



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

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Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury
First meeting
Bangkok, 12–16 November 2007

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury to be held from 12 to 16 November 2007 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 November 2007.
2. Opening statements will be made by:
 - (a) A representative of the Government of Thailand as host of the meeting;
 - (b) A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Item 2: Election of officers

3. The Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury was established as a subsidiary body of the Governing Council of UNEP and is required to report to the Governing Council. The Working Group will elect its officers, including a chair, vice-chair(s) and rapporteur. To ensure adequate regional representation, the Working Group may wish to consider the election of five officers who will collectively form the bureau.

Item 3: Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of rules of procedure

4. As a subsidiary body of the Governing Council, the rules of procedure of the Governing Council should apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the work and proceedings of the Working Group. The meeting may wish to adopt those rules of procedure.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

5. Subject to the rules of procedure, the Working Group may wish to adopt the agenda for its first meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/1.

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(c) **Organization of work**

6. The Working Group may wish to decide that it should meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments as necessary.
7. The Working Group may wish to establish such contact groups as it may deem necessary and to specify their mandates.

Item 4: Review and assessment of options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments

8. A number of documents provide background information to stimulate the discussions of the Working Group on the options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments to control the problem of mercury, including:

(a) The study on options for global control of mercury contained in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/2.

(b) The report on progress on partnerships contained in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/5.

9. In addition, a number of information documents, including submissions by Governments (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/1) and by non-governmental organizations (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/2) in response to the call for information set out in Governing Council decision 24/3, are available to the Working Group.

10. The Working Group may wish initially to review its terms of reference to ensure a common understanding of the work to be undertaken. It may then wish to consider each of the priorities set out in paragraph 19 of Governing Council decision 24/3 IV, and to examine, for each of those priorities, the issues set out in paragraph 30 (b) of the same decision, including enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing legally binding instruments. In considering each of the priorities, the Working Group may wish to take into account not only the information set out in the study on options for the global control of mercury, but also any relevant information from the update of activities under the UNEP mercury partnership programme, information submitted by Governments and non-governmental organizations and other material considered relevant by the Working Group.

11. In its discussion of the agenda item, the Working Group may wish to consider whether all available options within the scope of enhanced voluntary measures and existing or new legal instruments have been included for consideration. It may become clear during the discussion on priorities that a given option appears either particularly appropriate or inappropriate. If the Working Group were to reach such a view, it might enable the range of options requiring further consideration to be narrowed. In such event, the Working Group may wish to include reference to any such finding in its report to be submitted to the Governing Council at its tenth special session, to be held in February 2008.

12. Should the Working Group agree that further work was required on either elaborating the options or setting out additional options, it might wish to specify clearly the preparatory work to be undertaken by the secretariat for its second meeting. It might also wish to consider setting the priorities for the work to be undertaken at its second meeting and to agree on the process for developing the progress report to be presented to the Governing Council at its tenth special session.

Item 5: Report on activities under the UNEP mercury programme

13. Paragraph 24 of decision 24/3 IV requests the UNEP Executive Director to prepare a report drawing on, among other things, ongoing work in other forums addressing atmospheric mercury emissions, including best available data on emissions and trends, current results from modelling on the contribution of regional emissions to deposition and an overview of sector-based best practices for reducing mercury emissions, as well as an analysis of information on the extent of contaminated sites. Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/3 contains an outline of the process for developing the report. Related to this report is a Guide for reducing major uses and releases of mercury, which is available to the Working Group as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/6.

14. Document UNEP/(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/4 contains a report on the ongoing work of the UNEP mercury programme and includes references to detailed reports on:

(a) The initial draft of the mercury waste guidelines considered by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its sixth meeting (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/3);

(b) The draft guidance prepared by the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, in consultation with the World Health Organization, entitled Identifying populations at risk due to exposures to mercury (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/4);

(c) A draft awareness-raising document (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/5).

15. Paragraph 25 of decision 24/3 IV requests the UNEP Executive Director to continue to facilitate work between the mercury programme and Governments, other organizations, the private sector and the partnerships established under the mercury programme to improve global understanding of international mercury emissions sources, fate and transport and to promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and emissions. A report on further work in that regard is available to the Working Group as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/7.

16. Paragraph 27 of decision 24/3 IV requests the UNEP Executive Director, in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the mercury programme partnerships. A report on activities undertaken to that end is available as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/5 and a supplementary report on the consultation process is available as document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/8.

17. The Working Group may wish to consider the above-mentioned reports and to provide guidance on furthering the activities of the UNEP mercury programme.

Item 6: Other matters

18. The Working Group may also wish to consider other matters raised during its first meeting.

Item 7: Adoption of the report

19. At its final session, the Working Group will be invited to consider and to adopt its decisions and the report of its first meeting prepared by the Rapporteur.

Item 8: Closure of the meeting

20. It is expected that the Working Group will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 16 November 2007.
