

HCWH Position on UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/3

“New draft text for a comprehensive and suitable approach to a global legally binding instrument on mercury”

Whereas:

The technical accuracy and economic affordability of alternatives to mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers (blood pressure devices) is well established;

Mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers have been or are being phased out in dozens of countries, both developed and developing;

Substitution of mercury-based medical devices with safe, affordable, accurate alternatives protects human health and the environment while saving money;

Health Care Without Harm position regarding the draft text is that:

Under Annex I, E(6) Mercury added products, Options 1, 2, 3:

Mercury containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers should be targeted at or near the top of the list for early phase-out.

Annex I, E(6) Option 1: Thermometers and sphygmomanometers should be listed under Annex C, without exemption.

Annex I, E(6) Option 2: Thermometers and sphygmomanometers should not be listed in Annex C and there should be no exemption.

Annex I, E(6) Option 3: Thermometers and sphygmomanometers should be listed in Part 1, Annex C, without exemption.

Annex I, E(6) Option 4: HCWH does not consider this option viable in order to achieve a successful global phase-out of mercury-added products.