Overview of the Minamata Convention

Overview of the negotiations and upcoming INC related activities
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It does not represent an interpretation of the text of the Minamata Convention by UNEP or the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and does not substitute the original authentic texts of the Minamata Convention on Mercury as deposited with the Secretary General of the UN acting as the Depositary of the Convention.
Main steps of the negotiations process

2001 – Global mercury assessment initiated

2003 – Governments agree on the need for global action on mercury, based on its adverse health and environment effects and its long range transport in the environment

2007 – Governments agree to consider the need for a legally binding instrument to further address the mercury issue

2009 – Governments agree to negotiate a global legally binding instrument on mercury and establish the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)
Global anthropogenic mercury emissions in 2010

- Fossil fuel combustion (power & heating): 24%
- Metal production (ferrous & non-ferrous): 18%
- Chlor-alkali industry: 9%
- Waste incineration, waste & other: 6%
- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining: 5%
- Cement production: 1%
- Other: 1%

Source: Adapted from UNEP, Global Mercury Assessment 2013: Sources, Emissions, Releases and Environmental Transport, 2013.
Main steps of the negotiations process

- UNEP GC decision
- OEWG Bangkok
- INC1 Stockholm
- INC2 Chiba
- INC3 Nairobi
- INC4 Punta del Este
- INC5 Geneva
- Diplomatic Conference, Japan, 2013

Timeline:
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

Periods:
- 2001-2008
- 2009-2013
- 2014-2017?
- 2018 onwards
19 January 2013: Governments agreed to the text of the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”

10 October 2013: Text of the Minamata Convention adopted and opened for signature in Kumamoto, Japan

Convention opened for signature until 9 October 2014

➢ 24 September 2014: Special high-level event on the Minamata Convention in the context of the Treaty event at the UN headquarters in New York
As of 2 September 2014, 102 Signatures and 1 Party
Next steps

- Entry into force: 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

- Preparation for entry into force will be assisted by further meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating committee
  - INC6 from 3 to 7 November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand
  - 24+ working documents for consideration at INC6
  - Side events at INC6
  - Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group before INC6

Intersessional period

- Support for early implementation and ratification underway
- Expert Group on BAT/BEP
- Outreach and awareness raising material
- Technical support available
Overview of the Convention text
Highlights of the Convention

• Preamble – sets background for the Convention, establishes previous relevant decision, cooperative actions

• Objective (article 1) – to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury

• Definitions (article 2) – sets out definitions used in more than one Article of the Convention. Some articles include definitions specific to that article
Highlights of the Convention

Articles can be divided into **four main categories**:

- **Operational articles** - describe the obligations on Parties which will reduce anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment
- **Support to Parties** - financial resources, capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, implementation and compliance committee
- **Information and awareness raising**, including actions which will reduce impacts of mercury
- **Administrative matters**
Highlights of operational articles

- Controls on all lifecycle stages of mercury covered by different articles of the Convention
  - Controls on supply and on international trade in mercury (Article 3)
  - Phase-out and phase-down for mercury use in products and processes (Articles 4, 5 and 6)
  - Controls on artisanal and small scale gold mining (Article 7)
  - Control measures on air emissions and releases to water (Articles 8 and 9)
  - Storage, waste and contaminated sites (Article 10, 11 and 12)
Support to Parties

The Convention has obligations on support to be provided to parties, including:

- Financial mechanism (Article 13)
  - The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
  - A specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.
- Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer (Article 14)
- Implementation and Compliance Committee (Article 15)
Information and awareness raising

- Health aspects (Article 16)
- Information exchange (Article 17)
- Public information, awareness and education (Article 18)
- Research, development and monitoring (Article 19)
- Implementation plans (Article 20)
- Reporting – required by all Parties (Article 21)
- Effectiveness evaluation (Article 22)
Administrative Articles

- Establish Conference of the Parties (Article 23)
- Establish Secretariat, hosted by UNEP (Article 24)

- Standard administrative articles (Articles 25 to 35):
  - Settlement of disputes
  - Amendments to the Convention
  - Adoption and amendment of annexes
  - Right to vote, signature, ratification etc., entry into force, reservations, withdrawal, depositary, authentic texts