Outcomes of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury

INC4 - outcomes and next steps

Fernando Lugris
INC Chair
UNEP Chemicals Negotiations de-Briefing

26 July 2012
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
Treaty negotiation process

5 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings:

- 2009: INC1, Stockholm
- 2010: INC2, Chiba
- 2011: INC3, Nairobi
- 2012: INC4, Punta del Este
- 2013: INC5, Geneva

Diplomatic Conference, Japan, 2013

UNEP GC decision

OEWG

Bangkok

INC1

Stockholm

INC2

Chiba

INC3

Nairobi

INC4

Punta del Este

INC5

Geneva

2001-2008

2009-2013

2014-2017?

2018 onwards

Entry into force?

Entry into force?
Draft text of the Convention

The articles are grouped into 14 sections

A. Preamble
B. Introduction
C. Supply
D. International trade in mercury
E. Products and processes
F. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
G. Emissions and releases
H. Storage, wastes and contaminated sites
I. Financial resources and technical and implementation assistance
J. Awareness-raising, research and monitoring, and communication of information
K. Institutional arrangements
L. Settlement of disputes
M. Further development of the Convention
N. Final provisions
Fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC4)

INC4 - 27 June to 2 July 2012, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Almost 550 delegates attended the session, 131 Governments were represented, 57 NGOs and a number of Intergovernmental Organizations
The delegates completed a full review of the revised draft text (INC4/3).

**Contact groups** established to discuss specific issues of the text:
- artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
- storage, wastes and contaminated sites;
- emissions and releases;
- products and processes;
- supply and trade;
- implementation and compliance;
- financial resources and technical assistance;
- awareness raising, research, development and monitoring.
INC4 – Main outcomes (2/2)

Work in contact groups on almost all of the text.

New text developed and presented by contact groups on almost all these topics, in several cases referred to the legal group for its review.

Progress on several items including some developed in the text contact group was revised by the legal group, such as:
- Article 9 - Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Articles 12 to 14 - Storage, wastes and contaminated sites
- Several articles of Section J - Awareness, research and monitoring, communication and information

Depth discussions on topics that had not yet been addressed (particularly supply, international trade and compliance).

Overall, a cooperative and good negotiations spirit.
Intersessional work

- The **Chair of the INC** has been entrusted to prepare a “Chair’s text”, for consideration at INC5 as the basis for the negotiations.

- The **secretariat** has been mandated to prepare intersessional work on emissions and releases as well as on health aspects. In addition, the secretariat will also prepare **final act resolutions**.

- **Regional consultations**, subject to the availability of funding, will be held in: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe.

- **INC Bureau meetings**.
Next steps

- **INC5** will be held in Geneva from 14 to 19 January 2013 (dates to be confirmed by the Bureau of the INC).

- Convention open for signature at a **Diplomatic Conference** to be held in Japan in October 2013.
Thank you!

mercury.chemicals@unep.org

http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/