

January 19, 2013

Naming intervention

Takeshi Yasuma, Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution - Japan

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I am Takeshi Yasuma from Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution (CACP)- Japan
I would like to speak on behalf of IPEN and CACP

IPEN and CACP would like to share our thoughts regarding the proposed name of the treaty and how it relates to the outcome of the negotiations.

The name of this treaty is matter of great importance to public interest organizations and communities around the world.

During this week we have talked with many of you about this topic. Privately, many of you told us that you are not happy about the proposed name of the treaty.

In our view, the new treaty will not likely be sufficient to prevent future Minamatas. That means that giving the treaty this name is disrespectful.

IPEN and the Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution respectfully suggest that this Committee should be sensitive to the opposition expressed by Minamata victims' groups and by many groups around the world. We call upon you to listen to their voices, avoid controversy and protest, and select a treaty name that will truly honor the Minamata victims.

A treaty's name should not be a source of controversy. We request this Committee to simply name the treaty, The Mercury Convention. This name is clear and will be free of political controversy.

Finally, we would like to request all delegates present for a brief moment of silence for the thousands of victims of the Minamata tragedy.

SILENCE

Thank you ladies and gentleman. Please remember that a treaty dishonored is worse than dead.

Thank you.