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**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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

**Fifth session**

Geneva, 13–18 January 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Preparation of a global legally binding instrument  
on mercury**

**Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases  
to land and water**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. At its fourth session, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding agreement on mercury agreed that the co-chairs of the contact group on emissions and releases would prepare for consideration by the committee at its fifth session, for each of the source categories in Annex F, proposed thresholds below which the provisions of the mercury instrument might not apply, taking into account the size of emitting installations. In addition, Governments were requested to provide to the secretariat, by 31 August 2012, any relevant information that might assist the co-chairs in preparing the proposed thresholds, including information about thresholds in use in regulating mercury at the national level. Governments were also requested to provide to the secretariat by the same date any additional information on sources of emissions and releases of mercury to land and water, and the secretariat was requested to compile such information for consideration by the committee at its fifth session.<sup>1</sup>

2. The following parties have submitted information in accordance with the above: Andorra, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Panama, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United States of America, Uruguay and the European Union.

3. The full submissions of these parties are available on the secretariat website<sup>2</sup> and will also be made available electronically at the committee's fifth session. The proposal of the contact group co-chairs on thresholds for the source categories is available to the committee in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/4.<sup>3</sup>

\* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/8, para. 203.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC5/Submissionsone\\_missionsandreleases/tabid/106720/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/INC5/Submissionsone_missionsandreleases/tabid/106720/Default.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> Of these submissions, those from 31 countries and 1 regional economic integration organization were available at the time of preparation of document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/4. The other submissions are available on the website, but are not referenced directly in the meeting document.