



Distr.: General
17 October 2014

English only



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

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

Bangkok, 3–7 November 2014

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Work to prepare for the entry into force of the Minamata Convention
on Mercury and for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
activities to facilitate rapid entry into force of the Convention and its
effective implementation upon entry into force**

**Status of work on the updating of the technical guidelines for
the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of
elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with
mercury under the Basel Convention**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to transmit a submission from the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal on the status of work on the updating of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury under the Basel Convention (see annex). The submission is reproduced as received by the secretariat and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.6/1.

Status of work on the updating of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury under the Basel Convention

Submitted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

A. Introduction

1. At its ninth meeting which took place from 16 to 19 September 2014, the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group by paragraph 7 of its decision OEWG-9/5 on the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to inform the appropriate bodies of the Minamata Convention on mercury of the work undertaken by the Open-ended Working Group relating to the technical guidelines on mercury.

B. Implementation

2. In its decision BC-11/5, on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention invited parties to consider serving as lead country for the updating of the technical guidelines and also invited parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group established by decision IX/15 and to inform the Secretariat thereof by 30 June 2013.

3. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention also requested the lead country or, if there was no lead country, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of funding, to prepare draft updated technical guidelines for publication on the Convention website by 31 December 2013. The Conference also invited parties and others to provide comments on the draft updated technical guidelines to the lead country, if one was selected, and to the Secretariat by 31 March 2014.

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention also requested the lead country or, if there was no lead country, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of funding, to prepare revised draft updated technical guidelines, taking into account the comments received from parties and others, for consideration by the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group at its ninth meeting.

5. In July 2013, Japan informed the Secretariat of its willingness to lead the work on the updating of the technical guidelines. As at 31 July 2013, 30 experts from parties, non-party States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and industry had been nominated to and participated in the work of the small intersessional working group. The list of nominated experts is available on the Basel Convention website.¹

6. Japan, in close consultation with the small intersessional working group, prepared revised draft updated technical guidelines, which was made available on the website of the Basel Convention on 23 December 2013 for comments by parties and others by 31 March 2014. On the basis of the comments received, in July 2014, Japan prepared the revised draft updated technical guidelines for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its ninth meeting.²

7. By its decision OEWG-9/5, the Open-ended Working Group invited Japan to further revise the draft updated technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

¹ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/MercuryWaste/tabid/2380/Default.aspx>.

² UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/INF/8 available on [http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/OpenendedWorkingGroup\(OEWG\)/Meetings/OEWG9/MeetingDocuments/abid/3684/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/OpenendedWorkingGroup(OEWG)/Meetings/OEWG9/MeetingDocuments/abid/3684/Default.aspx)

C. Proposed action

8. The Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee may wish:
- (a) To take note of the status of work on this subject matter; and
 - (b) To invite experts from the Minamata Convention on mercury to participate in the work on the further revision of the draft updated technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, by participating in the small intersessional working group established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention for this purpose.
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