

# PROPOSALS AFTER COP2

ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING- NOVEMBER 2018

This week, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the **Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP2)** took place in Geneva.

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) attended the COP2 and identifies **several issues that deserve special attention on the implementation of the Convention:**

- An outright ban of mercury uses in ASGM activities as several countries have done is not in line with the intention of the Minamata Convention. The Convention in Article 7 on ASGM urges each signatory party that has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory to take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury. The Convention does not force the parties to ban the use of mercury. Banning mercury use in ASGM without prior implementation of Annex C of the Convention will illegalise the miners, will prevent the sector from being formalised or receiving any support in alignment with the Convention, will promote an illegal mercury market and will prevent the miners from selling their gold legally. This vicious circle needs to be broken in order to realise the positive effects of the Convention. “reduce and eliminate” should be the paradigm rather than the paradox to “ban and reduce”.

- Since 2013 ASGM has been presented as the main emitter of anthropogenic mercury into the environment. At that time, there was a consensus that research and more reliable data were needed in order to validate or refute this ranking. As in 2013, ARM reiterates the need for independent and scientific research to produce a realistic view of the contributions of each sector.

To address these issues related to the implementation of the Convention, ARM offers the following recommendations to the COP2:

- **Creation of a specific working group on ASGM that addresses practical ways to incentivise the reduction of mercury use**, and where feasible, its elimination as per the objectives set by the Convention.

- **The creation of a set of materials that would assist the Convention Parties as well as IGOs, NGOs and civil society to implement public policies that feature a more progressive approach** to achieve the elimination of mercury use in ASGM as an ultimate goal.

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The **Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)** is a global organisation, with more than 10 years of experience, that works on the design and implementation of responsible standards for Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM). ARM facilitates the empowerment of artisanal and small-scale miners, their organization and the adoption of good practices, promoting favorable environments for the inclusion of artisanal and small-scale miners in the formal economy. Therefore, ARM defines its vision on what ASM should be:

“A legitimate, responsible and profitable artisanal and small-scale mining sector which promotes inclusive and sustainable development.”

