WHY DOES THE AFRICAN REGION SUPPORT THE PHASING OUT OF DENTAL AMALGAM

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Background

• Dental amalgam is toxic to the patient and dentist
• Cavity preparation takes away so much sound tooth structure
• No capacity to dispose off amalgam and costly
Background Cont’d

- Alternative materials (GIC, Composite resins)
- Use of alternative material does not require electricity/dental chair nor sophisticated equipment complex
- Procedures can be performed even in the remote areas
Zambian experience
Zambian experience

2001 ministry of health in conjunction with teeth savers international:

- Robust awareness on the use of alternative to dental amalgam
- All practicing dentists/therapists were oriented in Atraumatic Restoration Technique (ART)
- A school to train school levers in ART was initiated 2001
- Program was integrated in primary health care throughout the country
- Children from the age of 6 years are targeted
• We have been running the program for 18 years now
• The ministry of health have scaled up the procurement of alternative materials
• They have stopped procuring dental amalgam
• Dental schools have stopped using dental amalgam
• Curriculum to be changed to this effect
• Most if not all children born after 1995 are dental amalgam free
What does the African region need?
What does the African region need?

- Leadership to drive the agenda of phasing out dental amalgam
- Political will
- Inter-ministerial collaboration including NGOs
- Meticulous planning for universal coverage
- Integrate the program in primary health care
Outreach in rural Zambia

Treatment in Rural School
ART Can be Done Anywhere
I thank you for your attention

Zambia remains committed to managing our environment and supporting the objectives and goals of the Minamata Convention on Mercury