



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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**Intergovernmental negotiating committee  
to prepare a global legally binding instrument  
on mercury**

**Second session**

Chiba, Japan, 24–28 January 2011

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: organization of work**

**Annotations to the provisional agenda**

**Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, to be held from 24 to 28 January 2011 at the Makuhari Messe International Convention Complex in Chiba, Japan, will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 24 January 2011.
2. Opening statements will be made by representatives of the host Government and a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

**Item 2: Organizational matters**

**(i) Adoption of the agenda**

3. Subject to the rules of procedure, the committee may wish to adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/1.

**(ii) Organization of work**

4. The committee may wish to decide that it should meet each day of the session from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary. Given the time constraints on discussion, and consistent with the proposal made by the Chair in his scenario note (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/2), representatives are requested to limit opening remarks and general statements so as to leave as much time as possible for the discussion of substantive issues.
5. During the session, the committee may wish to establish such contact groups as it deems necessary and to specify their mandates.

**Item 3: Preparation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury**

6. The committee will have for its consideration a number of documents that it requested at its first session, held from 7 to 11 June 2010 in Stockholm. The committee may wish, as proposed by the Chair in his scenario note (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/2), to begin its discussions by focusing on the document presenting possible elements of the mercury instrument (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3). That document also includes information on the implementation of the options for control measures listed in paragraph 27 of decision 25/5 of the Governing Council of UNEP, with a focus on their

\* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/1.

interlinkages. Other relevant documents may be introduced as required, when the issues that they cover arise during the committee's discussions. A number of documents available to the committee provide background information that may be pertinent to the discussion but may not be introduced in detail.

7. The study called for in paragraph 29 of decision 25/5 on various types of mercury-emitting sources, as well as current and future trends of mercury emissions, including the cost and effectiveness of alternative control technologies and measures, is available to the committee as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/4.

8. The information requested by the committee at its first session, as detailed in annex II to the report of that session (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21) is provided in meeting documents UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/5–17. The information requested is included in the documents as follows:

(a) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/5 contains a report on indicators that could be used to evaluate and track the health impacts of mercury and to identify vulnerable populations. It includes information on the design of a sustainable awareness-raising and sensitization programme that could be developed in the context of pilot projects;

(b) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/6 contains information on harmonized systems for measuring mercury body burden, beginning on a pilot scale for the committee's second session, with the possibility for expansion during the remainder of the negotiation process;

(c) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/7 contains a report on existing country-specific or regional monitoring efforts relating to fish and marine mammals in the food supply, including information on the scope of testing (for example, geographic scope, whether marine or freshwater species are involved, and the number of species and specimens tested) and the frequency of testing (for example, one-time or continuing, monthly or annual);

(d) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/8 contains an inventory of projects completed or under way in each country relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector and financial assistance projects;

(e) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/9 contains a report on methodologies for determining exposure to mercury in people involved in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

(f) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/10 contains a collation and analysis of available data on mercury emissions and releases in relevant sectors at the national level;

(g) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/11 contains information on all known mercury-containing products; all known processes and technologies that use mercury; and alternatives to them, as well as on the costs and availability of such alternatives;

(h) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/12 contains a cost-benefit analysis of existing alternatives to mercury-based products, processes and technologies;

(i) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/13 explores the advantages and disadvantages of two approaches to regulating mercury in products: first, a total ban with time-limited exemptions; and, second, a list of product-specific bans. The report includes a discussion of possible guidelines for identifying allowable time-limited uses; how to categorize products; potential environmental impacts; and social and economic issues;

(j) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/14 contains an analysis of possible funding sources and what they might cover, including an analysis of the role of the private sector;

(k) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15 contains an analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future mercury instrument, including the option of integrating partnerships into the instrument;

(l) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/16 is an options paper that examines possible gaps and overlaps in relation to the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, including additional information and clarification regarding the applicability of the Basel Convention to the sound management of mercury wastes;

(m) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/17 contains a global inventory of mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities, including information on capacity, locations and plans for conversion or closure, drawing on information developed by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

9. In addition to the above documents, the committee has available to it a guidance document on process optimization for coal-burning power plants, developed under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership by the coal combustion partnership area following a process of full consultation. The executive summary of the document is available as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/18, while the full guidance document is available as UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/5. The executive summary of a document that provides guidance on identifying populations at risk from mercury, developed jointly by UNEP, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, is available as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/19, while the full document is available as UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/4.

10. A number of information documents are also available, including a compilation of the views submitted following the committee's first session in relation to draft elements of the future mercury instrument (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/1).

#### **Item 4: Other matters**

11. The committee may wish to consider other matters raised during the session.

#### **Item 5: Adoption of the report**

12. At its final meeting, the committee will be invited to consider and adopt its decisions and the report of its session prepared by the rapporteur. The report of the session as at the end of the plenary meeting on Thursday, 27 January, will be approved by the committee at its plenary meeting on Friday, 28 January, with any amendments that may be necessary. Consistent with standard United Nations practice, the committee may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the Friday plenary meetings will be prepared by the rapporteur, in cooperation with the secretariat, and incorporated into the meeting report under the Chair's authority. The final report of the session will be circulated after the closure of the session.

#### **Item 6: Closure of the session**

13. It is expected that the committee will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 28 January 2011.

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