

Overview of the Mercury Negotiations

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Mercury – a global pollutant

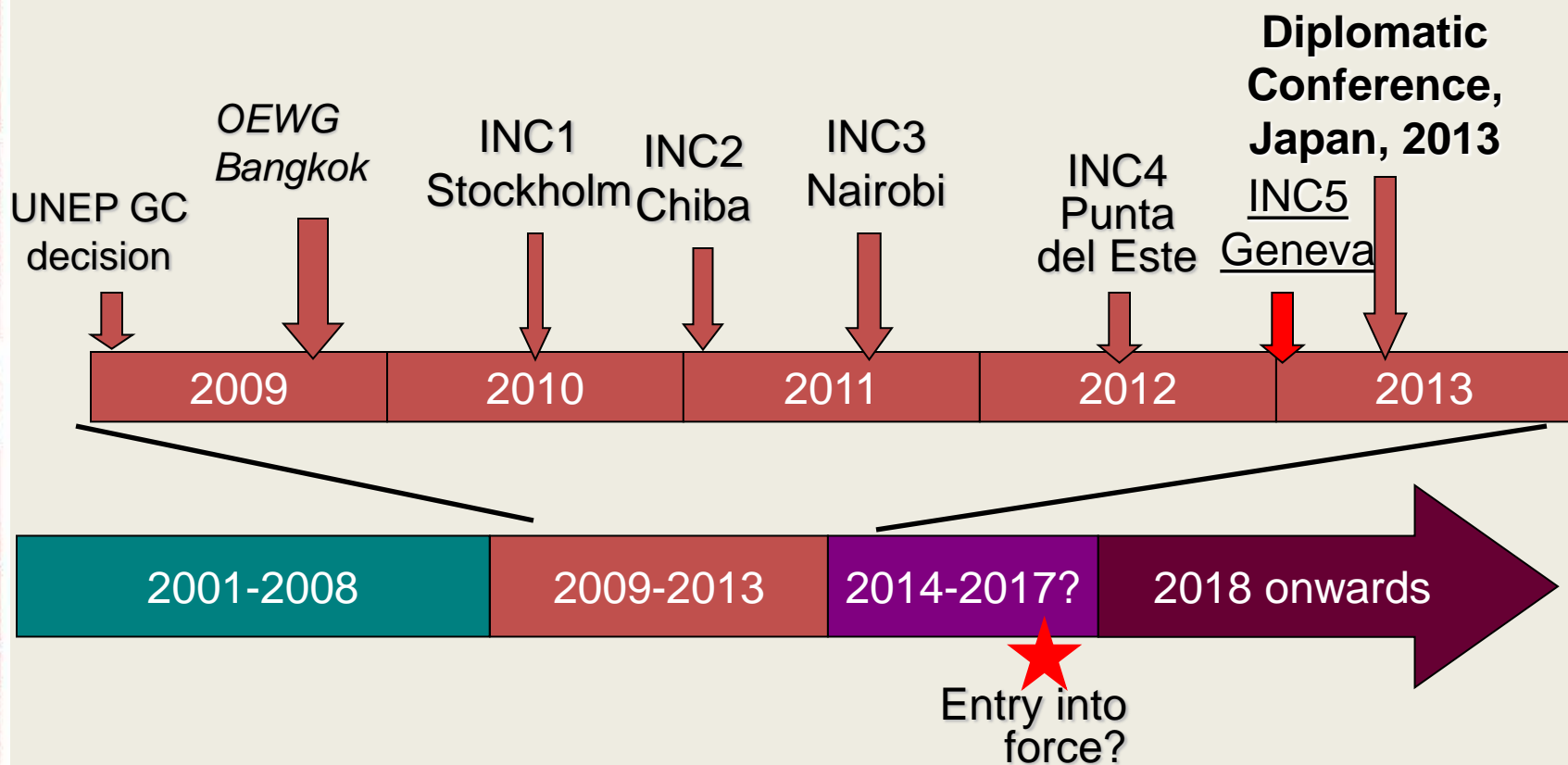
2003 – Governments agree on the need for global action on mercury, based on its adverse health and environment effects and its long range transport in the environment

2007 – Governments agree to consider the need for a legally binding instrument to further address the mercury issue

2009 – Governments agree to negotiate a legally binding instrument on mercury and establish the INC.



Minamata Convention on Mercury – negotiating the legally binding instrument



Outcome of INC5

19 January 2013:

Governments agreed to the text of the “**Minamata Convention on Mercury**” and successfully fulfilled the GC 25/5 mandate

Secretariat requested to prepare draft elements of the Final Act to be adopted at the DipCon



Outcome of GC 27



GC DECISION 27/12 III PURSUANT TO MERCURY:

1. **Welcomes the completion of the negotiation** of a global legally binding instrument on mercury, which was accomplished prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as requested in paragraph 26 of decision 25/5;
2. **Requests the Executive Director to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries** for the purpose of adopting and opening for signature the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and **welcomes the offer by the Government of Japan** to host the conference of plenipotentiaries;
3. **Calls on Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the conference of plenipotentiaries;**
4. *Encourages* States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary **domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification**, and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once adopted, with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;
5. *Authorizes* the **Executive Director to provide secretariat support** to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, **to provide an interim secretariat** to the instrument prior to its entry into force;

Outcome of GC 27



6. Requests the Executive Director to inform the diplomatic conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury about possible options available for the interim secretariat;

7. Recognizes that the decision on interim secretariat arrangements will be taken by the conference of plenipotentiaries and that it is for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to decide on secretariat arrangements;

8. Urges the Executive Director through an interim secretariat of the instrument to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing regarding the instrument;

9. Requests the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force and to provide interim support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries;

10. Appeals to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support early action designed to facilitate ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and further to provide financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Minamata Convention, in conformity with relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries, for the period until the end of the financial period in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention takes place, and welcomes with appreciation the contributions already made, including from China, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, for those purposes;

Outcome of GC 27

11. Welcomes the efforts by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to take immediate action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership, urges all partners to continue their efforts and urges Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support, participate in, and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership;

12. Requests the Executive Director to continue to provide the necessary support to the Global Mercury Partnership;

13. Invites the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account any relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries and consider ways of supporting their implementation;

14. Invites Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements 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 to use the opportunity of their extraordinary meetings from 28 April to 10 May 2013 to consider steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to forward any outcome of that consideration to the conference of plenipotentiaries;

15. Acknowledges the 2013 update of the 2008 report from the Executive Director, "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport", 11 and requests the Executive Director to provide a further update within six years;

Outcome of GC 27



GC DECISION 27/12 VIII PURSUANT TO THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON FINANCING OPTIONS FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTES:

(...) 15. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting of governments and regional economic integration organizations, open to interested stakeholders, including potential donors, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Strategic Approach, to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme, including:

- (a) A definition of institutional strengthening;
- (b) The duration of the special programme;
- (c) Clear parameters and eligibility criteria;
- (d) Practical arrangements necessary to make the special programme operational;

16. Decides that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session;

17. Notes that the present decision does not pre-empt the decision of the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the specific international programme referred to in the text of that Convention;



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