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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**

**Available information that might assist the committee's work**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. In its decision 25/5, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury. In paragraph 27 of the decision, the Governing Council agreed that the intergovernmental negotiating committee was to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury that included provisions to address the issues listed in that paragraph.
2. The intergovernmental negotiating committee will have before it at its fifth session a number of working and information documents prepared at the request of the committee at its first, second, third and fourth sessions. The secretariat is also making available to the committee a number of background documents prepared in response to previous decisions of the Governing Council and requests by the ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury and by the earlier Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury. The background documents include reports, toolkits and guidance documents on topics relevant to the mercury instrument to be negotiated.
3. With a view to assisting Governments in their preparations for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the documents for the session are listed in tables 1 and 2 below. Table 1 lists general reference documents and table 2 identifies other working, information and background documents that relate more specifically to individual issues listed in the negotiating mandate set out in paragraph 27 of decision 25/5. Table 2 follows the structure of the draft text for a global legally binding instrument on mercury (Chair's draft text) set out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3. Each background document is identified by a capital letter that matches that used to identify the document as it appears in the annex to the present note. A brief description of each background document listed is also provided in the annex.
4. The present note and the annex thereto update and expand the information contained in documents UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/6, UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/4, UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/INF/2, and UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/INF/2, which were made available to the committee at its first, second, third and fourth sessions, respectively.

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

Table 1  
**Working documents for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee**

| <i>Symbol</i>               | <i>Title</i>   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/1       | Provisional agenda   |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/1/Add.1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda  |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/2       | Scenario note for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury  |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3       | Draft text for a global legally binding instrument on mercury: Chair's draft text  |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/4       | Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water   |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/5       | Analysis of the extent to which the provisions of the draft mercury instrument reflect the content of article 20 bis on health aspects |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/6       | Draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference   |
| UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/INF/1   | Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water   |

Table 2  
Other documents for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee relating to individual issues

| <i>Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</i>   | <i>Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3</i> | <i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions</i>  | <i>Relevant background documents<sup>a</sup></i>  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Agrees that the intergovernmental negotiating committee, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, is to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury, including provisions:</p> <p>(a) To specify the objectives of the instrument</p> | <p>A. Preamble<br/>B. Introduction</p>                                  | <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/4: Options for the structure of the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/6: Possible tool for tracking the progress of the intergovernmental negotiating committee in developing provisions of the global legally binding instrument on mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/14: Glossaries of key terms</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p>(b) To reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage</p> <p>(d) To reduce international trade in mercury</p>   | <p>C. Supply and trade</p>  | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/7: Relationship between the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15: Analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future instrument on mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/16: Relationship between the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/2: Guidelines on the environmentally sound management of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury</li> </ul> | <p>C. Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand Information on Mercury, November 2006</p> <p>G. Report presenting the costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008</p> <p>H. Report on current supply and demand for mercury, including projections considering the phase-out of primary mercury mining, October 2008</p> <p>J. Assessment of Excess Mercury Supply in Asia, 2010–2050, May 2009<br/>K. Assessment of Excess of Mercury Supply in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2010–2050, July 2009</p> <p>L. Assessment report: Excess mercury supply in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2010–2050, April 2010</p> <p>R. Study on the possible effects on human health and the environment of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Asia and the Pacific as well as in Africa</p> |

<sup>a</sup> Descriptions of the background documents are provided in the annex to the present note.

| <i>Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</i> | <i>Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3</i> | <i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions</i>   | <i>Relevant background documents<sup>a</sup></i> |
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|   |   | <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/16: International trade law that may be relevant to the future mercury instrument, including provisions on trade set out in selected conventions</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/20: Update of information on the supply and trade of mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/9: Update of information on the supply and trade of mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/10: Update on activities related to mercury supply and the environmentally sound storage of mercury</li> </ul> |  |

| Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5   | Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3 | Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions  | Relevant background documents <sup>a</sup>  |
|--|--|--|---|
| (c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes | E. Products and processes  | <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/6: Information on possible transitional arrangements pending phase-out of mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury is used</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/6: Addressing health in the mercury instrument</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/11: Mercury-containing products, processes and technologies and their alternatives</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/12: Cost-benefit analysis of existing alternatives to mercury-based products, processes and technologies</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/13: Options for regulating mercury in products</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/17: Global inventory of mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/13: Concept of essential use in international agreements</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul> | <p>C. Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand Information on Mercury, November 2006</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p> <p>F. Guide for Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006</p> <p>G. Report presenting the costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008</p> <p>H. Report on current supply and demand for mercury, including projections considering the phase-out of primary mercury mining, October 2008</p> <p>I. Report on the major mercury-containing products and processes, their substitutes and experience in switching to mercury-free products and processes, October 2008</p> <p>W. Economics of Conversion to Mercury-Free Products, October 2011</p> <p>Z. Research and Development Progress of and Feasibility Study Report on Mercury-free Catalyst in China, December 2011</p> <p>AB. Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of Chemicals – Synthesis report for decision makers, September 2012</p> <p>AC. Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013</p> |
| (c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes | F. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining                         | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul>  | <p>C. Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand Information on Mercury, November 2006</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p>   |

| <i>Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</i>  | <i>Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3</i> | <i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions</i>  | <i>Relevant background documents<sup>a</sup></i>   |
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| <p>(e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury</p> <p>(f) To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites</p> |   | <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/8: Inventory of projects completed or under way in each country relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization and financial assistance projects</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/9: Methodologies for determining mercury exposure in people involved in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/12: Cost-benefit analysis of existing alternatives to mercury-based products, processes and technologies</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul> | <p>F. Guide for Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006</p> <p>G. Report presenting costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008</p> <p>H. Report on current supply and demand for mercury, including projections considering the phase-out of primary mercury mining, October 2008</p> <p>I. Report on the major mercury-containing products and processes, their substitutes and experience in switching to mercury-free products and processes, October 2008</p> <p>M. Guidance document: Developing a National Strategic Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, July 2011</p> <p>T. Analysis of formalization approaches in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector based on experiences in Ecuador, Mongolia, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda, June 2012</p> <p>U. Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold mining: A practical guide. Introduction to the the document and draft technical document, June 2012</p> <p>V. Environment for Development Perspectives: Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining, August 2011</p> <p>AB. Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of Chemicals – Synthesis Report for Decision Makers, September 2012</p> <p>AC. The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013</p> |
| <p>(e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury</p> <p>(f) To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites</p> | <p>G. Emissions and releases</p>  | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fifth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/4: Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/ INF/1: Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water</li> </ul>   | <p>B. The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport, (detailed summary and technical background report), November 2008</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p>   |

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|--|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/5: Approach to possible elements of Articles 10 and 11 prepared by the co-chairs of the contact group on emissions and releases</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/5: Releases of mercury from the oil and gas industry</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/4: Study on mercury sources and emissions and analysis of the cost and effectiveness of control measures</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/16: Relationship between the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/18: Process optimization guidance for reducing mercury emissions from coal combustion in power plants (<i>executive summary</i>)</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/2: Guidelines on the environmentally sound management of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/5: Process optimization guidance for reducing mercury emissions from coal combustion in power plants (<i>full report</i>)</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/15: Progress in the preparation of the study called for in paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/18: Relevant issues being considered in international forums and their possible impact on the mercury negotiation process</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul> | <p>E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, version 2010, Guidelines for inventory level 1 and level 2, January 2011</p> <p>F. Guide to Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006</p> <p>G. Report presenting costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008</p> <p>AB. Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of Chemicals – Synthesis report for decision makers, September 2012</p> <p>AC. Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013</p> |

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|--|--|--|--|
| <p>(b) To reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage</p> <p>(e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury</p> <p>(f) To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites</p> | <p>H. Storage, wastes and contaminated sites</p>                 | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fifth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/4: Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/6: Draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/ INF/1: Air emission thresholds for facilities and information on releases to land and water</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/5: Releases of mercury from the oil and gas industry</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/7: Relationship between the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/4: Study on mercury sources and emissions and analysis of the costs and effectiveness of control measures</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/16: Relationship between the future mercury instrument and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/2: Guidelines on the environmentally sound management of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/18: Relevant issues being considered in international forums and their possible impact on the mercury negotiation process</li> </ul> | <p>B. The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport (detailed summary and technical background report), November 2008</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p> <p>E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, version 2010, Guidelines for inventory level 1 and level 2, January 2011</p> <p>F. Guide for Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006</p> <p>G. Report presenting costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008</p> <p>N. Options Analysis and Feasibility Study for the Long-Term Storage of Mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean, October 2010</p> <p>O. Analysis of options for the environmentally sound management of surplus mercury in Asia and the Pacific, September 2011</p> <p>Q. Management of Mercury and Mercury-Containing Waste: Final project report, June 2010</p> <p>X. Development of an awareness-raising toolkit for managing mercury waste at household and community level, August 2011</p> <p>Y. Mercury Waste Management in Health Care Facilities, November 2011</p> <p>Several reports produced in the context of the mercury waste partnership area are relevant to the mercury waste issue and are available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/InterimActivities/Partnerships/WasteManagement/tabid/3535/language/en-US/Default.aspx">www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/InterimActivities/Partnerships/WasteManagement/tabid/3535/language/en-US/Default.aspx</a></p> |

| <i>Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</i>  | <i>Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3</i> | <i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions</i>  | <i>Relevant background documents<sup>a</sup></i>  |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/3: Information supplied by the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul>  | AC. Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013   |
| <p>(h) To specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, recognizing that the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under a legally binding instrument is dependent on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance</p> <p>(i) To address compliance</p> | I. Financial resources and technical and implementation assistance      | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fifth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/6: Draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/4: Proposal for a conceptual approach and possible text on financial resources and technical assistance</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/INF/1: Information submitted by parties on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/4: Further comparative analysis of options for financial mechanisms to support the global legally binding instrument on mercury</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC3/INF/3: Progress of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes led by the United Nations Environment Programme</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/14: Analysis of possible funding sources and what they might cover, including an analysis of the role of the private sector</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15: Analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future instrument on mercury</li> </ul> | G. Report presenting costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008 |

| Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5                            | Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3                | Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions  | Relevant background documents <sup>a</sup>  |
|---|---|--|---|
|   |   | <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/8: Options for predictable and efficient financial assistance arrangements</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/9: Options for delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building: examples from multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/10: Facilitating sustainable technology transfer and support for global mercury control actions: experience within existing legally binding and voluntary arrangements</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/11: Key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering compliance under the future mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approaches to establishing baselines</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/5: Progress of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes led by the United Nations Environment Programme</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul> |   |
| (g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange | J. Awareness-raising, research and monitoring, and communication of information | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fifth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/5: Analysis of the extent to which the provisions of the draft mercury instrument reflect the content of article 20 bis on health aspects</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/6: Draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fourth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7: Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements</li> </ul>   | <p>A. Global Mercury Assessment report, December 2002</p> <p>B. The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport, (detailed summary and technical background report), November 2008</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p> <p>E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, version 2010, Guidelines for inventory level 1 and level 2, January 2011</p> <p>F. Guide for Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006</p> |

| Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5 | Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3 | Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions  | Relevant background documents <sup>a</sup>   |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the third session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/6: Addressing health in the mercury instrument</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the second session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/5: Report on indicators to evaluate and track the health impacts of mercury and identify vulnerable populations</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/6: Report on information on harmonized systems for measuring body burden</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/7: Existing country-specific or regional monitoring efforts relating to fish and marine mammals in the food supply</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/8: Inventory of projects completed or under way in each country relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization and financial assistance projects</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/9: Methodologies for determining mercury exposure in people involved in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/10/Rev.1: Collation and analysis of available data on mercury releases in relevant sectors at the national level</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/19: Executive summary of the document on guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/3: Guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/11: Key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering compliance under the future mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approaches to establishing baselines</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul> | <p>AC. Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013</p> |

| <i>Provision of paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</i> | <i>Relevant part of draft text in annex II to UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/3</i>  | <i>Relevant working and information documents prepared for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions</i>  | <i>Relevant background documents<sup>a</sup></i>   |
|---|--|---|--|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</li> </ul>  |  |
|   | <p>K. Institutional arrangements</p> <p>L. Settlement of disputes</p> <p>M. Further development of the Convention</p> <p>N. Final provisions</p> | <p><i>Relevant working document prepared for the fifth session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.5/6: Draft elements of the final act to be adopted at the anticipated diplomatic conference</li> </ul> <p><i>Relevant working documents prepared for the first session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/7: Draft final provisions</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/11: Key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering compliance under the future mercury instrument</li> <li>- UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approaches to establishing baselines</li> </ul> | <p>S. Overarching Framework, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, 2009</p> <p>AA. Report on Overall Progress of the United Nations Global Mercury Partnership, July 2010 – June 2012</p> |

## Annex

### **Background documents for the consideration of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury**

- A. Global Mercury Assessment, December 2002 (available in English, French and Spanish at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/GlobalMercuryAssessmentReportDecember2002/tabid/3617/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/GlobalMercuryAssessmentReportDecember2002/tabid/3617/language/en-US/Default.aspx))**
1. The Global Mercury Assessment was presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. It provides information on many aspects of mercury, including chemistry, toxicology, impacts on human health and the environment and global cycling of mercury. It also provides information on the uses of mercury, prevention and control technologies available at the time and initiatives for controlling releases and limiting use and exposure. It formed the basis for Governing Council decision 22/4 of 7 February 2003, in which the Governing Council concluded that mercury posed global problems and required increased action.
- B. The Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport (detailed summary and technical background report), November 2008 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GlobalAtmosphericMercuryAssessmentSourcesEm/tabid/3618/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GlobalAtmosphericMercuryAssessmentSourcesEm/tabid/3618/language/en-US/Default.aspx))**
2. The updated emissions report was requested by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session. It provides the best available data on mercury atmospheric emissions and trends, in addition to current results from global modelling. Detailed information is provided in the technical report. Key findings include updated information on global emissions, of which anthropogenic activities had resulted in approximately 1,930 tonnes. It found that the largest single source of anthropogenic emissions was the burning of fossil fuels (primarily coal); with artisanal and small-scale gold mining, industrial gold production, other mining and metal production, and cement production also responsible for significant emissions. It pointed out that, while comparison of those findings with previous emission estimates was complicated by the addition of new sectors and changes in methodology, it appeared that emissions from previously assessed sectors had fallen during the period 2000–2005. The report also provides information on atmospheric transport and deposition. Modelling was used to explore the regional and global effects of reducing mercury emissions.
- C. Summary of Supply, Trade and Demand Information on Mercury, November 2006 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/tabid/3593/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/tabid/3593/Default.aspx))**
3. The report on supply, trade and demand information for mercury was prepared to inform discussions at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council. The report draws upon information submitted by Governments and publicly available databases. It also specifically considers trade in mercury used in artisanal and small-scale mining. It sets out the most common sources of mercury for the global supply, the overall extent of and changes in the global supply, the range of uses of mercury and the demand for mercury in the global supply. It outlines potential scenarios for mercury demand, based both on the status quo at the time the report was prepared and on a focused mercury reduction programme. Information is provided on trends in the price of mercury and the global trade in mercury, subject to the caveat that the clandestine nature of some illegal activities makes it difficult to determine accurately the extent of all mercury trade.
- D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009 (available in English, French and Spanish at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/AwarenessRaisingPackage/tabid/4022/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/AwarenessRaisingPackage/tabid/4022/language/en-US/Default.aspx))**
4. This publication is intended to raise stakeholder awareness of the effects of mercury on human health, wildlife and the environment and of strategies to manage and control mercury. It is designed for use by government officials, community leaders and workers. It is intended to contribute to

building public support and capacity to take preventive action. It includes a user's guide, an overview and five thematic modules on mercury in products and wastes, mercury and industry, mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, mercury use in health-care settings and dentistry, and cultural uses of mercury.

**E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, version 2010, Guidelines for inventory level 1 and level 2, January 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GuidanceTrainingMaterialToolkits/MercuryToolkit/tabid/4566/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GuidanceTrainingMaterialToolkits/MercuryToolkit/tabid/4566/language/en-US/Default.aspx))**

5. The toolkit is intended to assist countries in building their knowledge base by developing mercury inventories that identify sources of mercury releases in their territories and estimate or quantify such releases. Its goal is to guide countries through the various techniques and stages of developing such inventories by providing a methodology, illustrative examples and extensive information on mercury release sources. The toolkit thus facilitates and reduces the workload in the creation of national or regional mercury inventories.

6. It is designed to produce a simple and standardized methodology and accompanying database to enable consistent national and regional mercury inventories to be assembled. It comprises a UNEP-recommended procedure for the effective compilation of mercury source and release inventories, given that comparable sets of mercury source release data can enhance international cooperation, discussion, goal-definition and assistance. Comparable data sets also help to establish a global picture of the scale of releases as a step in prioritizing actions to control or reduce releases and enlarging the international knowledge base on mercury uses and releases.

7. The guidelines are aimed at assisting countries to develop inventories of mercury releases so as to evaluate the risks from various sources. They provide a methodology, illustrative examples and extensive information on mercury release sources. They also provide a new simplified version of the toolkit, in addition to calculation spreadsheets and a reporting template, to make the development of an overview mercury inventory considerably easier.

8. The reference report is aimed at assisting countries to develop inventories of mercury releases and to evaluate the risks from various sources. It describes the methodology of inventory level 2 of the toolkit, and serves as a reference document providing background information for the further simplified inventory level 1. Chapter 5 gives a comprehensive description of all mercury sources. In addition to supporting mercury inventory work, the chapter provides descriptions useful for anyone wishing to learn more about a specific mercury release source, including environmental authorities and researchers.

**F. Guide for Reducing Major Uses and Releases of Mercury, June 2006 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GuidanceTrainingMaterialToolkits/tabid/3609/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GuidanceTrainingMaterialToolkits/tabid/3609/Default.aspx))**

9. This guide is intended to assist countries to strengthen their knowledge base, to identify sources of possible mercury exposure and to assess readily the viability of the main methods of reducing mercury exposures and risks to populations. The information provided reflects approaches considered or implemented in some countries, industries or products to reduce or eliminate mercury releases, which may not apply to all situations. Whether approaches are applied in a particular country depends upon government and local priorities, information and education about possible risks, the legal framework, enforcement, implementation costs, perceived benefits and other factors.

**G. Report presenting the costs and benefits for each of the strategic objectives set out in annex I to the report of the first meeting of the open-ended working group on mercury, October 2008 (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.2/5/Add.1, available in all six official United Nations languages at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx))<sup>a</sup>**

10. The report provides a general qualitative assessment of potential costs and benefits for each of the priority areas for mercury, classifying such costs and benefits as small, medium, large or not applicable. For purposes of the assessment, the cost of each strategic objective is the overall cost associated with implementing it, while the benefit is considered to be the extent to which achievement of the objective would reduce mercury-related risks on a global basis, distinguishing between local and global risk-reduction benefits. The final conclusion of the report is that investing in the reduction of mercury emissions and exposure will produce health and environmental benefits. It finds that technological measures, such as the installation of equipment to remove mercury from flue gases in electric power plants, waste incinerators and smelters, are relatively expensive (medium to large costs) compared to non-technological measures such as prevention, capacity-building and the promotion of mercury-containing waste separation (small to medium costs). Both groups of measures, however, would result in large benefits and their parallel application, resources permitting, would be appropriate.

**H. Report on the current supply of and demand for mercury, including projections considering the phase-out of primary mercury mining, October 2008 (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.2/6/Add.1, available in all six official United Nations languages at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx))**

11. The report provides an assessment of whether projected demand for mercury could be met if primary mining were phased out. It also provides, based on available information, a brief summary of major sources of mercury releases by country or, if available country-level data is insufficient, by region. The report draws on, among other sources, the atmospheric emissions study prepared for the Governing Council. It covers emissions from coal-fired power plants; industrial emissions (e.g., waste combustion, non-ferrous metals and cement production); artisanal gold-mining use and emissions; and use of mercury in products and processes. Its conclusions are that, excepting the current situation in China, mercury mining is not essential. It also demonstrates that the mercury market reaches an equilibrium of supply and demand following major changes such as the closure of mercury mines in 2003 and 2004.

**I. Report on the major mercury-containing products and processes, their substitutes and experience in switching to mercury-free products and processes, October 2008 (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.2/7/Add.1, available in all six official United Nations languages at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/OEWG/OEWG2Meetingdocuments/tabid/5071/Default.aspx))**

12. The report provides information on mercury-containing products and processes that have effective substitutes, including information on the relative quantities of mercury used and on experience in switching to non-mercury processes or products. The report discusses three categories of products: those for which alternatives are successfully used; those for which alternatives are available but face challenges to their use; and those for which the feasibility of alternatives varies significantly as the result of a number of economic, technical, social and institutional factors.

<sup>a</sup> An updated version of this report is available in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8, in English only.

**J. Assessment of Excess Mercury in Asia, 2010–2050, May 2009 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Assessment%20of%20Excess%20Mercury%20in%20Asia%202010-2015\\_Final%20Draft\\_May%202009.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Assessment%20of%20Excess%20Mercury%20in%20Asia%202010-2015_Final%20Draft_May%202009.pdf))**

13. According to the scenarios assessed in the report, mercury supply and demand in Asia are projected to reach a rough equilibrium beginning during the period 2014–2015. After 2017, the urgency of an Asian mercury storage capability is likely to depend on the rate of demand reduction. Substantial excess mercury can be expected in Asia after 2030. The quantity of excess mercury, mostly accumulated between 2030 and 2050, would likely amount to just over 5,500 tonnes. According to an alternative policy scenario, in which regional authorities may decide to move forward the storage of excess mercury, the quantity of mercury accumulated may be as high as 7,500 tonnes.

**K. Assessment report: Excess mercury supply in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2010–2050, July 2009 (available in English at [http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/storage/LAC%20Mercury%20Storage%20Assessment\\_Final\\_1July09.pdf](http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/storage/LAC%20Mercury%20Storage%20Assessment_Final_1July09.pdf))**

14. The future principal sources of mercury in the Latin American and Caribbean region were identified as that recovered as a by-product of mining operations and that recovered from the closure or conversion of mercury cell chlor-alkali plants. A base case scenario suggests that mercury supply may exceed demand as early as 2015, with the total excess arising between 2015 and 2050 possibly amounting to over 8,000 tonnes. According to an alternative minimum storage scenario, in which it is assumed that some by-product mercury continues to be exported and that there is a generally slower increase in the generation of by-product mercury, the quantity of mercury accumulated may be closer to 2,000–3,000 tonnes.

**L. Assessment report: Excess mercury supply in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2010–2050, April 2010 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/EECA%20Excess%20Mercury\\_Final%20Draft\\_Apr2010.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/EECA%20Excess%20Mercury_Final%20Draft_Apr2010.pdf))**

15. This study attempts to understand the dynamic flux between mercury supply and demand in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. Current and future regional supply of mercury includes the continued mining of mercury, the occasional decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities, the recovery of mercury from used products and wastes, mercury by-product from other mining operations and natural gas production, and the increasing use of mercury-free alternatives. This is compared with the regional demand in order to estimate the quantity of excess mercury which may need to be stored in the region.

**M. Guidance document: Developing a National Strategic Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, July 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/NationalStrategicPlan/tabid/53985/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/NationalStrategicPlan/tabid/53985/Default.aspx), in addition to previous versions dated May 2009 in French and Spanish)**

16. The document is intended as guidance for Governments in the development of a national strategic plan relating to improving practices and working conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and reducing the impact of such mining on the global environment. It aims to assist in uniting various levels of government, miners, civil society and the public in a common mission to improve the quality of life in artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities.

**N. Options Analysis and Feasibility Study for the Long-Term Storage of Mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean, October 2010 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/InterimActivities/Partnerships/SupplyandStorage/LACMercuryStorageProject/tabid/3554/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/InterimActivities/Partnerships/SupplyandStorage/LACMercuryStorageProject/tabid/3554/language/en-US/Default.aspx))**

17. This report analyses the options for storing surplus mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean using a multi-criteria approach. Three options were considered: above-ground warehousing; below-ground storage in geological formations; and export. While permanent options are being investigated, interim measures including temporary storage such as in hazardous waste facilities are necessary for the environmentally sound storage of mercury.

- O. Analysis of options for the environmentally sound management of surplus mercury in Asia and the Pacific, September 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Analysis%20of%20options%20for%20the%20environmentally%20sound%20management%20of%20surplus%20Hg%20in%20AP%20R2.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Analysis%20of%20options%20for%20the%20environmentally%20sound%20management%20of%20surplus%20Hg%20in%20AP%20R2.pdf))**
18. This report analyses the options to remove surplus mercury from the market. The United States of America concept of storing elemental mercury above ground and the European Union approach of underground disposal of hazardous wastes are both technically promising, but their feasibility needs to be assessed on a site-specific basis. While permanent options are being investigated, interim measures including temporary storage, such as in hazardous waste facilities, are necessary for the environmentally sound storage of mercury.
- P. Technical and Economic Criteria for Processing Mercury-Containing Tailings, April 2010 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/PartnershipsAreas/Technical%20and%20economic%20criteria-2010.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/PartnershipsAreas/Technical%20and%20economic%20criteria-2010.pdf))**
19. The report includes a technical report identifying key parameters for the assessment of technical and economic opportunities for the processing of mine tailings with high levels of mercury; a description of sampling and analytical approaches for metal analysis; discussion of technical and economic aspects to be considered, taking into account the need to minimize the release of mercury into the environment; and a description of the situation and outline of possible options for a selected site in Chile.
- Q. Management of Mercury and Mercury-Containing Waste: Final project report, June 2010 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Final%20Report%20Mercury%20waste%20project\\_2010.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/supplystorage/Final%20Report%20Mercury%20waste%20project_2010.pdf))**
20. This five-country project on “Mercury Waste Management” was implemented from 5 November 2008 until 30 June 2010. The project included four countries – Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Pakistan and the Philippines – that were financed by the Government of Norway. The participation of Chile was made possible with funds from the Mercury Trust Fund. This project deals with the management of mercury and mercury-containing waste and will contribute to the UNEP priority area on harmful substances and hazardous wastes under its Medium-Term Strategy with the ultimate goal of minimizing the impact of harmful substances and hazardous wastes to the environment and human beings.
- R. Study on the possible effects on human health and the environment of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Asia and the Pacific as well as in Africa (available at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/LeadCadmium/ScientificReviews/Trade studies/tabid/6172/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/LeadCadmium/ScientificReviews/Trade%20studies/tabid/6172/Default.aspx))**
21. UNEP has prepared, with financial support of the Nordic Council of Ministers and the assistance of Grupo GEA (Peru) and the International POPs Elimination Network, studies on the analysis of the trade flows and review of environmentally sound management practices related to products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific. These studies were presented to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session in February 2012 in Nairobi as documents UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.3 and UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.4, respectively. During 2008, with the financial support of the Government of Sweden, UNEP had conducted a study on the possible effects on human health and the environment in Africa of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury, which was noted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session in February 2009.
- S. Overarching Framework: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, 2009 (available in English at <http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rsuIRqojHyc%3d&tabid=3593&language=en-US>)**
22. The Overarching Framework guides the work of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. It has been developed under the auspices of the Executive Director in consultation with Governments

and other stakeholders. The document was forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session where progress made by the Partnership was welcomed and the continued involvement of UNEP in the Partnership was endorsed.

- T. Analysis of formalization approaches in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector based on experiences in Ecuador, Mongolia, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda, June 2012 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/FormalizationoftheASGMSector/tabid/79426/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/FormalizationoftheASGMSector/tabid/79426/Default.aspx))**

23. This document is a synthesis for policymakers and other interested stakeholders on formalization of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector, based on the analysis of the case studies developed by international experts for Ecuador, Peru, Tanzania, Uganda and Mongolia and drawing upon examples from other countries. The goal of the document is to highlight critical elements of formalization processes, including institutional considerations, legislation development or reform, and financing. The analysis identifies key strategic lessons and recommendations, which inform the debate, and identifies lessons learned that may be applicable in other countries.

- U. Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining: A practical guide. Introduction to the document and draft technical document, June 2012 (available in English and French at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmall-scaleGoldMining/TechnicalGuidanceDoc/tabid/104260/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmall-scaleGoldMining/TechnicalGuidanceDoc/tabid/104260/Default.aspx))**

24. This document has been produced to share information with policymakers, miners, and civil society about available technologies and approaches for reducing, and ultimately eliminating, mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). It is rich in graphics with the aim of being a simple educational and planning tool for improving practices in ASGM. It is also hoped that the public will find parts of this booklet an accessible and informative resource with which to learn more about the often misunderstood ASGM sector.

- V. Environment for Development Perspectives: Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining, August 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Partners/Environment%20for%20Development%20Perspectives%20Mercury%20Use%20in%20ASGM%20FINAL.doc](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Partners/Environment%20for%20Development%20Perspectives%20Mercury%20Use%20in%20ASGM%20FINAL.doc))**

25. The paper provides a synthesis of existing knowledge to frame the economic argument for investing in mercury reduction/elimination in artisanal and small-scale gold mining as part of development strategies for this sector. The objective is to provide an analytical foundation including often omitted negative external consequences for concurrent and future studies conducted under the Global Mercury Partnership. The aim is to identify the economic challenges and opportunities for reducing mercury in artisanal and small-scale practices, with the goal of eliminating its use wherever possible. This approach ultimately seeks to motivate greater political, private sector and civil society support for significant reduction or elimination of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold production.

- W. Economics of Conversion to Mercury-Free Products, October 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/UNEP%20Economics%20of%20Conversion%20to%20Mercury-free%20Report%20Final%20102611\\_finaldraft\\_wAPP.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/UNEP%20Economics%20of%20Conversion%20to%20Mercury-free%20Report%20Final%20102611_finaldraft_wAPP.pdf))**

26. This report takes into consideration the case studies of two firms involved in the transitioning from mercury-containing to mercury-free products in the medical technology industry. Despite the firms' different supply chain locations, both were able to produce mercury-free products of the same quality as mercury-containing products. These products included hearing aid batteries, thermometer batteries, and most sphygmomanometer applications. However, due to a lack of a legally binding agreement, the study concludes that producers willing to invest in the production of mercury-free devices are also required to continue producing mercury-containing products. This scenario decreases competition for innovation amongst mercury-free suppliers, prevents firms willing to invest in the sector from reaching economies of scale at a faster pace and ignores the fact that sufficient mercury-

free capacity exists to meet consumer demand. Legislation and increased market demand would facilitate the shift to mercury-free products.

**X. A guide for managing mercury waste at household and community level, August 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/2011.10.24-Brochure-English.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/2011.10.24-Brochure-English.pdf))**

27. This brochure was developed by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office: Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection for UNEP, supported by the Government of Norway through UNEP. As a large mercury producer and consumer, the Chinese Government has carried forth national and international efforts to reduce mercury pollution. The development of the awareness-raising toolkit was part of a project that included pilot dissemination, assessment and project summary evaluation. The project concluded that the public has very limited basic knowledge about mercury pollution and is in urgent need of large-scale, targeted and systematic publicity and education.

**Y. Mercury Waste Management in Health Care Facilities, November 2011 (available in English and Spanish at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0pYU945UMc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0pYU945UMc&feature=youtu.be) )**

28. Health Care Without Harm's video based on the UNDP GEF Global Health Care Waste Project "Guidance Document on the Cleanup, Temporary or Intermediate Storage, and Transport of Mercury Waste from Healthcare Facilities" serves as means to promote safe steps for the clean-up of small mercury spills and the need to have a safe temporary on-site storage of end-of-life mercury-added products. The video, funded by the Government of Norway through UNEP, is part of a training programme aimed at the environmentally sound management of mercury-added products in health care facilities.

**Z. Research and Development Progress of and Feasibility Study Report on Mercury-free Catalyst in China, December 2011 (available in English at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/VinylChlorideMonomerProduction/tabid/4523/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/VinylChlorideMonomerProduction/tabid/4523/Default.aspx))**

29. Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) production using the mercury catalyst process is the second largest demand sector for mercury globally (estimated at 570–800 tonnes annually in 2008). The process has emerged as a cost effective production technique for countries with a higher availability of acetylene over ethylene as raw material (namely in China and Russia). It is believed that China represents 80–90 % of global capacity with 89 facilities currently identified. China undertook this report on Research and Development Progress of and Feasibility Study Report on Mercury-free Catalyst in China with support from UNEP as a means to promote cost-effective mercury-free PVC production processes.

**AA. Report on Overall Progress of the United Nations Global Mercury Partnership, July 2010 – June 2012 (available in English at <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Meeting%20Report%20PAG%204.doc>)**

30. This report, on overall progress of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership, was developed by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group and reflects input received from within the partnership areas. It considers the future direction of the Partnership and provides an overview of the status and scope of the partnership areas.

**AB. Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of Chemicals – Synthesis report for decision makers, September 2012 (available in the six official United Nations languages at [www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/GlobalChemicalsOutlook/tabid/56356/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/GlobalChemicalsOutlook/tabid/56356/Default.aspx))**

31. This synthesis report for decision makers describes the main findings and conclusions of the full report: "Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of Chemicals." The report was developed by UNEP in collaboration with World Health Organization. It was also developed in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other member institutions of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and reflects the work of the Global Chemicals Outlook Steering Committee, which is composed of representatives of Governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.

**AC. Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Source, Emissions and Transport, February 2013**

32. This 2013 update to the 2008 report on the global atmospheric mercury assessment was requested by the Governing Council of UNEP at its twenty-fifth session. The document will be officially issued during the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and further information will be made available to participants.

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