

Nairobi, October-November 2011
The third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (**INC3**)

THE INTERVENTION OF MANUEL REINOSO, ARTISANAL MINER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ARM

Mister President, thank you for this opportunity to speak.

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to the government and the people of Kenya for the hospitality shown to the participants of this event.

My name is Manuel Reinoso. I am the Vice-president of Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM – www.communitymining.org). I am an artisanal miner in Peru, President of the National Association of Small-scale Mining and I represent over 10,000 organized artisanal miners in my country.

I am working for the recognition of artisanal mining as a responsible sub-sector of the mining industry.

I would only like to highlight to the delegates and the participants of this Summit, that even though artisanal gold mining does use mercury, it employs almost 20 million people around the world, many of them in poverty; and it provides income opportunities for nearly 100 million who depend on the miners.

Artisanal miners are aware of the negative effects of mercury; as it affects us and our families in the first place.

Mister President, yesterday I had a dream:

- I was with my family, living in a real house, with all my children educated.
- I had a mining title and environmental license to run my mine.
- I was paying taxes and royalties to my country.
- Thanks to the support of the government, I had adopted clean technologies in my mine.
- My gold was certified and sold directly in the developed world for a fair price.

Mister President, I am convinced that this dream is not only mine; this is a dream of every artisanal miner in the world, who wants to be recognized as a miner who builds a responsible future in his country.

I forgot to tell you one important detail Mister President: the mercury instrument discussed here today will be the tool, which will allow transforming my dream into a reality.

Finally, I think that a dialogue is inevitable. The exclusion must end.

Thank you Mister President.