



Distr.: General
6 November 2007

English only



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury

First meeting

Bangkok, 12–16 November 2007

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Report on activities under the UNEP mercury programme

Report on progress with inventories

1. By paragraph 25 of decision 24/3 on chemicals management, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) requested the Executive Director to continue to facilitate work between the UNEP mercury programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships established under the mercury programme, as appropriate, to improve global understanding of international mercury emissions sources, fate and transport and to promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and emissions.
2. UNEP is developing a toolkit for the identification and quantification of mercury releases. A pilot version is available in all six United Nations languages. Field tests of the toolkit are under way in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Madagascar, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria and Yemen, with a view to improving its clarity and usability. Those countries are also being assisted in developing inventories of mercury releases and associated follow-up action plans.
3. In Burkina Faso the initial results of the inventory process have been submitted to UNEP and a final report is expected soon. A national battery manufacturing plant has been identified as a major source of releases of mercury.
4. In the five Asian countries, work started in April 2007 and the inventories are expected to be completed in early 2008. Planning is under way for a closing workshop in March 2008 to allow presentations of the results and a discussion of the lessons learned during the project. This will provide valuable input to future revisions of the toolkit and will build capacity in the region for future inventory work. Other interested countries within the region may be invited to participate at the workshop in order to generate interest and build on the lessons learned.
5. UNEP is also providing technical input to inventory development in Ecuador and Panama, supported by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Chile, Ecuador and Panama held an initial meeting in June 2007 to discuss the methodologies for inventories and UNEP addressed the countries' technical questions relating to the toolkit. The three countries are working

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

cooperatively on the inventory development and they plan to have a closing workshop to share the results of their discussions. Inventory development will be completed early in 2008

6. Each of the countries participating in the pilot projects will develop action plans to address key national priorities to reduce mercury emissions following the completion of its inventory. The action plans will provide guidance for possible follow-up projects addressing key needs in those countries.

7. UNEP will revise the toolkit to reflect the experience gained through the pilots and comments from other users.

8. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to take note of the progress reported above.