



Distr.: General
8 October 2013

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Preparatory meeting for the
Conference of Plenipotentiaries
on the Minamata Convention on Mercury**
Kumamoto, Japan, 7 and 8 October 2013
Agenda item 4
Adoption of the report

**Report of the preparatory meeting for the Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

I. Introduction

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 a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument on mercury.
2. In accordance with that mandate, the first, second, third, fourth and fifth sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury were held in Stockholm from 7 to 11 June 2010; in Chiba, Japan, from 24 to 28 January 2011; in Nairobi from 31 October to 4 November 2011; in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 27 June to 2 July 2012; and in Geneva from 13 to 18 January 2013, respectively.
3. At its fifth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee agreed on the text of a global legally binding instrument, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, for adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The Committee also requested the secretariat to prepare elements of the Final Act, including the text of the draft resolutions, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
4. In order to finalize the draft resolutions that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee did not have time to consider, a preparatory meeting for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries was held in Kumamoto, Japan, on 7 and 8 October 2013, at the invitation of the Government of Japan.

II. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

5. The preparatory meeting was opened at 3.20 p.m. on Monday, 7 October 2013, by Mr. Tim Kasten, Head, Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. He thanked the administration of Kumamoto prefecture and the Government of Japan for hosting the meeting and making the necessary arrangements, and also thanked those Governments that had provided additional financial contributions to support the organization of the meeting. Having drawn attention to important recent developments that had taken place within the chemicals agenda and that were of particular relevance to the Minamata Convention,

he emphasized the need to reach a rapid agreement on the draft resolutions before the end of the present meeting in order to ensure the success of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

6. The representative of Japan welcomed the participants to Japan and to the city of Kumamoto. He thanked the UNEP secretariat for its hard work in organizing the present meeting and expressed gratitude to all those whose efforts had brought successful completion to the task of preparing a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

B. Attendance

7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following parties:¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

8. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research and World Health Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre and World Organization for Animal Health.

10. The secretariats of the following multilateral environmental agreement were represented: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

11. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented, the names of which may be found in the list of participants (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/INF/5).

III. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of rules of procedure

12. The meeting agreed to apply the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (see UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/INF/1), *mutatis mutandis*, to its proceedings.

B. Election of officers

13. The meeting elected, as officers for the meeting, the members of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. As Mr. John Thompson (United States of America), Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, was unable to attend the preparatory meeting, Ms. Sezaneh Seymour (United States of America) was elected by acclamation to serve as Vice-Chair of the meeting. As Ms. Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria), Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, was no longer able to serve as a Bureau member, Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) was elected, by acclamation, to serve as Vice-Chair of the meeting. With that election, the Bureau was constituted as follows:

¹ States or regional economic integration organizations as defined in the rules of procedure of the intergovernmental negotiating committee as applied to this meeting.

Chair:	Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Yingxian Xia (China)
	Ms. Katerina Sebkova (Czech Republic)
	Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)
	Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)
	Mr. Oumar Diaoure Cissé (Mali)
	Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation)
	Ms. Nina Cromnier (Sweden)
	Ms. Sezaneh Seymour (United States of America)
	Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia)

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, Ms. Cromnier, Vice-Chair, also agreed to act as Rapporteur.

C. Adoption of the agenda

14. The meeting adopted the following agenda for the session, as contained in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (d) Organization of work.
3. Preparation of resolutions for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
4. Adoption of the report.
5. Closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

15. With regard to the organization of work, the meeting agreed to meet in plenary session on the afternoon of Monday, 7 October, and on Tuesday, 8 October, and to set up any drafting groups and contact groups considered necessary, as appropriate.

IV. Preparation of draft resolutions for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury

16. In its deliberations on the draft resolutions, the meeting had before it document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/3, containing the draft resolutions prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the request from the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. At the request of the Chair, the secretariat introduced that document, as well as the information documents prepared to assist participants in their deliberations.

17. The Chair then called on Mr. Jim Willis, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions secretariat, who made a statement drawing attention to document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/INF/2, which provided information on the decision adopted by the conferences of the parties to the three conventions at their simultaneous extraordinary meetings, held in Geneva from 28 April to 11 May 2013, regarding steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. He noted that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had acquired considerable experience and expertise in chemicals management of relevance to the Minamata Convention, supported by an extensive network of regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in addition to other institutional capacity, and that the secretariats stood ready to assist parties in relevant work under the

Minamata Convention, and to help Governments strengthen cooperation and coordination between the governing bodies of the four chemicals conventions.

18. One country referred to its pledge for funding in the interim period and noted that the contributions to the Mercury Trust Fund were not limited to the activities mentioned in article 1.13 of the draft resolutions, but, *inter alia*, also to the activities set out in article 1.11.

19. Following the conclusion of the deliberations, at the suggestion of the Chair, participants agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. Alf Wills (South Africa), to discuss the issue of cooperation and coordination throughout the text of the draft resolutions and to consider the arrangements pertaining to the provision of secretariat services during the interim period. The meeting also agreed to a number of informal discussion groups, the first on paragraph 8 on facilitating the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon entry into force, facilitated by Mr. David Buchholz (United States of America); the second on paragraph 9 on the establishment of a group of technical experts on best available techniques and best available practices, facilitated by Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada); and the third to discuss draft resolution 2 on financial arrangements, facilitated by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica). The Chair urged the groups to concentrate on the development of agreed text for the further consideration of the meeting.

20. Subsequently, the chair of the contact group and the facilitators of the informal groups reported back to the meeting on the results of their discussions, and the secretariat presented a conference room paper containing updated text of the draft resolutions.

21. Mr. Alf Wills (South Africa) reported that the contact group on cooperation and coordination, and the secretariat arrangements in the interim period, had reached agreement on a revised text, which was presented in a conference room paper. The meeting agreed to approve the text for inclusion in the draft resolutions.

22. The representative of Brazil said, in relation to section III of resolution 1, that requesting the Executive Director to present, and the Committee to consider, a report on how he or she would perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention, including an analysis of options addressing, *inter alia*, effectiveness, cost-benefit, different locations for the secretariat, merging the secretariat with that of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and utilizing the interim secretariat, exceeded the mandate of the present meeting, was too restrictive in relation to the options for the permanent secretariat and could prejudice the work of the Conference of the Parties. While remaining confident that the Executive Director would address the matter properly and include all relevant options in the report, he expressed deep concern with the disproportionate political importance that had been given to matters relating to coordination and cooperation between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their secretariats, resulting in too much time and negotiation effort being given to administrative matters, prejudicing the core objectives and need for action on the ground.

23. The representative of Switzerland underlined the benefit of and need for close cooperation with other relevant actors, including the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in order to achieve implementation on the ground. The objective of such cooperation and coordination was to make use of all relevant expertise and experience, which was crucial to facilitate and promote efficient and effective implementation at the national level. In that regard, the decision to request the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate activities at the regional and country levels during the interim period would assist developing countries in particular in rapid, effective and efficient implementation.

24. Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) reported that the informal group on draft resolution 2 on financial arrangements had reached agreement on a revised text, which was presented in a non-paper. The group had also proposed the addition of two paragraphs to draft resolution 1. The text for the draft resolution had also been cleared by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility. The meeting agreed to approve the revised text for inclusion in the draft resolutions.

25. The representative of the United States of America, referring to the section of the draft resolution dealing with the development of a draft memorandum of understanding between the Council of the Global Environment Facility and Conference of the Parties, stressed that the Committee would work together with the Global Environment Facility secretariat in developing the memorandum of understanding, recognizing that the Global Environment Facility was an independent and distinct entity.

26. Mr. David Buchholz (United States of America) reported that the informal group on paragraph 8 of draft resolution 1, on facilitating the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon entry into force, had reached agreement on a revised text, which was presented to the meeting. The meeting agreed to approve the revised text for inclusion in the draft resolutions.

27. The representative of Iraq said that more should be done on the establishment of thresholds for releases, rather than just identifying the sources thereof and leaving the matter of thresholds to national authorities.

28. Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) reported that the informal group on paragraph 9 of draft resolution 1, on the establishment of a group of technical experts on best available techniques and best available practices, had reached agreement on a revised text, which was presented to the meeting. She noted that definition of the group of experts as a subsidiary body had implications for the use of the six official languages of the United Nations at its meetings; however, there was an acceptance by the preparatory meeting that the meetings of the group of technical experts would be held in English. The meeting agreed to approve the revised text for inclusion in the draft resolutions. Following that agreement, the secretariat indicated that nominations of experts should be submitted by 30 November 2013 through the bureau members to enable immediate commencement of the work of the group.

29. The representative of Brazil said that in expanding the mandate of the group of technical experts to include guidance on best available techniques and best environment practices, a solution had been found that allowed discussions on releases to continue at a proper pace by including reference to "cross-media effects". Further work was needed to identify sources and develop inventories of releases during the interim period, and the Committee should give due consideration to that matter in the organization of its work. He encouraged all parties to engage constructively on that very important matter.

30. The meeting then turned its attention to consideration of the revised draft resolutions contained in a conference room paper presented by the secretariat. The meeting agreed to approve the revised text, as amended.

31. The representative of the Philippines said, in the context of the support envisioned under paragraph 11 of resolution 1, that the focus should fall equally on preparation and implementation activities, with assistance for countries undertaking interim mercury reduction activities in line with the Convention, including for developing and implementing national action plans.

32. The representative of Palestine, referring also to paragraph 11 of resolution 1, said that the reference to developing countries and countries with economies in transition should also include reference to countries under occupation, which were equally in need of the assistance referred to. Other representatives said that the formulation for the countries being referred to should remain consistent with the text of the Convention.

33. The representative of Chile reiterated the firm commitment of her country to the protection of human health and the environment at the global level and the development of sustainable mining activities. That commitment had been made clear in every forum dealing with that sensitive issue. However, while agreeing that the prohibition of primary mercury mining constituted a fundamental decision of the present Convention, it should be considered as a unique and exceptional case in the field of primary mining.

34. The meeting approved the following draft resolutions, which are contained in the annex to the present report, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference:

- (a) Draft resolution on arrangements in the interim period;
- (b) Draft resolution on financial arrangements;
- (c) Draft resolution on matters pertaining to other international bodies;
- (d) Draft resolution on tribute to the Government of Japan.

V. Adoption of the report

35. The meeting adopted the report of its work on Tuesday, 8 October 2013, on the basis of the draft report (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/PM/L.1), with the understanding that the finalization of the report for submission to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, working in consultation with the secretariat.

VI. Closure of the meeting

36. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 October 2013.

Annex

Draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Conference,

Having adopted the text of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (hereinafter “the Convention”),

Recalling decisions 25/5 of 20 February 2009 and 27/12 of 22 February 2013 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on mercury,

1. Resolution on arrangements in the interim period

Considering that effective and efficient arrangements are required in order to implement expeditiously international action to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds pending the entry into force of the Convention and to prepare for the effective implementation of the Convention once it enters into force;

I

1. *Calls upon* States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

II

2. *Appeals to* States and regional economic integration organizations to apply in full on a voluntary basis the provisions of the Convention, and to promote and support their voluntary application by other States, during the period before entry into force of the Convention (the “interim period”);

III

3. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene such further meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury established pursuant to Governing Council decision 25/5 (hereinafter “the Committee”) during the period between the date on which the Convention is opened for signature and the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as may be necessary to facilitate the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon its entry into force;

4. *Welcomes* the offer of Switzerland to host the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and *invites* the Executive Director to prepare for and service that meeting;

5. *Decides* that the Committee should develop, and adopt on a provisional basis pending decision by the Conference of the Parties, those items necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry into force, including in particular the register of notifications (Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 9); the format for registering for exemptions, the information to be provided upon registering for an exemption and the register of exemptions to be maintained by the secretariat (Article 6); and the arrangements for receiving and distributing information that parties may provide upon ratification on measures they plan to take to implement the Convention (Article 30, paragraph 4);

6. *Requests* the Committee to focus its efforts on those matters required by the Convention to be decided upon by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, including in particular guidance on the identification of stocks of mercury and mercury compounds (Article 3, paragraphs 5a and 12); procedures for the export and import of mercury, including the required content for certification (Article 3 paragraphs 6, 8 and 12); guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practice for controlling emissions and on supporting Parties in determining goals and emission limit values (Article 8, paragraph 8); arrangements for the operation of the financial mechanism (Article 13); the timing and format of reporting (Article 21, paragraph 3); arrangements for providing the Conference of the Parties with comparable monitoring data for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention (Article 22, paragraph 2); and draft rules of procedure and draft financial rules for the Conference of the Parties (Article 23, paragraph 4);

7. *Also requests* the Committee to adopt, on a provisional basis pending formal adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, the guidance to be developed for identifying stocks of mercury and mercury compounds (Article 3, paragraph 5a and 12); procedures for the export and import of mercury, including the content of such certification (Article 3, paragraphs 6, 8 and 12); and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practice for controlling emissions and on determining goals and emission limit values (Article 8, paragraph 8);

8. *Further requests* the Committee also to support, as practicable and consistent with the priorities in the Convention, those activities required or encouraged by the Convention that will facilitate the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon entry into force, including in particular guidance and assistance to countries with artisanal and small-scale gold mining in developing their national action plans; guidance on the identification of sources of releases and the methodology for preparing inventories of releases (Article 9, paragraph 7) guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury (Article 10, paragraph 3); thresholds for the identification of mercury waste (Article 11, paragraph 2); and guidance on the management of contaminated sites (Article 12, paragraph 3);

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to present and the Committee to consider, before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on proposals on how he or she will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention, including an analysis of options that, inter alia, addresses effectiveness, cost-benefit, different locations for the secretariat, merging the secretariat with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and utilizing the interim secretariat;

IV

10. *Establishes* a group of technical experts, as a subsidiary body which will report to the Committee, to develop the guidance called for in Article 8 of the Convention, mindful of the need to minimize cross-media effects, and address other issues relevant to emissions, taking into account experience gained through, inter alia, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, to enable the Conference of the Parties to decide on such issues at its first meeting, and requests the Executive Director to convene the group of technical experts at the earliest opportunity. The group, which at its first meeting shall elect two co-chairs, shall comprise experts in pollution control and/or one or more of the source categories in Annex D, nominated by the five United Nations regions as follows: eight from African States, eight from Asia-Pacific States, three from Central and Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and seven from Western European and other States. The group, and before its first meeting the Executive Director of UNEP, shall invite the participation of eight experts from industry and civil society as observers. The group shall invite input from other governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society organizations to assist it in completing its work;

V

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide the interim secretariat services to support the Committee and its activities until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Also requests* the interim secretariat to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to facilitate activities at regional and country level to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner;

VI

14. *Welcomes* the generous pledges of Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden to support other countries in the process of ratification and early implementation of the Convention.

15. *Calls upon* States, regional economic integration organizations and others in a position to do so to provide financial resources, capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are signatory to the Convention to assist them in enhancing relevant institutional structures, preparing for ratification, acceptance or approval of the Convention, including for the preparation of inventories and preliminary assessments to identify sectors requiring action under the

Convention and for developing legislative and institutional capacity to implement the Convention effectively once it has entered into force for them;

16. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are signatory to the Convention in undertaking activities, particularly enabling activities, to facilitate early implementation and ratification of the Convention;

17. *Appeals* to States, regional economic integration organizations and others in a position to do so to make contributions to the mercury trust fund of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the Committee and its activities during the interim period, the interim secretariat, and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the financial period in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place;

18. *Welcomes* the actions taken through the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and urges all partners to continue their efforts and to support, participate in and contribute to the Partnership;

19. *Welcomes* the progress made on the development of the Special Programme on institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and looks forward to the establishment of the Special Programme;

20. *Recognizes* that the Special Programme, once established, should be a useful source of support for institutional strengthening in the interim period and invites the Executive Board of the Special Programme to inform the Committee about progress in implementation;

VII

21. *Requests* the Committee to take account of, and build on where appropriate, existing initiatives, documentation and regional and subregional delivery arrangements, including relevant regional centres, in undertaking its work during the interim period.

2. Resolution on financial arrangements

The Conference,

Noting that the Minamata Convention on Mercury defines a financial mechanism to support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Convention that includes the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance,

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of Parties that are small island developing States or least developing countries,

1. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to give effect to the inclusion of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund as a part of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention and to recommend to the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, as a matter of urgency, that it make any adjustments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility that are necessary to allow it to fulfil its role in the financial mechanism;

2. *Decides* that the Committee should develop, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, a draft memorandum of understanding to be agreed between the Council of the Global Environment Facility and the Conference of the Parties on arrangements to give effect to relevant provisions of paragraphs 5 to 8 of Article 13;

3. *Decides* also that the Committee should develop, and adopt provisionally pending formal adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, guidance to the Council of the Global Environment Facility on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities, eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources and an indicative list of categories of activities eligible for support from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

4. *Encourages* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to apply provisionally any guidance provided to it by the Committee pending the adoption of the guidance by the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund to contribute through the sixth and subsequent replenishments of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund additional financial resources adequate to enable the Global Environment Facility to support activities to facilitate the rapid entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Committee to develop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting a proposal for the hosting institution for the specific international programme, including any necessary arrangements with the hosting institution, as well as guidance on the operation and duration of that programme.

3. Resolution on matters pertaining to other international bodies

The Conference,

1. *Notes* the decisions of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at their second simultaneous extraordinary meetings expressing their interest and signalling their readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention on issues related to the management of mercury wastes, including the initiation of work to update technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes;

3. *Invites* the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention to cooperate closely with the Committee and subsequently with the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;

4. *Also invites* the secretariat of the Basel Convention to report to the Committee on issues related to the management of mercury wastes, including the update of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes;

5. *Further invites* the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate closely, as appropriate, with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the activities of international bodies such as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation in the protection of human health in relation to mercury and of the World Customs Organization in identifying and monitoring trade in mercury, mercury compounds and mercury-added products covered by the Convention;

7. *Invites* the bodies referred to in paragraph 6 to cooperate closely with the Committee and the Conference of the Parties to support the implementation of the Convention particularly Article 16, as appropriate, and to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on the progress made in this regard.

4. Tribute to the Government of Japan

The Conference,

Having visited Minamata on 9 October 2013 and having met in Kumamoto on 10 and 11 October 2013 at the gracious invitation of the Government of Japan;

Mindful of the long-term suffering of the people and their communities in the Minamata region from serious health and environmental problems caused by pollution by mercury, cognizant of their efforts to restore the environment in the region and build environmentally sound communities, and recognizes that the international community should learn from the above experiences of and lessons from Minamata;

Convinced that the efforts of the Government of Japan and the authorities of the prefecture of Kumamoto and the cities of Minamata and Kumamoto in providing facilities, premises and other resources have contributed significantly to the smooth conduct of the Conference;

Deeply appreciative of the courtesy and hospitality extended by the Government of Japan, the prefecture of Kumamoto and the cities of Minamata and Kumamoto to the representatives of delegations, observers and the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme attending the Conference;

Expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan, the authorities of the prefecture of Kumamoto and the cities of Minamata and Kumamoto and, through them, the people of Japan, especially the people of Minamata and Kumamoto, for the cordial welcome that they have accorded the Conference and those associated with its work and for their contribution to its success.