

## World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Congratulations Madam president, your election brings credit to your great nation of Romania, to the important CEE region, and to this worldwide campaign against mercury use.

Here are the three reasons to support the African Amalgam Amendment:

### **1- Dental amalgam today is a social injustice, an environmental injustice.**

The middle-class today escapes dental amalgam use. Its use is relegated to racial and religious minorities, to immigrants, to poor people or the institutionalized like prisoners and mental health clinics. *No consumer demand exists for amalgam, none.* Today, dental amalgam is forced onto consumers given no choice by uncaring government bureaucracies and multinational insurance companies.

### **2-Seventeen (17) years of phasedown is more than enough time to phase out.**

Signed in 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury mandated that all Parties take steps, immediately, to phase down amalgam. To this ten-year phasedown, the African Amendment tacks on seven more years of dental amalgam phasedown, until the UN Sustainable Development Goals deadline year. Thus, dentistry is given *17 years to phase out amalgam*—2013 to 2030!

### **3- Dental amalgam is an *unnecessary* public health disaster . . . an *unnecessary* mercury poisoning of the fish that children eat . . . an *unnecessary* workplace hazard for young women dental workers.**

I have news: The dental mercury lobby is not leveling with you. Every single dentist expects amalgam use to end, knows how to do the alternatives, and if you change the law, will do so. Today's alternatives are *technically superior and cost-effective*: tooth friendly, long-lasting, cavity-preventing, comparably-priced. Amalgam is a tooth-unfriendly, polluting, primitive, colonial era device.

Amalgam-free dentistry works. Here are 70 countries—*half the Parties*—which have imposed a full amalgam ban, or a phase out date, or a ban for children, or a ban on imports, or a ban in government programs:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Georgia, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, New Caledonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Surinam, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zambia—plus *each country* in the 27-nation European Union.

You the Parties can do it—please step up . . . choose 2030, the year to comply with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

30 October 2023