



Mercury negotiations: Brief overview of the negotiations until today

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Mercury – a global problem

2009: Governments agreed on the need for a global legally binding instrument on mercury and established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)



Source: Kevin Telmer

Mandate for the negotiations

Decision 25/5 III on mercury

Provisions for inclusion in the instrument to:

- reduce **the supply** of mercury & enhance the **capacity for its environmentally sound storage**;
- reduce **its demand** in products and processes;
- reduce **international trade** in mercury;
- reduce **atmospheric emissions** of mercury;
- address **mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites**;
- increase **knowledge** through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange;
- specify arrangements for **capacity-building, technical and financial assistance**.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)

- INC was given a detailed mandate by the UNEP Governing Council



- **INC1** in Stockholm, in June 2010, considered the range of issues to be included
- **INC2** in Chiba, Japan, in January 2011, considered draft elements of the instrument

INC3 – Main outcomes

INC3 in Nairobi, in October 2011, considered all sections of the draft text

- ✓ Detailed discussions took place in contact groups
- ✓ Revised draft text prepared on:
 - Artisanal and small scale gold mining
 - Storage, waste and contaminated sites
 - Information exchange & Awareness-raising
 - Some final provisions



Regional consultations held in preparation for INC4

- ❖ **Africa:** Pretoria, South Africa
- ❖ **Asia and the Pacific:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ❖ **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Brasilia, back-to-back with a regional workshop on mercury management in the Latin America and Caribbean region
- ❖ **Central and Eastern Europe:** Lodz, Poland
- ❖ **EU,** Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **Jusscannz** (teleconference)

Documents for INC4 (1/2)

- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/2** - Scenario note for the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury.
- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/3** - Revised draft text for a comprehensive and suitable approach to a global legally binding instrument on mercury
- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/4** - Proposal for a conceptual approach and possible text on financial resources and technical assistance

Documents for INC4 (2/2)

- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/5** - Approach to possible elements of Articles 10 and 11 prepared by the co-chairs of the contact group on emissions and releases
- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/6** - Information on possible transitional arrangements pending phase out of mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury is used
- ❖ **UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.4/7** - Compilation of reporting obligations and action plans envisaged in the draft negotiating text and survey of reporting obligations and action plans under other relevant multilateral environment agreements

INC4

INC4 - 27 June to 2 July 2012, Conrad Punta del Este Resort & Casino, Punta del Este, Uruguay, with regional and interregional consultations on 26 June.

At this stage,
550 registered
participants and 136
countries



Logistics

- 26 June: Regional meetings & inter-regional consultations
- Daily regional meetings
- G77 + China and Arab group meetings
- Standard plenary hours: 10:00 to 13:00 & 15:00 to 18:00
- No side events, no technical briefing during the session
- Contact groups likely to work during lunch periods, evenings and in parallel to plenary
- Legal group



INC4 - Expected progress

- Agreement reached on most sections of the text
- Options available significantly narrowed
- Move forward with the preparation of a revised draft text with limited outstanding issues for consideration at INC5



After INC4

- **INC5** in Geneva from 14 to 18/19 January 2013
- Convention open for signature at a **Diplomatic Conference** to be held in Minamata, Japan in late 2013



Thank you!

For further information please visit:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/Negotiations/tabid/3320/Default.aspx>

