



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
12 January 2011

English only

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

Second session

Chiba, Japan, 24–28 January 2011

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. By 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. Paragraph 27 of the decision calls upon the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury that includes provisions to address the issues listed in that paragraph.
2. The intergovernmental negotiating committee will have before it at its second session a number of working and information documents prepared by the secretariat at the request of the committee at its first session. 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. To assist Governments in their preparations for the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the documents for the session are listed in the tables below. Table 1 lists documents of general reference for the session. 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 document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3, on draft elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach to a global legally binding instrument on mercury.
4. A brief summary of each background document listed in table 2 is also provided. Each background document is identified by a letter that is used to identify the same document as it appears in the annex. The present note is an updated and expanded version of document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/6, which was made available at the committee's first session.

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

Table 1

General documents for the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee

UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/2 – Scenario note for the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3 – Draft elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach to a global legally binding instrument on mercury
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/5 – Report on indicators to evaluate and track the health impacts of mercury and identify vulnerable populations
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/6 – Report on information on harmonized systems for measuring mercury body burden
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/7 – Existing country-specific or regional monitoring efforts relating to fish and marine mammals in the food supply
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15 – Analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future instrument on mercury
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/19 – Executive summary of the document on guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure
UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/3 – Guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure

Table 2

Other documents for the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee relating to individual issues

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
<p><i>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:</i></p>	<p>Part I: Introduction</p>		<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/4: Options for the structure of the mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/14: Glossaries of key terms</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21: Report of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury on the work of its first session</p>	

1 Descriptions of the background documents are provided in the annex to the present note.

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
<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>Part II: Measures to reduce the supply of mercury</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15: Analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future instrument on mercury</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/2: Guidelines on the environmentally sound management of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/20: Update of information on the supply and trade of mercury</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/9: Update of information on the supply and trade of mercury</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/10: Update on activities related to mercury supply and the environmentally sound storage of mercury</p>	<p>C. Report on 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 from 2010–2050, May 2009</p> <p>K. Assessment of Excess of Mercury Supply in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2010–2050, July 2009</p> <p>L. Assessment of Excess Mercury Supply in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2010–2050, April 2010</p>

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
<p>(c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes</p>	<p>Part III. Measures to reduce intentional use of mercury</p>	<p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/9: Methodologies for determining mercury exposure in people involved in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/11: Mercury-containing products, processes and technologies and their alternatives</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/12: Cost-benefit analysis of existing alternatives to mercury-based products, processes and technologies</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/13: Options for regulating mercury in products</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/17: Global inventory of mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/13: Concept of essential use in international agreements</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>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</p>	<p>C. Report on supply, trade and demand information on mercury, November 2006</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 major mercury-containing products and processes, their substitutes and experience in switching to mercury-free products and processes, October 2008</p>

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
<p>(e) To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury</p> <p>(f) To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites</p>	<p>Part IV: Measure to reduce releases of mercury to air, water and land</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/4: Study on mercury sources and emissions and analysis of the costs and effectiveness of control measures</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/18: Process optimization guidance for reducing mercury emissions from coal combustion in power plants</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/2: Guidelines on the environmentally sound management of elemental mercury and waste containing or contaminated with mercury</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/5: Process optimization guidance for reducing mercury emissions from coal combustion in power plants</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/15: Progress of the study called for in paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/18: Relevant issues being considered in international forums and their possible impact on the mercury negotiation process</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>B. Global atmospheric mercury assessment: sources, emissions and transport, November 2008, and global atmospheric mercury assessment: sources, emissions and transport (detailed technical report), November 2008</p> <p>E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases (pilot draft), November 2005</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>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>www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/InterimActivities/Partnerships/WasteManagement/tabid/3535/language/en-US/Default.aspx</p>

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
(c) To reduce the demand for mercury in products and processes	Part V: Transitional measures	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/11: Mercury-containing products, processes and technologies and their alternatives</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/12: Cost-benefit analysis of existing alternatives to mercury-based products, processes and technologies</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/13: Options for regulating mercury in products</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument.</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/13: Concept of essential use in international agreements</p>	
<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>	Part VI: Financial resources and technical and implementation assistance	<p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/15: Analysis of possible options for using partnerships to help achieve the goals of the future instrument on mercury</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/8: Options for predictable and efficient financial assistance arrangements</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/9: Options for delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building: examples from multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/10: Facilitating sustainable technology transfer and support for global mercury control actions: experience with existing legally binding and voluntary arrangements</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/11: Key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering compliance</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

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
			<p>under the future mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approach to establishing baselines</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19: Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	
<p>(g) To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange</p>	<p>Part VII: Awareness-raising, research and monitoring, and communication of information</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/5: Report on indicators to evaluate and track the health impacts of mercury and identify vulnerable populations</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/6: Report on information on harmonized systems for measuring body burden</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/7: Existing country-specific or regional monitoring efforts relating to fish and marine mammals in the food supply</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/8: Inventory of projects completed or under way in each country relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining,</p>	<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approach to establishing baselines</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/19:</p>	<p>A. Global mercury assessment report, December 2002</p> <p>B. Global atmospheric mercury assessment: sources, emissions and transport, November 2008, and global atmospheric mercury assessment: sources, emissions and transport (detailed technical report), November 2008</p> <p>D. Mercury awareness-raising package, January 2009</p> <p>E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases (pilot draft), November 2005</p>

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
		<p>including awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization and financial assistance projects.</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/9: Methodologies for determining mercury exposure in people involved in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/10/Rev.1: Collation and analysis of available data on mercury releases in relevant sectors at the national level</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/19: Executive summary of the document on guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/INF/3: Guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure</p>	<p>Potential costs and benefits associated with each provision listed in paragraph 27 of Governing Council decision 25/5</p> <p>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</p>	<p>F. Guide to reducing major uses and releases of mercury, June 2006</p>

<i>Paragraph 27 provision of decision 25/5</i>	<i>Relevant part from UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents for the second session</i>	<i>Relevant working and information documents from the first session</i>	<i>Relevant background documents¹</i>
	<p>Part VIII: Institutional arrangements</p> <p>Part IX: Settlement of disputes</p> <p>Part X: Further development of the Convention</p> <p>Part XI: Final provisions</p>		<p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/5: Options for substantive provisions that might be included in the mercury instrument</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/7: Draft final provisions</p> <p>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</p> <p>UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/12: Effectiveness evaluation in other conventions and possible approach to establishing baselines</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 report, December 2002 (available in English, French and Spanish at 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. Global atmospheric mercury assessment: sources, emissions and transport (summary and detailed technical report), November 2008 (available in English at 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. Report on supply, trade and demand information mercury, November 2006 (available in English at 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)**
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 actions. 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 and dentistry and cultural uses of mercury.

E. Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases, version 2010 (available in English at www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/GuidanceTrainingMaterialToolkits/MercuryToolkit/tabid/4566/language/en-US/Default.aspx)

5. The toolkit is intended to assist countries to build 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.

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)

7. 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 of 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)²

8. 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.

² An updated version of this report is available in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/INF/8, in English only.

H. Report on 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)

9. 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 emission 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)

10. 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.

J. Assessment of excess mercury supply in Asia from 2010–2050, May 2009 (available in English at www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/tabid/3593/Default.aspx)

11. 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 of excess mercury supply in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2010–2050, July 2009 (available in English at www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/MercuryPublications/ReportsPublications/tabid/3593/Default.aspx)

12. 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 of excess mercury supply in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2010–2050, April 2010 (available in English at www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/SupplyandStorage/Activities/tabid/4505/language/en-US/Default.aspx)

13. The report shows that the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region imports and exports a significant amount of mercury. Sources of mercury in the region include mainly mercury mined in Kyrgyzstan, mercury recovered as a by-product of other mining operations and natural gas production, and mercury recovered from the closure of chlor-alkali plants. Mercury is consumed in products and in the chlor-alkali industry. This consumption will decline significantly over the coming 10–15 years. Based on various scenarios, the quantity of excess mercury that may need to be stored in the region is most likely in the range of 2,000–10,000 tonnes. It is also urgent to focus on identifying and addressing highly contaminated sites. Even without a policy of accelerated storage, regional authorities need to begin planning immediately in order to manage the excess mercury adequately.
