



Briefing to Permanent Missions on the Minamata Convention

Monday, 9 September 2013, 10:00-12:00
International Environment House II

In 2009, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council agreed on the need to develop a global legally binding instrument on mercury and to complete negotiations prior to the 27th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2013. The work to prepare this instrument has been undertaken by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee supported by the Chemicals Branch of UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics.

At the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC), held in Geneva in January 2013, Governments successfully completed their negotiations. On Saturday, 19 January 2013, in the early morning, Governments agreed to the text of the global legally binding instrument on mercury and gave birth to the "Minamata Convention on Mercury". The text will be presented for adoption and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, which will be held in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013. The Conference will be preceded by a Preparatory Meeting, from 7 to 8 October 2013, in Kumamoto.

You are cordially invited to attend a briefing on the preparations of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention. The briefing will be held at the International Environment House II on 9 September, and followed by a light sushi lunch offered by the Government of Japan.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 10:00 Coffee & Tea
- 10:15 **Welcome and Introduction**
Jan DUSIK, Acting Director, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP
- 10:20 **Overview of the Mercury Negotiations**
Tim KASTEN, Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP
- 10:30 **Preparations of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries**
Jacob DUER, Coordinator, Mercury Negotiations Team, Chemicals Branch, UNEP
Sheila LOGAN, Programme Officer, Mercury Negotiations Team, Chemicals Branch, UNEP
- 11:00 **Remarks by Host Country**
Toru MAEDA, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva
- 11:15 **Remarks on the Interim Phase**
Luca ARNOLD, Head, Global Affairs Section, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
- 11:20 Question-and-answer session
- 11:50 **Information on the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**
David PIPER, Deputy Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP
- 12:00 Light sushi lunch offered by the Government of Japan



GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK



Minamata
Convention
on Mercury

RESEAU ENVIRONNEMENT DE GENEVE

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You are cordially invited to participate in this event.

We would be grateful if you could indicate your participation in advance by completing this form and returning it by **4 September 2013** to the address below by email (gen.secretary@unep.org). Please note that English is the working language of this event.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

The 4th basement level of the underground parking at the International Environment House will be available.