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## UNITED NATIONS URGED TO BAN MERCURY IN VACCINES

SILVER SPRING, Md, April 6, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ – CoMeD – While the United Nations (UN) actively questions the use of vaccines containing a neurotoxic mercury compound, the [Coalition for Mercury-Free Drugs](#) (CoMeD), a Maryland-based, non-profit organization, is urging the UN to ban it.

In mid-March, governments were asked to send the UN secretariat “information on mercury use in pharmaceuticals, especially vaccines.” [The request](#) was made in preparation for the United Nations Environmental Programme’s [third intergovernmental negotiating committee \(INC3\)](#) on mercury, scheduled for this fall. The purpose of the INC meetings is to develop a legally-binding, global mercury treaty by 2013.

[CoMeD](#) was pleased by this call for information because CoMeD provided scientific data about health hazards caused by mercury in vaccines to various international delegates at the [second INC meeting](#) in January in Chiba, Japan.

Since then, [CoMeD](#) has publicized new studies proving that the [mercury in vaccines](#) and [dental amalgams, or “silver” fillings](#), is associated with [neurological diseases](#) such as [autism](#) in children and [Alzheimer’s disease](#) in adults.

[One study from the University of Brazil](#) recognizes vaccines as essential but suggests that the use of [Thimerosal](#), a mercury-based compound sometimes used as a vaccine preservative, be reconsidered. Recent articles in [Folia Neuropathologica](#), [Middle East Current Psychiatry](#), the [Journal of Immunotoxicology](#), the [Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology](#), and the [Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology](#) confirm [the toxicity of the dose of mercury in Thimerosal-preserved vaccines](#).

In humans, [Thimerosal](#) is recognized to cause cancer, genetic mutations and birth defects. In 1999, the U.S. Public Health Service and American Academy of Pediatrics [jointly called for its removal from U.S. vaccines](#) “as soon as possible.” [Thimerosal](#) has since been replaced by the [much less toxic compounds](#), like 2-phenoxyethanol (2-PE), in preserved [vaccines licensed for U.S. use by the FDA](#) since 2001. Though most doses contain Thimerosal, flu shots are now [strongly recommended for pregnant women and children](#).

[A CoMeD analysis](#) has shown that replacing [Thimerosal](#), a compound that is 50% bioaccumulative mercury by weight, with 2-phenoxyphenol in all vaccines, including the flu shot, is both economical and safer. Additionally, [CoMeD has sued the FDA](#) for its failure to comply with the law and enforce preservative safety regulations.

Furthermore, vaccine-safety proponents are encouraging those who are responsible for international vaccination campaigns to heed the overwhelming evidence that [human health risks are linked to mercury and other vaccine ingredients](#).

[Rev. Lisa K. Sykes](#), President of [CoMeD](#), is warning groups including the Global Alliance for Vaccines, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to stop spreading mercury to other continents: “While Thimerosal has been removed from most vaccines in the United States, pharmaceutical companies and the World Health Organization continue to dump mercury-laced vaccines on developing countries. No ethic can justify providing prosperous nations with mercury-free vaccines while endangering children in poor nations by exposing them to this neurotoxin.”