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**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**Intergovernmental negotiating committee  
to prepare a global legally binding instrument  
on mercury  
Third session  
Nairobi, 31 October–4 November 2011  
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*  
Organizational matters: organization of work**

**Annotations to the provisional agenda**

**Item 1: Opening of the session**

1. The third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, to be held from 31 October to 4 November 2011 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 31 October 2011.
2. Opening statements will be made by representatives of the Government of Kenya and UNEP.

**Item 2: Organizational matters**

**(a) 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 out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/1.

**(b) 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.3/2), 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 second session, held from 24 to 28 January 2011 in Chiba, Japan. The committee may wish, as proposed by the Chair in his scenario note, to begin its discussions by focusing on the document presenting draft text of the mercury instrument (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/3).

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\* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/1.

7. The information requested by the committee at its second session is provided in the following documents:

- (a) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/4 provides a further comparative analysis of options for financial mechanisms;
- (b) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/5 provides information on releases of mercury from the oil and gas sector;
- (c) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/6 provides further information on health aspects of mercury, including mercury use as a medical preservative and, in particular, in vaccines;
- (d) Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/7 is a revised version of document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/16, and considers 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.

8. The above documents may be introduced as required, when the issues that they cover arise during the committee's discussions. While all the documents provide relevant background information, some may not be introduced in detail.

9. A number of information documents are also available, including a compilation of the views submitted following the committee's second session in relation to draft elements of the future mercury instrument (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/INF/1).

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

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

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

11. At its final meeting, the committee will be invited to consider and adopt the report of its session prepared by the rapporteur. The report of the session as at the end of the plenary meeting on Thursday, 3 November, will be approved by the committee at its plenary meeting on Friday, 4 November, 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**

12. It is expected that the committee will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 4 November 2011.

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