



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
20 August 2007

English only

Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury

First meeting

Bangkok, 12–16 November 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Review and assessment of options for enhanced voluntary
measures and new or existing international legal instruments**

**Submissions received from governments in response to call for
information relating to GC Decision 24/3 IV**

1. Paragraphs 20–23 of decision 24/3 IV adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme provide as follows:

“The Governing Council,

...

20. *Urges* Governments to gather information on means to reduce risk that may be caused by the supply of mercury, considering:

(a) Reduced reliance on primary mercury mining in favor of environmentally preferable sources of mercury such as recycled mercury;

(b) Options and solutions for the long-term storage of mercury;

(c) Regional activities to improve data on imports and exports of mercury and enforcement of customs control through, for example, the Green Customs initiative;

(d) The market and socio-economic effects of the activities contemplated above;

21. *Urges* Governments to provide the information referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director;

22. *Also urges* Governments to develop and analyse options for addressing the trade and supply of mercury, including considering environmentally sound storage and curbing primary mining, drawing on the United Nations Environment Programme report on mercury supply, trade, and demand, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, upon request, to assist developing countries in this undertaking through the provision of technical assistance;

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/1.

23. *Urges* Governments to provide the information in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director[.]”

2. In accordance with decision 24/3 IV the secretariat sent a letter dated 24 April 2007 to Governments and regional economic integration organizations requesting that they provide, by 15 June 2007, the information referred to in paragraphs 20 and 22 of the decision.

3. The responses from Governments and regional economic integration organizations received by the secretariat as of 13 August 2007 total in excess of 650 pages. They may be viewed online at http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Call_for_information/default.htm. They are presented as submitted and have not been edited by the secretariat.
