



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

INC4 - outcomes and next steps

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Mercury – a global problem

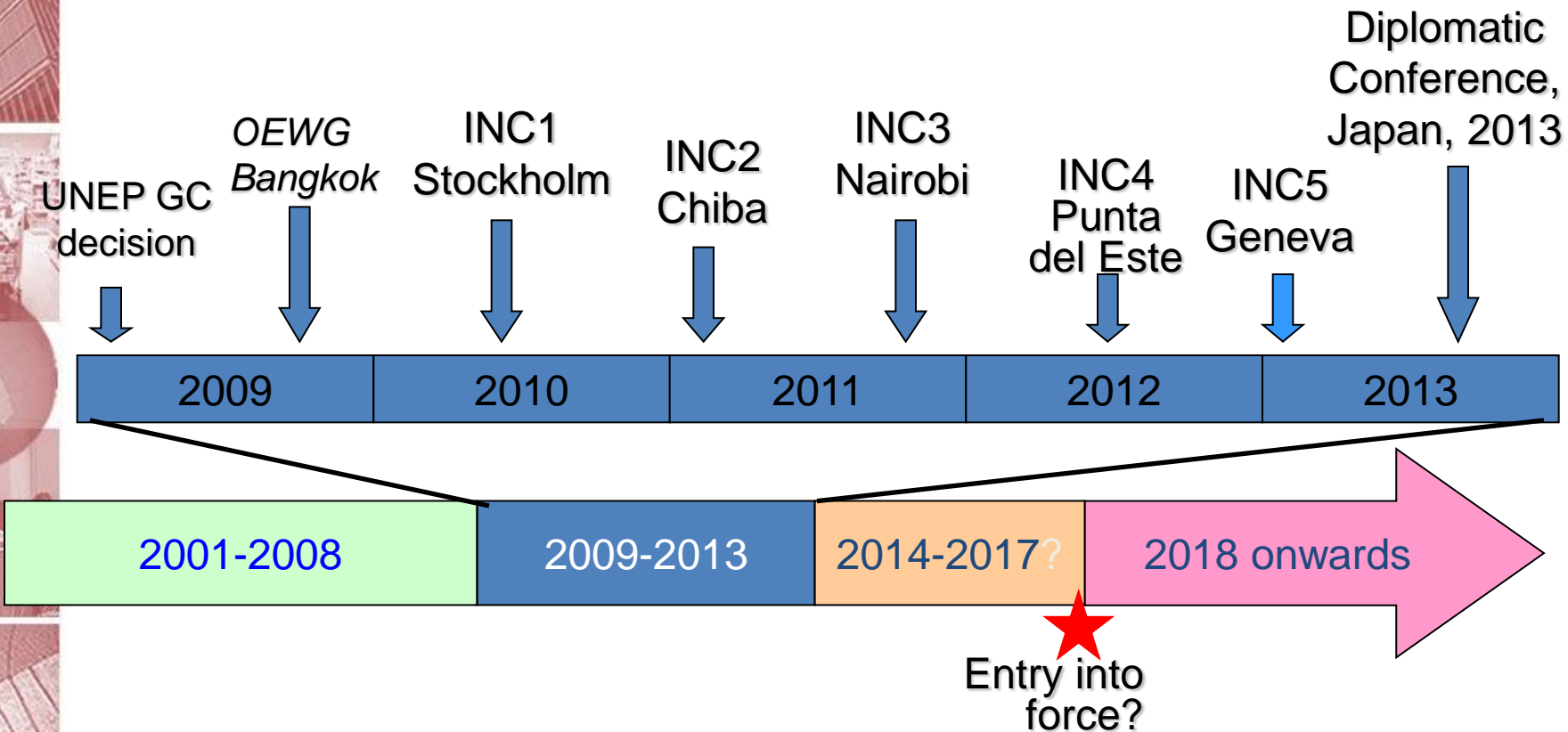
2009: Governments agreed on the need for a global legally binding instrument on mercury and established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)



Source: Kevin Telmer

Treaty negotiation process

5 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings:



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



INC4 – Main outcomes (1/2)

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.





Meeting of the INC Bureau with the artist Nicolás García Urriburu. Punta del Este, Uruguay

Thank you!

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

