

Briefing for Geneva Permanent Missions  
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# Preparations for mercury INC2

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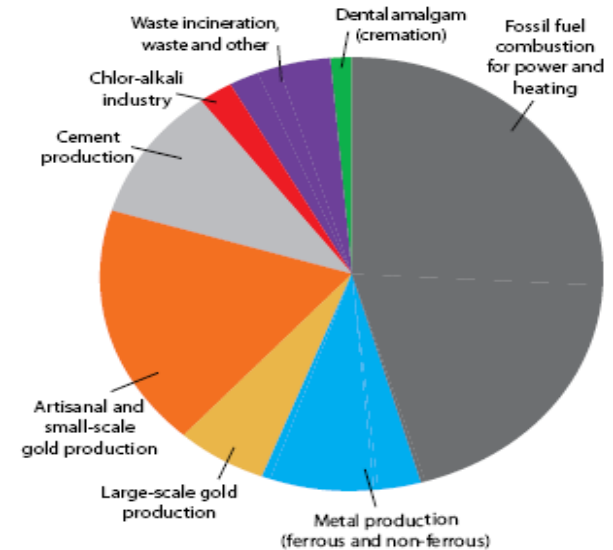


A vertical strip of seven images on the left side of the slide, all in a reddish-brown tint. From top to bottom: 1. A small plant growing from a pile of coins. 2. A row of wind turbines in a field. 3. A modern building facade. 4. A woman shopping in a supermarket. 5. A circular inset showing a person in a white lab coat. 6. A group of people sitting around a conference table. 7. A close-up of a patterned fabric.

**The second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally-binding instrument on mercury (INC2) will take place in Chiba, Japan, from 24 to 28 January 2011.**

# Context: mercury pollution as a global issue

*Mercury is released from various sources throughout the world, and can be transported great distances through air and oceans, crossing national borders, cycling globally, persisting in air, water and soils, adversely impacting human health and the environment.*



Many humans/wildlife are at risk due to consumption of contaminated fish and exposure through industrial emissions, artisanal mining and other occupations, cosmetics, spills, ritualistic uses.

Less-developed regions can be more impacted because of a growing energy demand, poor waste treatment facilities, artisanal gold mining activity, etc.

**Mercury - a global issue to be addressed at international level – 2 parallel paths:**

- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership including ongoing interim activities
- Development of a global legally binding instrument

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# Context: launch of treaty negotiations

- Governments debated for some years in UNEP Governing Council whether a legally-binding approach was needed to address mercury issues.
- Key milestones included UNEP's 2002 Global Mercury Assessment and the initiation of (continuing) voluntary “partnerships” focusing on specific aspects.
- In February 2009, Governing Council agreed in its decision 25/5 to launch negotiations for a legally-binding instrument to be completed by 2013.
- A preparatory meeting of an open-ended working group was held in Bangkok in October 2009.
- The intergovernmental negotiating committee met for the first time in Stockholm from 7 to 11 June 2010.

# Context: INC1

## INC1, Stockholm, 7-11 June 2010

Almost 450 delegates, including from 120 Governments and 80 NGOs representing business & industry, environmental and public health groups, indigenous populations, research and academic institutes...



### ➤ Chair : Mr. Fernando Lugris, Uruguay

### ➤ Bureau:

- ❖ Africa: Oumar Diaoure Cissé (Mali) & Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria)
- ❖ Asia & Pacific: Yingxian Xia (China) & Mohammed Kashashneh (Jordan)
- ❖ Central & Eastern Europe: Katerina Sebkova (Czech Republic) & Vladimir Lenev (Russian Fed.)
- ❖ Latin America & Caribbean: Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) & Fernando Lugris (Uruguay)
- ❖ Western Europe & Others: Nina Cromnier (Sweden) & John Thompson (USA)

# Context: INC1

- **Preliminary discussion of all issues in UNEP GC mandate:**

- objectives
- supply and storage
- demand for mercury in products and processes
- international trade
- atmospheric emissions
- waste and contaminated sites
- awareness-raising and scientific information exchange
- capacity-building, technical and financial assistance

- **Secretariat to undertake significant intersessional work for INC2,** including the drafting of “elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury”

# Context: tentative timetable for negotiations

- **INC1**      **7 – 11 June 2010, Stockholm, Sweden**
- **INC 2**      **24 - 28 January 2011, Chiba, Japan**
- **INC 3**      **31 Oct. - 4 Nov. 2011, Burkina Faso or Kenya (tbc)**
- **INC 4**      **18-22 June 2012, Uruguay (tbc)**
- **INC 5**      **4-8 February 2013, Switzerland or Brazil (tbc)**
- **DipCon**    **mid-2013, Japan**

# INC2 expectations

- **Chair's approach set out in scenario note, UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/2**
- **Intensive negotiations expected to commence, *probably* based on the “draft elements paper” prepared by the secretariat**
- **Presentation of the “paragraph 29 study” on the various types of mercury-emitting sources**
- **Intention to work in plenary to the extent possible, but envisaged:  
Legal group to be established at INC2  
Other contact groups on specific issues to be established as needed, with time-limited mandates**
- **African regional meeting on Saturday. Technical briefings, other regional meetings and NGO event on Sunday.**





## INC2 expectations: the elements paper (1)

- The secretariat has prepared the elements paper [UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3] based on an earlier compilation of options, discussions at INC1 and subsequent submissions and consultations.
- The paper proposes a single possible package of approaches as a starting point for discussion, recognizing that it will be extensively adjusted in the course of the negotiations.
- Alternative approaches are acknowledged in the commentary included in the paper.
- Key underlying principles include:
  - Flexibility/non-prescriptiveness;
  - Provision for transition arrangements;
  - Deferral of some issues to the future COP.

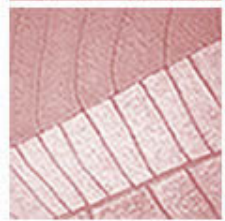
## INC2 expectations: the elements paper (2)

**Highlights of the approaches proposed in the elements paper include:**

- **Restrictions on supply of mercury from primary mining and other specified sources;**
- **Requirement for environmentally sound storage but details left to COP1;**
- **Trade restrictions, including PIC procedure;**
- **“Positive list” to control use of mercury in products and processes, plus measures for artisanal small-scale gold mining;**
- **Air emissions BAT/BEP for all. Self-set reduction targets for big emitters;**
- **Cooperation with Basel Convention on wastes;**
- **Exemptions system to facilitate transition;**
- **Financial mechanism coupled with implementation committee.**

## INC2 expectations: key papers

- *Key papers include:*  
[UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/...]
- 1/Add.1: annotated provisional agenda;
- 2: scenario note
- 3: elements
- 4: “para 29” emissions study
- 13: options for regulating mercury in products
- 16: relationship with Basel



**For further information please visit us at:**

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