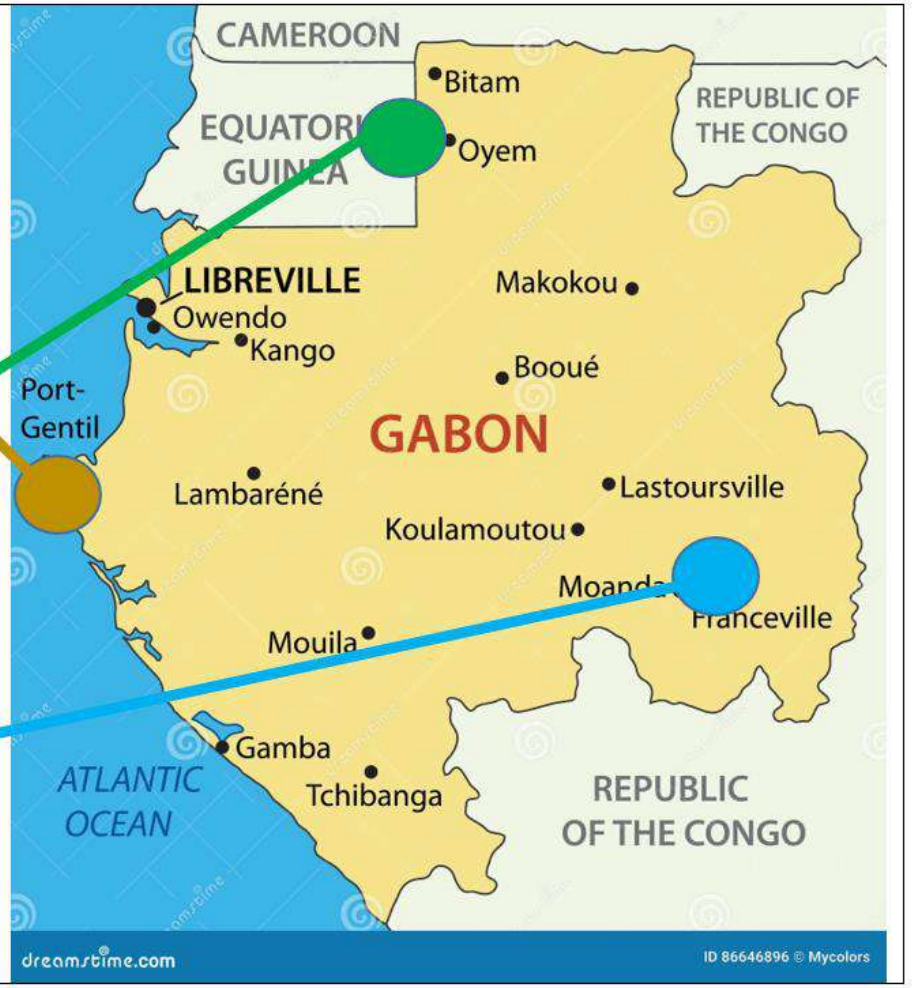
- Around sixty participants from public and private administrations, universities, institutes, associations, and associations of doctors, pharmacists and midwives

Recommendations:

- Replicate the same workshop in the rest of the country to ensure better application of the regulations.

3.2 Local workshop to ensure better application of the regulations

Date		Objet	Province
1er au 04	1er juin	**Départ de Libreville pour Lambaréné**	*Ogooué Maritime*
	2 juin	**Départ de Lambaréné pour Port gentil**	
	3 juin	Réunion de cadrage et civilité aux autorités locales	
	4 juin	Atelier de sensibilisation	
	5 juin	**Départ de Port Gentil pour Lambaréné**	
	6 juin	**Départ de Lambaréné pour Libreville**	
09 - 12	09 juin	**Départ de Libreville pour OYEM**	*Woleu Ntem*
	10 juin	Réunion de cadrage et civilité aux autorités locales	
	11 juin	Atelier de sensibilisation	
	12 juin	**Départ de OYEM pour Libreville**	
19 au 24	19 Mai	***Départ de Libreville pour Makokou***	*Haut Ogooué*
	20 Mai	***Départ de Makokou pour Franceville***	
	21 Mai	Réunion de cadrage et civilité aux autorités locales	
	22 Mai	Atelier de sensibilisation	
	23 Mai	***Départ de Franceville pour Makokou***	
	24 Mai	***Départ de Makokou pour Libreville***	



Budget by local meeting ~ 5667 USD

4.Challenge

- At this stage, the profile of SLPs in circulation in Gabon is still unknown due to delays in sampling.
- The national steering Committee is concerned that scientific analyses may not be carried out locally because of delays in building the capacity of laboratories capable of analyzing mercury-containing products.
- adapting the national work plan to that of the technical assistant, particularly with regard to sampling, is proving rather difficult.
- Budgetary constraints mean that the replication workshops have to be scheduled for one day in the country, instead of two as initially recommended by the stakeholders.
- In addition, the replication workshops will only be held in 3 provinces (Woleu N'tem, Ogooué Maritime and Haut Ogooué) out of the country's 9 provinces. This poor coverage could be a major constraint prior to the SLP monitoring and controle missions to be carried out by ANMAPS.

Other informations

- Imminent launch of the knowledge and practices survey, as the consultant recruitment process will be finalized next week at the latest.
- Gabon is working closely with project partners (GMP, UNEP, WHO Geneva and Afro,..) to host the sub-regional workshop on the implementation of the Minamata Convention
- The project's mid-term visit is planned to coincide with the national awareness-raising workshop for dermatologists, scheduled for June 2024.

Conclusion

- With the leadership of the ANMAPS and the Minamata Focal Point, the SLPs project in Gabon is proceeding smoothly, with close collaboration between the WHO National Office, the Ministries of Health and Environment and all the relevant stakeholders. All the activities planned for this year, including those delayed last year, should normally produce the expected results within the project implementation timeframe.
- it is important to emphasize that missions to monitor the SLPs on the national market are planned for the end of this year. The success of this operation will depend on reliable national analysis capacity.

Thank you !

Strengthening national capacities in testing and monitoring the skin lightening products and providing training of custom agents

BRI

Strengthening National Capacities in Testing and Monitoring Skin Lightening Products (SLPs)

Development of a Global Database

2nd Meeting of the Project Stakeholder Group (PSG)

21 May 2024 [virtual event]

GEF# 10810 Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

Project Components & Key Outcomes

1. Build national capacity on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies

Project countries having strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs

2. Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries

Increased understanding of, and ability to monitor, local and online markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage

3. Knowledge management at global level

- Global Advocacy Campaign
- Community of Practice – Project Stakeholder Group
- **Knowledge Hub**

Key Activity

Understanding the presence of SLPs on the market…

- Conduct sampling and testing of SLPs in project countries *(using a 2-step sampling protocol being tested as part of the project)*.
- Conduct a Literature Review of existing verified data on mercury-added SLPs.
- Develop a global database – repository of reputable mercury-added SLP data compiled from available sources and samples analysed under the project.

Literature Review and Database Progress

Publicly available data on SLPs were reviewed.

Over 1,000 SLP sample results obtained.

Sources included:

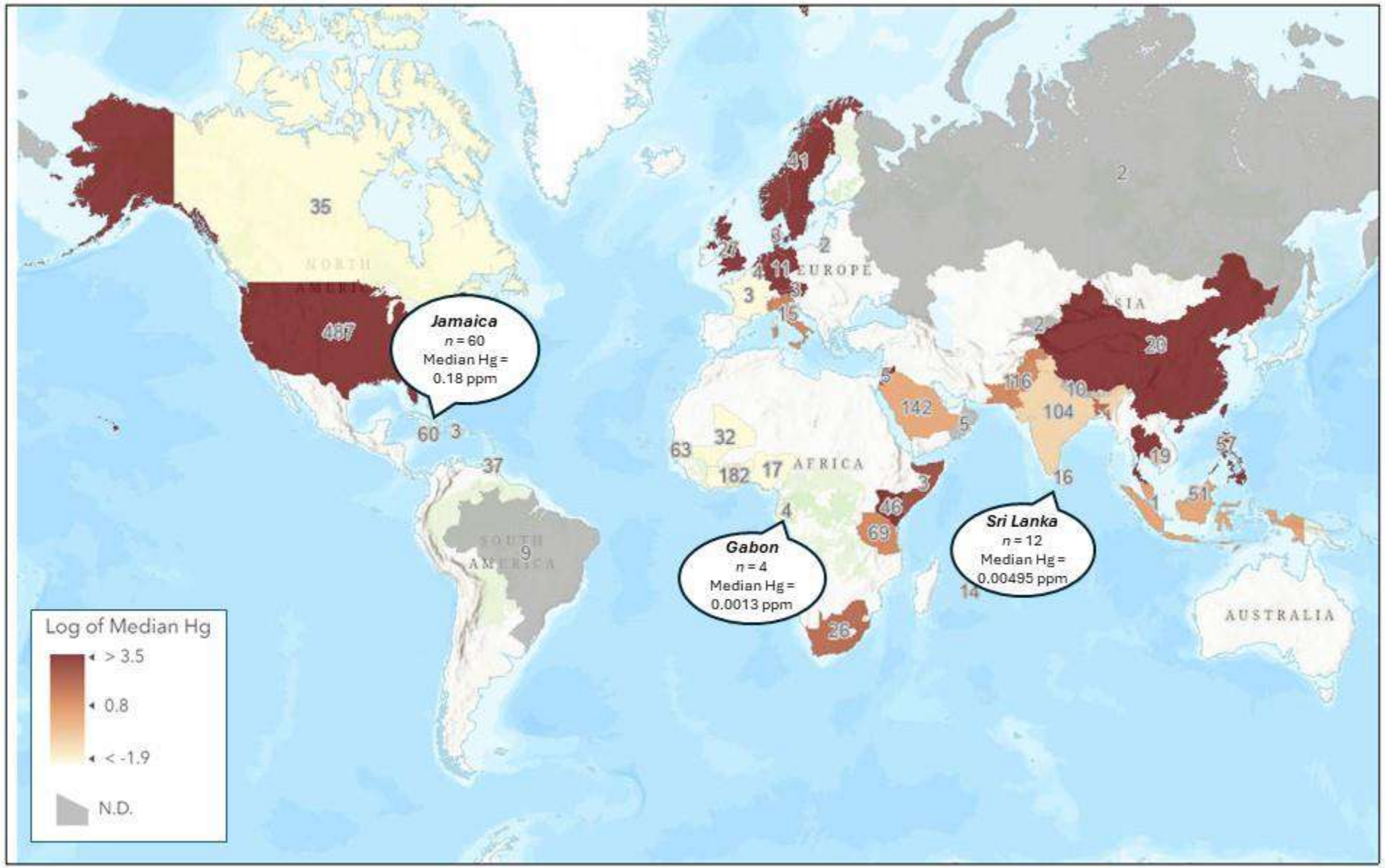
- **Over 50 Published Journal Articles**

e.g., Bastiansz, A. et al. 2022. A Systematic Review of Mercury Exposures from Skin-Lightening Products. Environ Health Perspect. 2022 Nov; 130(11): 116002.

- **Databases/Reports released by recognized entities (NGOs and monitoring agencies)**

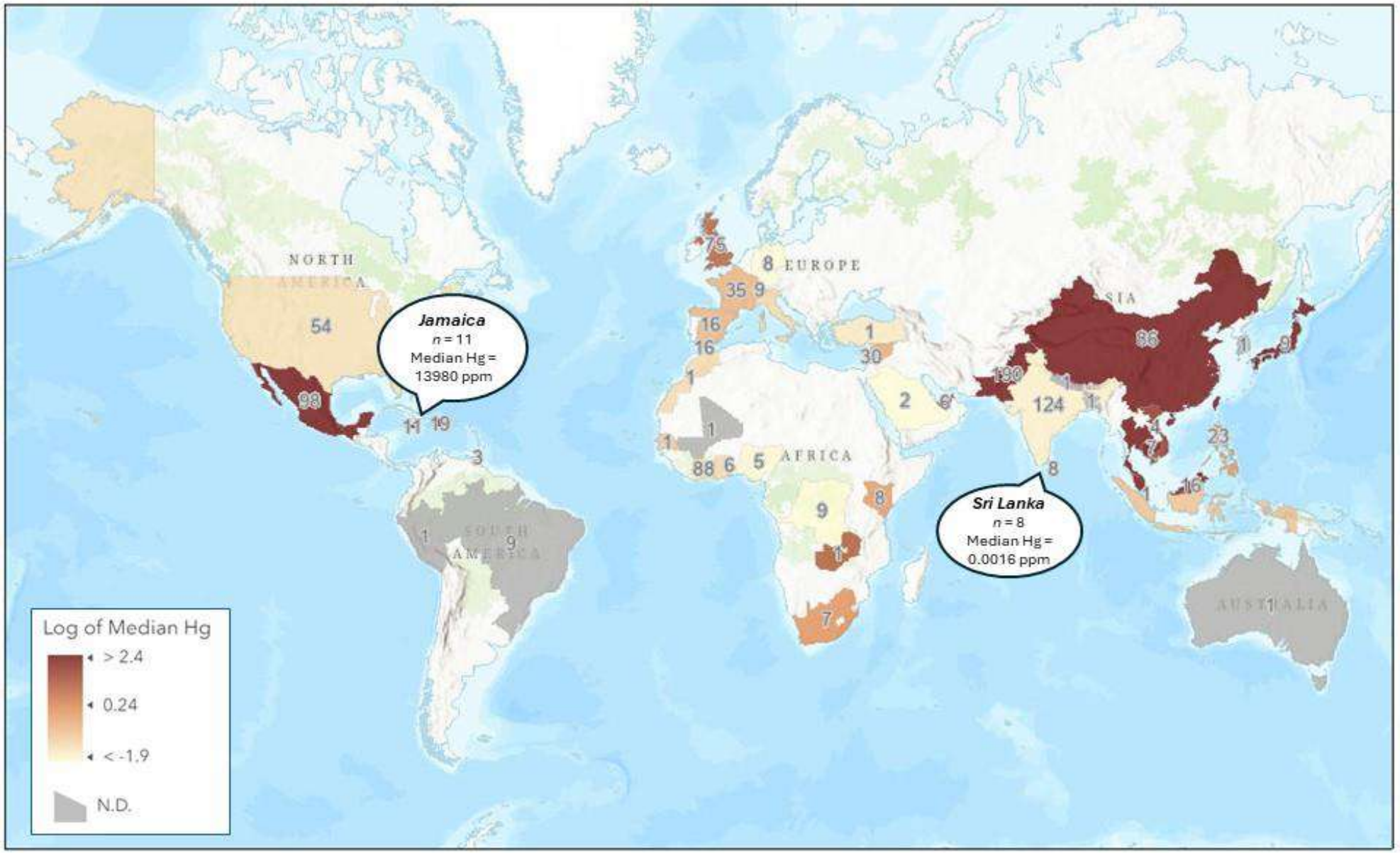
e.g., ZMWG, BeautyWell, EU Safety Gate, US FDA, EcoWaste, NYC Health Department, Hong Kong Department of Health etc.…

in-progress data findings…



in-progress data findings…

Log of Median Hg Content in SLPs by Country of Manufacture



Global Database Development

Some of the data currently being tracked for database development (once available):

- Country of Manufacture
- Country of Purchase
- Location of Purchase
- Name of SLP
- Type e.g., Lotion, Cream
- Listed ingredients
- Date of purchase/publishing of results
- Photos
- Hg results (ppm)

Etc.…

Literature Review and Database Progress

At this stage…

Literature Review data is being used internally to identify:

- potential key hubs for production,
- patterns of distribution and
- products of interest for testing in project countries/regions

For entry into a global database, certain criteria will have to be determined for what data will be used.
E.g., year of sampling (after 2020 phase-out date?)

Under the project, using a standard protocol, approximately 100 SLP products are being sampled per project country and duplicate sampling of SLPs identified with mercury will be collected from project countries.

Global Database Development

All confirmed Hg SLP products will be documented in a centralized database developed in coordination with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (and key stakeholders such as ZMWG, BeautyWell, other members of the PSG etc.).

Goals for Database:

- To be a 'living' database with a mechanism for other researchers/monitoring entities to access/contribute to
- To be used as a tool for Customs/border control monitoring by project countries (and other countries)
- More specific data on Hg concentrations can be made available for tracking of progress in phase out of SLP product availability/ Hg content in SLPs.

Thank You!

TAHLIA ALI SHAH
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST
BRI

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- mark.burton@briwildlife.org
- michaela.peterson@briwildlife.org

www.briwildlife.org

Current Literature Review Sources

Databases/Monitoring Entities Referenced:

Beautywell	https://thebeautywell.org/data/database/
BSTI	2022. BSTI bans 17 face creams with dangerous levels of mercury. The Business Standard. https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-bans-17-pakistani-face-creams-dangerous-levels-mercury-457510
Buckinghamshire County Council	Buckinghamshire County Council. 2013. Mercury Test Results - Skin Whitening Cosmetics. https://photosaved.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/buckinghamshire-county-council-skin_whitening_creams.pdf
CA Dept. of Public Health	https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHIB/CPE/Pages/CreamsTested4Mercury.aspx
Chicago Tribune	Gabler, E. & Roe, S. 2010. Mercury content of skin-lightening creams. Chicago Tribune. https://media.apps.chicagotribune.com/tables/skincreams.html
CSE	Surbhi. 2021. Studies show Fairness Cream In India Contains Mercury. Dermatocare. https://www.dermatocare.com/blogs/popular-fairness-cream-in-india-contains-mercury/
EcoWaste	EcoWaste Coalition. 2021/ Toxic Expose: Online Trade of Mercury-Containing Skin Whitening Cosmetics in the Philippines. https://ipen.org/sites/default/files/documents/toxic_expose_sm.pdf
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UPDATES FROM THE STAKEHOLDERS

Antigua and Barbuda update on the Draft Regulation on restricting SLPs and other chemicals in cosmetics

Regulating and Monitoring Skin Lightening Products (SLPs): Antigua and Barbuda Update on the Draft Regulation on Restricting SLPs and other Chemicals in Cosmetics

Presented by:

Ms Jahrika Samuel

Dr Linroy Christian

21 May 2024

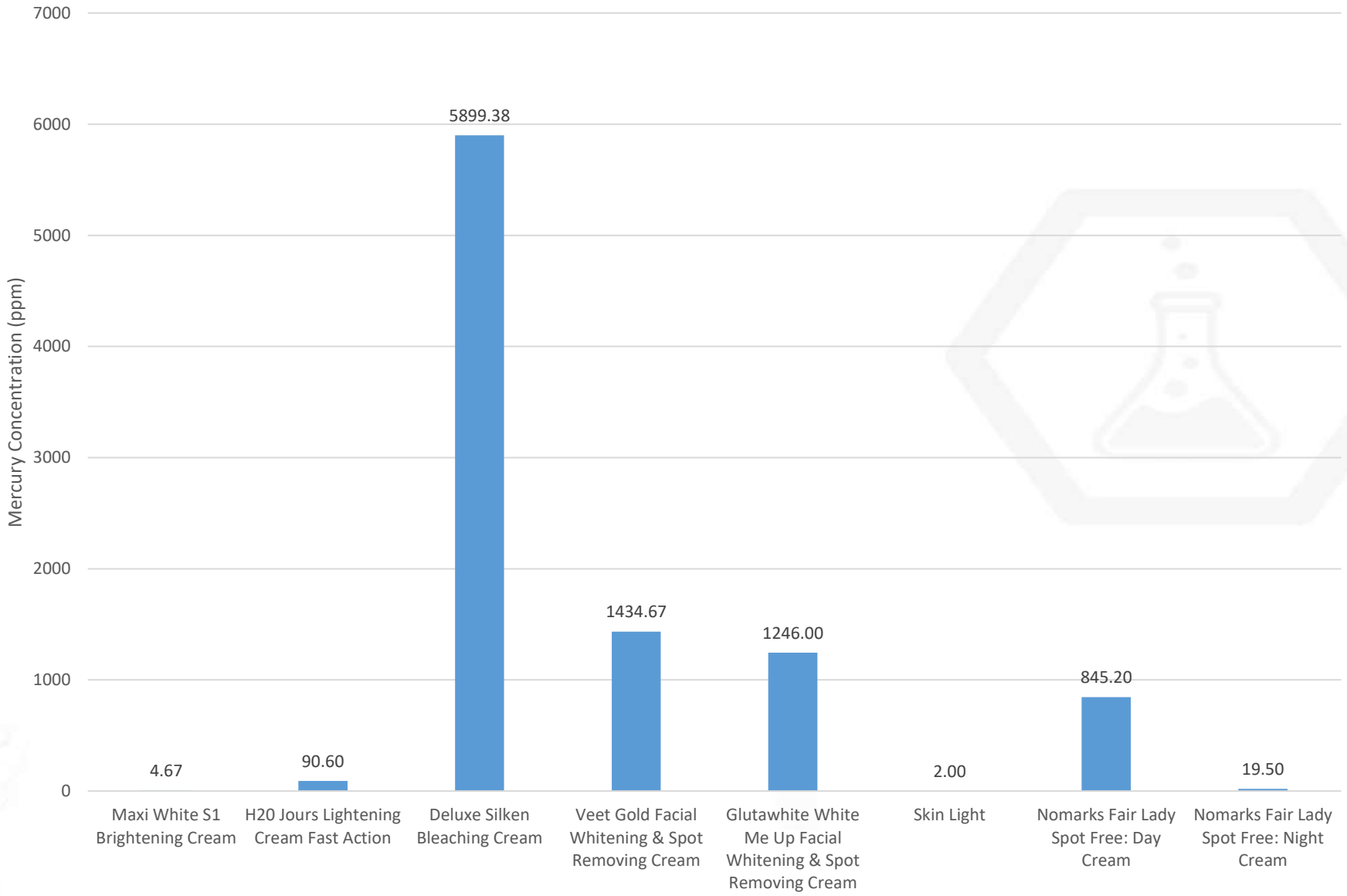
Department of Analytical Services

Quality Science for Applied Solutions

The Initial Study

- In 2021, in compliance with Article 4 of the Minimata Convention, the Department of Analytical Services (DAS), in collaboration with Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), commenced the sampling and testing of skin lightening creams available in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Ninety-eight (98) skin lightening creams were sampled within Antigua.
- An additional forty-one (41) other SLP, comprising of lotions, soaps and gels, were also sampled.

Notable SLPs Screening Results



International Collaboration

- In collaboration with European Environment Bureau and the Zero Mercury Working Group, sampled and tested thirty-one (31) skin lightening creams under the Mercury Added Products Project.
- These products were procured from Mexico, Brazil and online from Amazon and eBay.
- Thirteen (13) samples were > 1 ppm
- Eleven (11) samples > 1000 ppm

Illegal Trafficking

- Confiscation of consigment of mercury regional air carrier
  - Crudely transported is used vitamin bottle
  - Transportation with strong oxidizing compounds
- Safety concerns
- Customs and Border concerns
- Use of mercury in traditional practices
  - Current exemption in Annex A and relatedness to illegal trafficking

The Trade In Mercury-added Cosmetics Regulations

- The findings of the studies were submitted to the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board for Consideration.
- Draft Regulations were formulated in collaboration with Zero Mercury Working Group.
- PTCCB accepted the draft Regulations decided to review and amend for incorporation into the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act, 2008,
- The regulations comprise of six (6) main parts
- Part 1: Interpretation
- Part 2: Prohibition
  - Any person who wishes to make trade in mercury-added cosmetics must hold a licence under these regulations issued by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB)
- Part 3: Licences
  - Application
  - Scope and Obligations of Licence Holders
  - Refusal

Update on Draft Mercury Regulation

- Part 4: Testing Requirements
  - Certificate of Analysis shall be provided by a laboratory approved by the Board.
- Part 5: Maintenance of Registers
  - Register of Licence Holders
  - Register of Approved and Prohibited Mercury Added Cosmetics
- Part 6: Penalty
  - Tiered approach to penalties
- Current Status: Pending final review by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board for onward submission to the Minister to sign into Law.
- The announcement of the impending regulation has drawn minor negative feedback.
- There is general support for the restriction of SLPs

Interim Measures to Regulate SLPs

- Collaboration with the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services
  - Products noted to be high in mercury content have been restricted at the ports as an interim measure.
  - The Director of Pharmaceutical Services submits samples periodically for analysis
  - Retailers have not challenged current restrictions

- Pending consultation with the Antigua and Barbuda Pharmacy Council
  - General discussion on mercury - added cosmetics
  - Discussion on other ingredients in SLPs and their further regulation

- The Customs and Excise Division are sensitized, but further consultation is required

Thank you

Mercury in SLPs: Update on the Global challenges and response measures

EEB/ZMWG

GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Mercury in SLPs: Update on the Global challenges and response measures

Second meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group Minamata
21 May 2024
14h00-16h00 CEDT

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo / Michael Bender
Global Mercury Partnership Product Area Co-leads
Zero Mercury Working Group

Mercury Policy Project

EEB European Environmental Bureau

zero Hg mercury working group

ZMWG Skin Lightening Campaign Partners

- AFRICA- Bio Vision Africa, **Uganda;** Center for Environment Justice and Development, **Kenya;** Centre Africain pour la Santé Environnementale, **Cote d'Ivoire;** groundWork, **South Africa**; Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, **Nigeria**
- AMERICAS- Casa Cem, **Mexico**; Mercury Policy Project & WE-ACT, **United States**; Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), **Antigua and Barbuda**; Toxisphera Environmental Health Association, **Brazil**
- ASIA- BAN Toxics, **the Philippines**; Center for Public Health and Environment, **Nepal**; Earth, **Thailand**; Environmental and Social Development Organization, **Bangladesh**; NEXUS3Foundation, **Indonesia**; Toxics Link, **India**
- EUROPE- European Environmental Bureau, **Belgium**

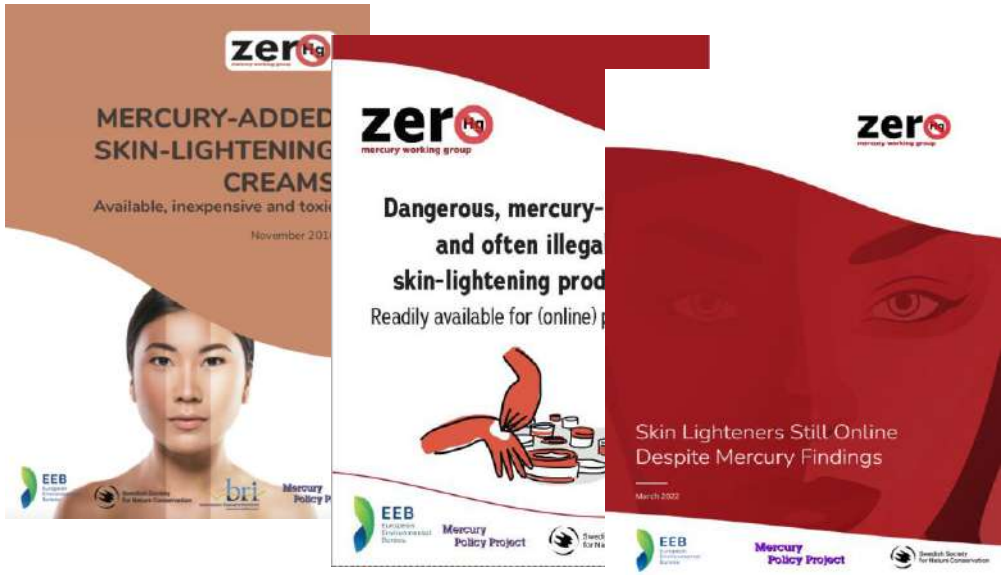
GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

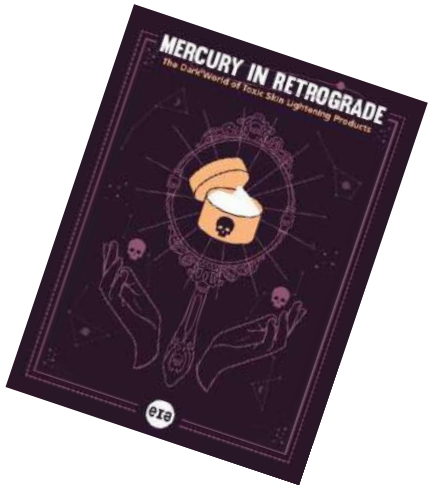
Overview

- Mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) are a global health crisis, often results from colorism
- Multidimensional and transboundary challenges
- Given the Minamata Convention ban on mercury SLPs, it's imperative to:
  - Enhance awareness of the hazards of toxic SLPs
  - Curtail (on-line) sales, marketing and merchandising
  - Spur interagency collaboration as well as regional and global coordination
  - Regulate and restrict trade of mercury compounds

zero Hg mercury working group

Evidence Gathered by the ZMWG Campaign





Global samplings in 2017- 2018, 2019 & 2022:

- Surveyed local markets and then online sales
- 775 products tested, engaging multiple NGO partners from around the globe
- **33% (256) with mercury over 1 ppm**

Fourth global sampling in 2022-2023:

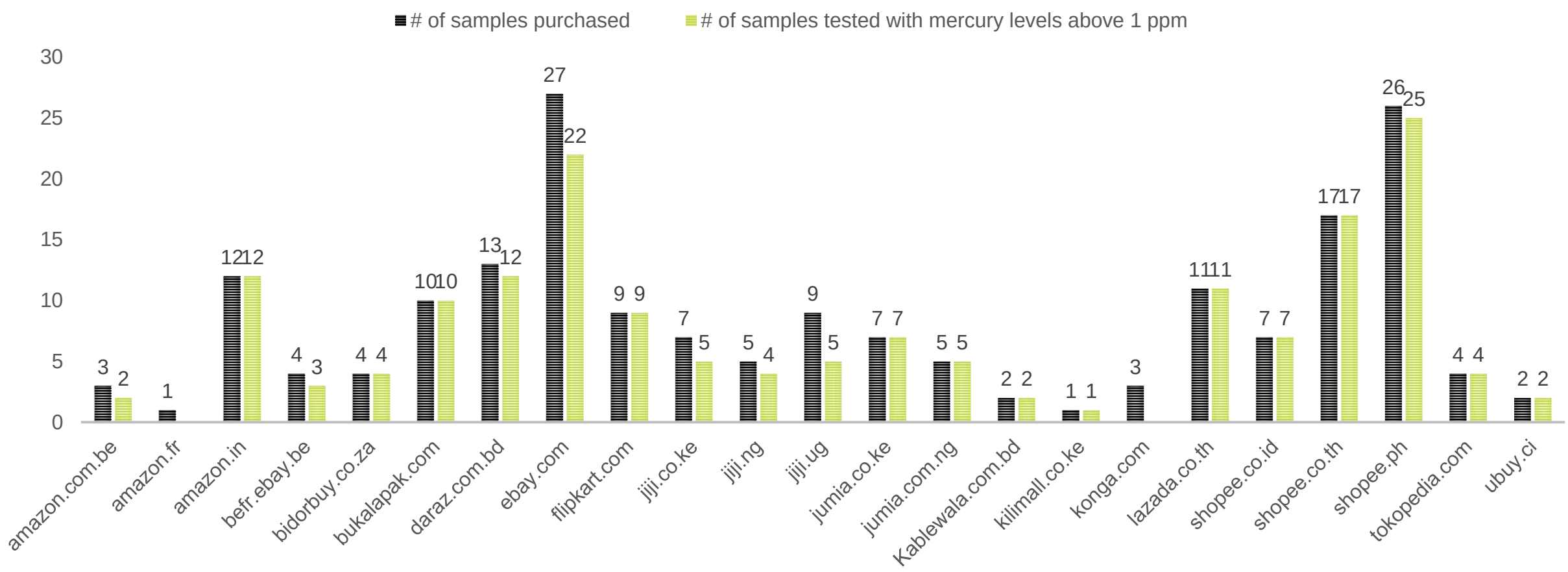
- Focus on online platforms
- 213 products tested from 23 platforms
- **90% (191) of the products (60 different brands) had mercury above 1ppm.**

EIA investigation 2023

- Mercury compounds added in SLPs
- Production in Thailand, Jamaica, and Pakistan
- Intermediary transit ports in Spain, UAE, and USA.

GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

High-Mercury vs. total SLPs purchased on e-commerce (Oct 2023)



zero Hg mercury working group

Challenges- Global level

Toxic SLP [online] trade continues:

- Illegal production and trade
- Clear lack of online accountability
- Non-domestic online sellers evade domestic laws
- Violations of consumer, health & safety laws
- Online platform liability reform necessary

Country of origins:

- from Pakistan (34%), Thailand (17%) and China (13%),
- 13 other countries to a lower extend
- Unknown origin for 16% of them

Misleading packaging and/or inaccurate information (e.g. Arché Formula AA Pearl Cream)

Not just mercury, but compounds too (e.g. Deluxe Silken, manufactured in Jamaica)

Gaps, Challenges & Response Measures (1)

Regulations

- Legal gap analysis
- List of allowed/banned ingredients
- Labelling Requirements

Advisories, Detention lists for non-compliant products:

- National Detention list/advisory
- Regional advisory/alert system

Licensing and product ingredient approvals

- Licensing of manufacturers
- Approval of ingredients used

Enforcement /Inspections

- Clear mandates/responsibilities (e.g. inspect (in)formal companies, unannounced, production /storage /vehicles, samples, photos, report to police
- Formalised inspection programme
- Capacity building

Penalties and sanctions

- Types / level of penalties

Advertising / Display and Marketing:

- National advertising/display restrictions
- Marketing restrictions

Gaps, Challenges and Response Measures (2)

Data collection

- Sources to act upon (e.g public, academia)
- Screening verification techniques (e.g. ingredients list, XRF, AAS)
- Accredited labs

Raising Awareness

- Initiatives to inform regulatory/enforcement agents, health professionals, consumers
- Collaboration with academia, health professionals, CSOs

Intergovernmental and Interregional cooperation

- Mandates and responsibilities defined nationally
- Lead ministry, coordination role
- Police, customs mandates
- International/regional collaboration
- Harmonisation of laws, labelling, regulations, alerts systems

Online commerce and voluntary product safety pledges (PSP)

- Digital services related regulations
- Government's establish PSP structure
- Online platforms voluntarily agree to several commitments

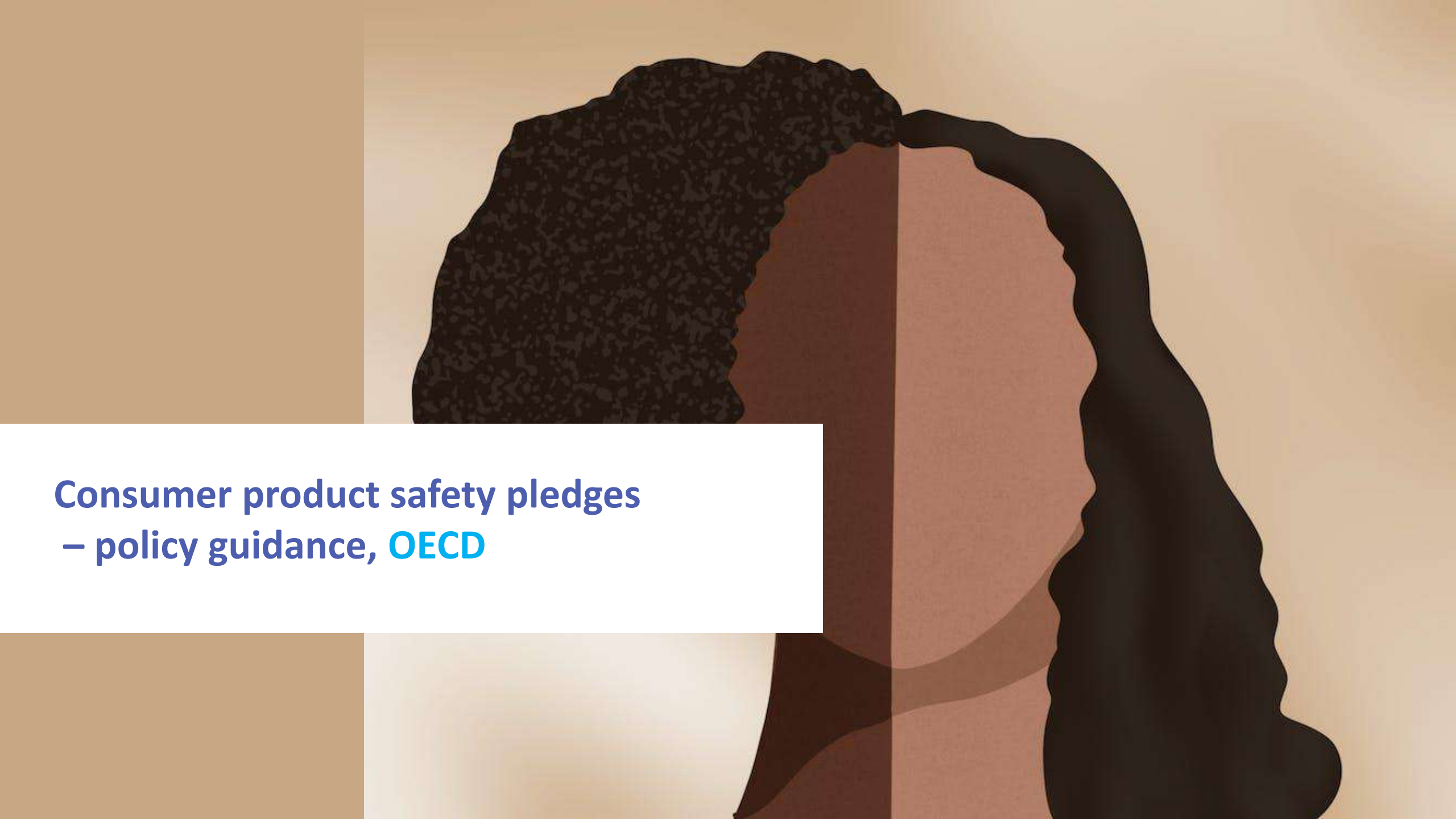
GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Thank you!

ZMWG online database

Our campaign page:
https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/

zero mercury working group



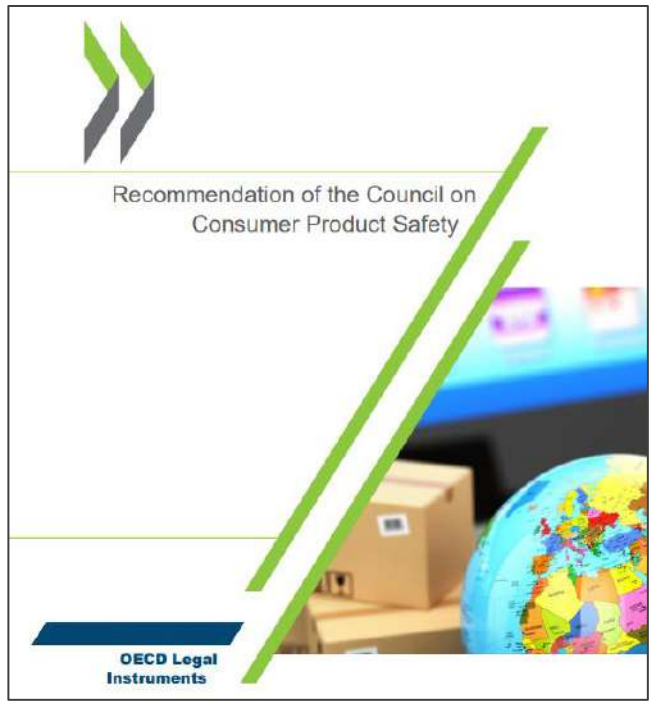
Consumer product safety pledges – policy guidance, OECD

Product Safety Pledges

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

21 May 2024 / Jan Tscheke (OECD)

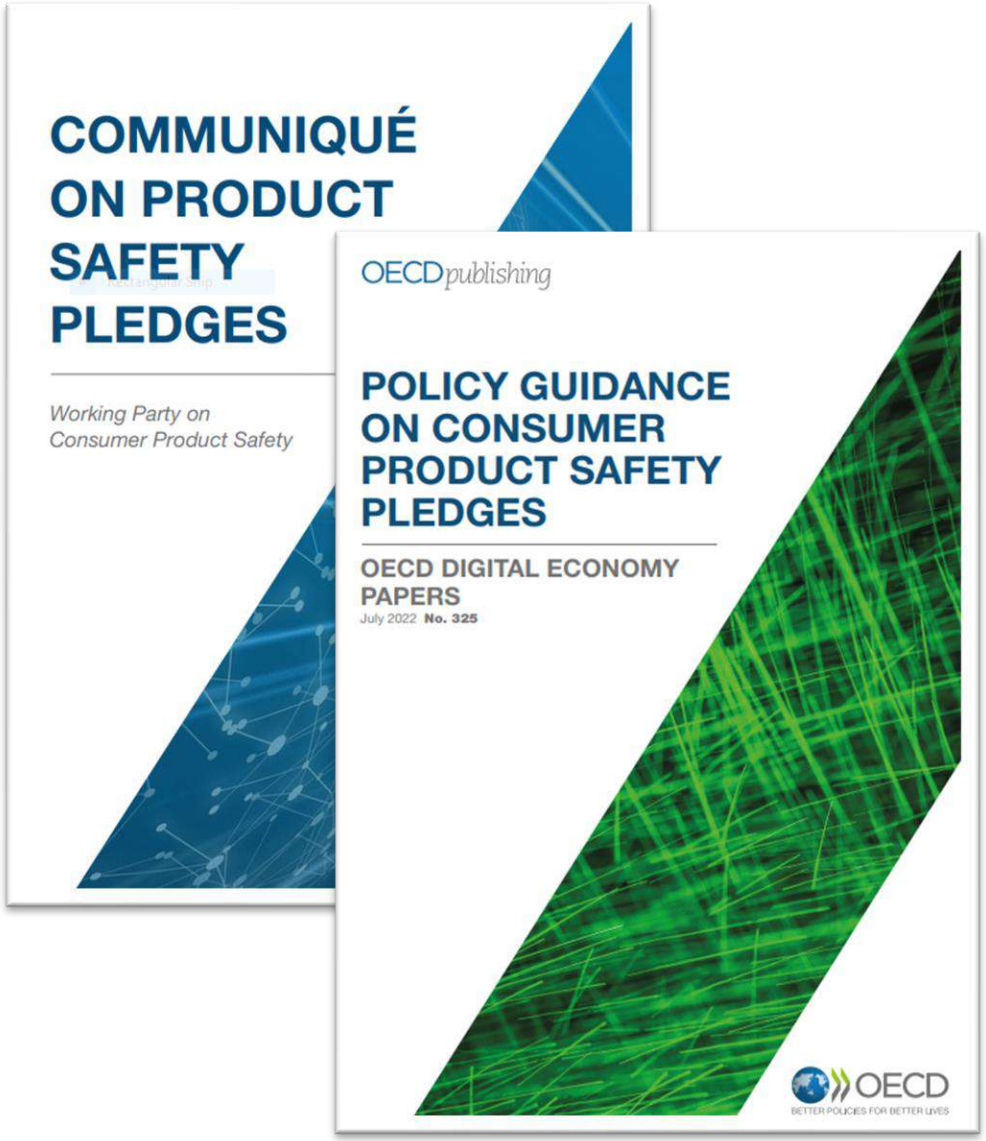
Background: Product safety @ OECD/CCP/WPCPS



OECD Communiqué and Policy Guidance on Product Safety Pledges

Four key commitments:

- Detect & prevent the sale of unsafe products
- Co-operate with consumer product safety authorities
- Raise consumer product safety awareness amongst third party sellers
- Empower consumers on product safety issues



https://www.oecd.org/digital/consumer/communique-product-safety-pledges.pdf

OECD *GlobalRecalls* portal

https://globalrecalls.oecd.org/#/

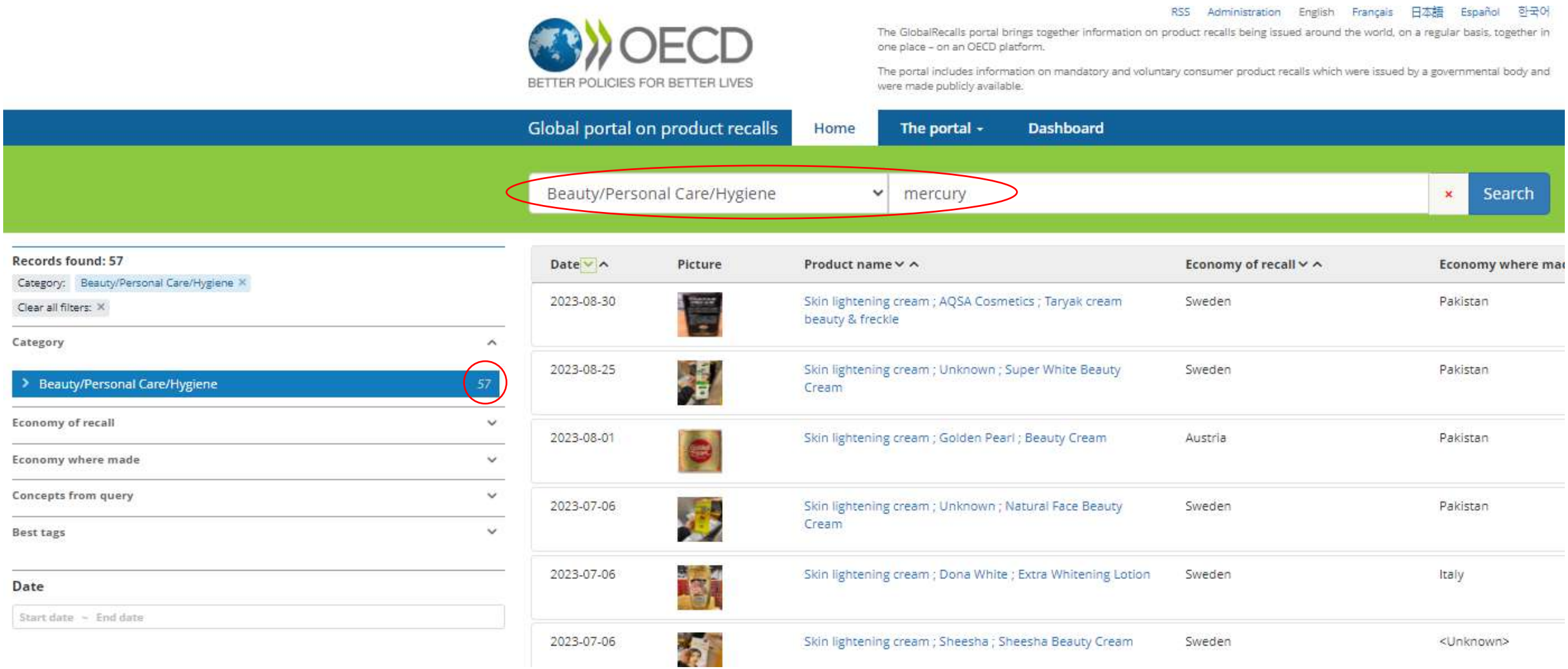
Key facts

- Creation
  - 19 October 2012
  - *(major revisions: 2015/16)*
- Objective
  - Bringing together information on product recalls from around the world
- Scope
  - Voluntary & mandatory recalls
  - Product scope depending on authorities' mandate

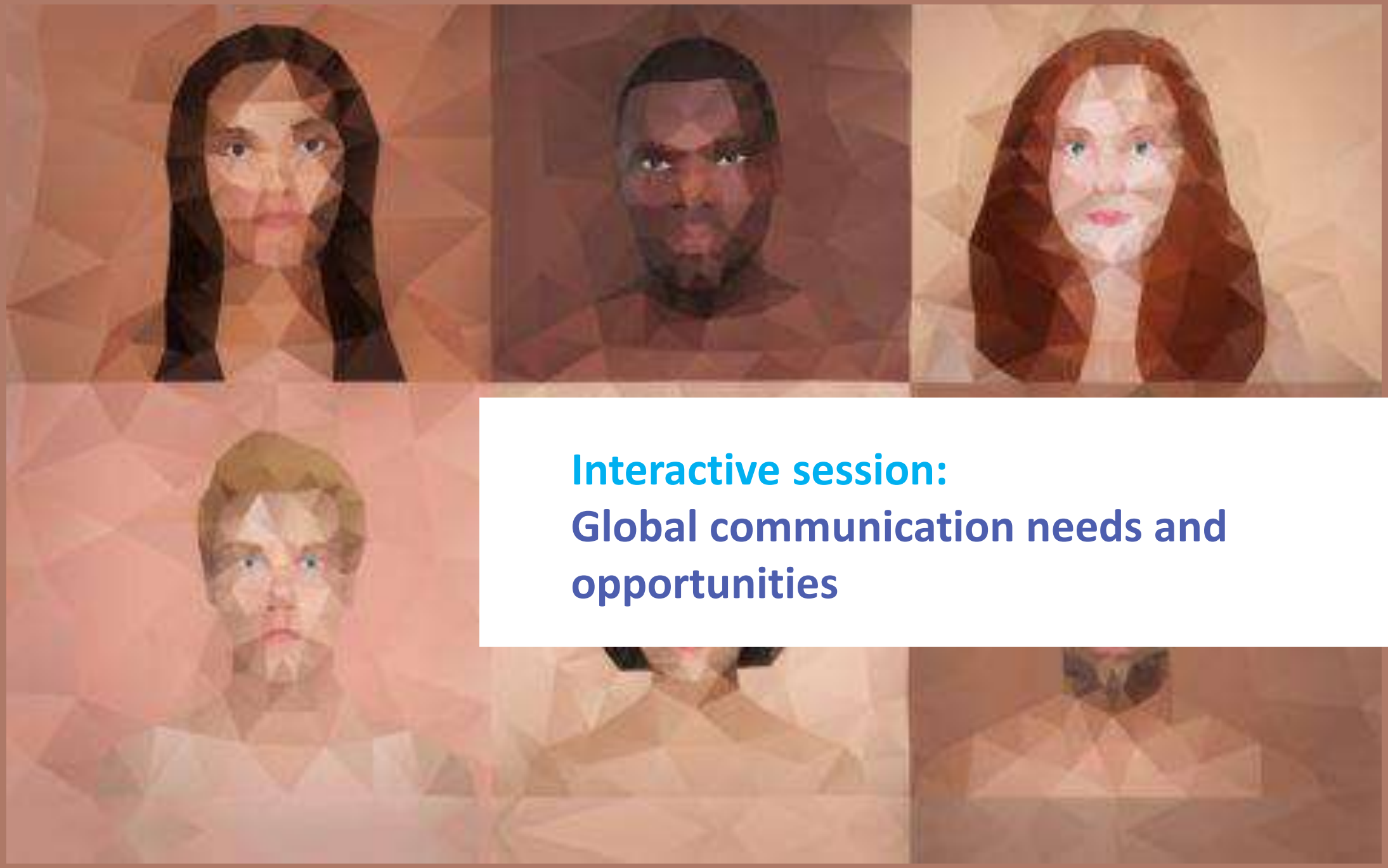
Key figures

- > 43.000 recalls
- > 50 jurisdictions (origin of recall)
- > 100 manufacturing economies (product origin)
- > 35 product types

OECD GlobalRecalls portal: Searching for “Mercury” in Beauty/Personal Care



Thank you!



Interactive session:

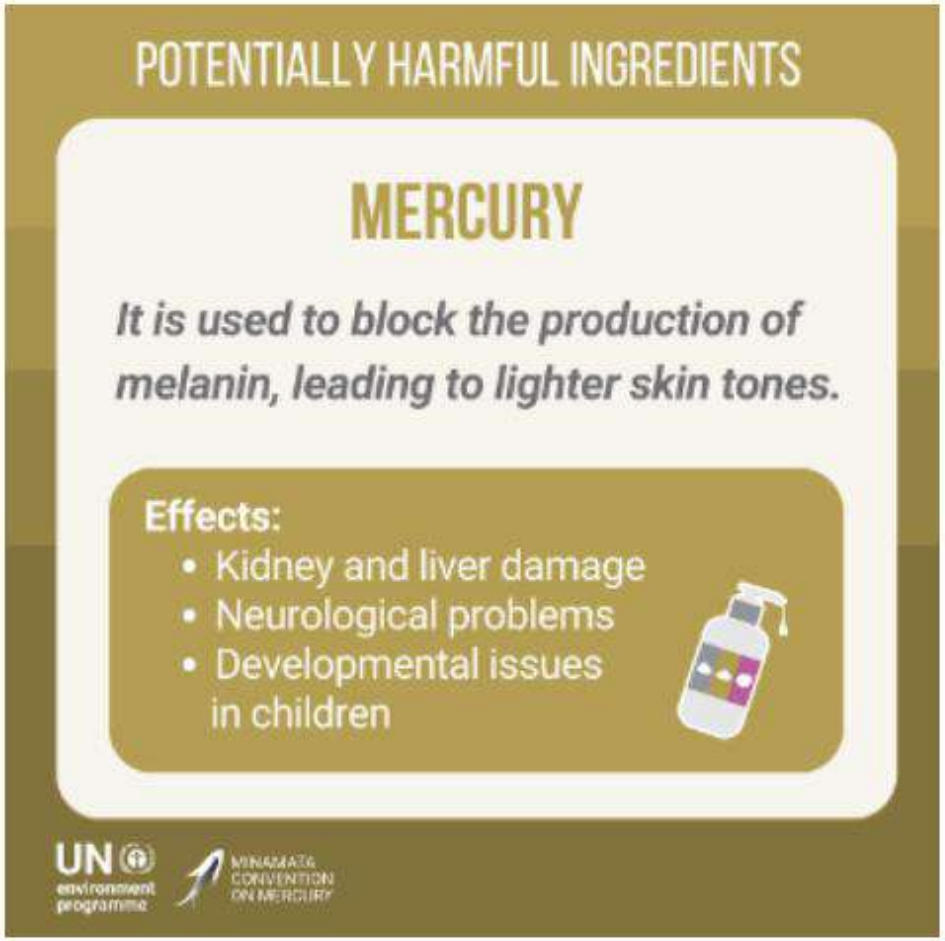
Global communication needs and opportunities

20 MAR 2024 | EDITORIAL | CHEMICALS & WASTE

Tackling Mercury Pollution and Racial Discrimination jointly

Spread the word: share our key messages #SayNoToHate #FightRacism #MercuryFreeCosmetics

Skin lightening products contain toxic components: spread the word, share our social media cards!



Skin lightening products expose communities to mercury: spread the word, share our social media cards!

Join at menti.com | use code 9858 7180

What channels/platforms could be used to convey our message (e.g. media campaigns, beauty/fashion shows etc.)

22 responses

Media campaigns

Possible engagement of a relevant social media beauty influencer to 'champion' the cause. Eg. Unfair and lovely campaign

internet, apps, social

Multiple channels based on target audience and numbers to reachout.

Use of local languages in all mediums

Working through Seller organizations

Working with celebrities, make them as ambassadors against mercury added products.

Funding short form videos to be made by media savvy groups to be posted on platforms such as TikTok for education

Examples

Mentimeter

Mobile app

Children book

15

In one sentence, what would be your message to eliminate Hg containing cosmetics?

25 responses

Organise International poisoning prevention campaigns (ex: WHO campaign on lead)

Le mercure est dangereux pour la santé

Respect nature, she needs you in all colors

Enjoy your own skin color

Magic white Death Trap

Focus on community healing messages and building their self-esteem.

I am black and I am proud

Multi pronged strategy informed by community experience that scales from grassroots to global vs top down

Healthy look is nature's look

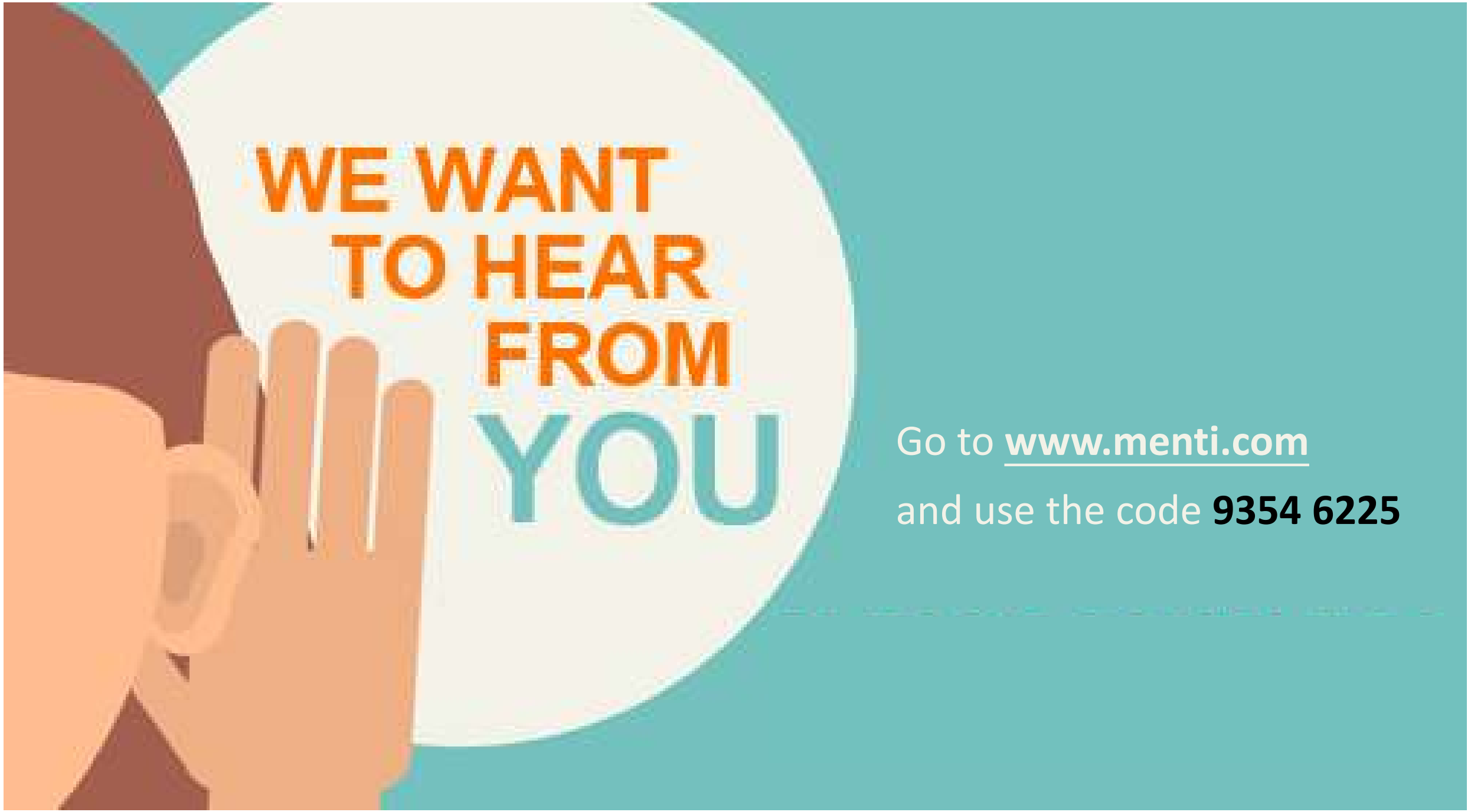
Colour of beauty is the colour you are born with

Black is beautiful

For your good health don't bleach /lighten your skin

All skin tones are equally beautiful

BanMercury



Go to **www.menti.com**

and use the code **9354 6225**

WAY FORWARD




THANK YOU

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