

Informal consultations in follow-up to the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on a global legally binding instrument on mercury, 31 January to 1 February 2012

Meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, 2 February 2012

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE -
Intersessional work requested by the
intergovernmental negotiating committee at its third session**

Mandate for the intersessional work, including an expert group meeting

1. The intergovernmental negotiating committee requested that the co-chairs of the contact group on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance, with the support of the secretariat, would prepare a proposal for articles 15 and 16 of the draft text, consisting of a conceptual approach followed by possible text. The proposal would take into account the views expressed by parties at the third session and views submitted in writing to the secretariat by 31 December 2011. Parties were encouraged to focus their submissions, which would be posted on the UNEP mercury programme website, on new approaches. The proposal would also take into account the possible approaches to financial mechanisms set out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.3/4 and the outcomes of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

2. In preparing the proposal the co-chairs would benefit from a meeting of experts who would take into account the submissions and provide advice to the co-chairs on the development of the proposal. The meeting would be chaired by the co-chairs and would be attended by experts from each of the five United Nations regional groups as follows: three from Africa, five from Asia and the Pacific, two from Central and Eastern Europe, three from Latin America and the Caribbean and six from the Western European and other States. The meeting would be supported by the presence of the Chair of the committee and assisted by the secretariat. By 15 December 2011, the regions would nominate their experts for the meeting through their Bureau members. The outcome of the meeting would be a co-chairs' document, which would be circulated to all parties for their consideration at the fourth session.

Meeting preparations so far

3. In follow-up to the third session of the committee, the secretariat wrote to all Governments calling for submission of further views on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance. Governments were encouraged to focus their submissions on new approaches. The letter (dated 15 November 2011) was sent electronically to the SAICM national focal point of each Government and copied electronically to all Government participants at the third session. It requested that any views be submitted in writing to the secretariat by 31 December 2011.

4. All submitted information has been made available on the mercury negotiations webpage and will be taken into account when preparing the meeting document setting out a proposal for articles 15 and 16 of the draft text. Submissions have so far (as of 23 January 2012) been received from the following Governments: Algeria, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey.

5. Furthermore, a letter (dated 23 November 2011) was sent to the INC bureau members requesting their assistance in facilitating the nomination of and submitting the names and contact information by 15 December 2011 for the experts that would represent their region at the intersessional experts meeting on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance.

6. Nominations of experts have been received as follows:

Africa region

- Mr. Serge Molly (Gabon)
- Ms. Elise Haber (South Africa) (Alternate – Ms. Aisha Mahmood - Nigeria)
- Mr. Jamidu Katima (Tanzania)

Asia and the Pacific region

- Mr. Xia Yingxian (China)
- Mr. Rajiv Gauba (India)
- Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu (Japan)
- Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)
- Mr. Che Kodir Baharum (Malaysia)

Central and Eastern Europe region

- Ms. Irina Zastenskaya (Belarus)
- Mr. Zoltan Palotai (Hungary)

Latin America and the Caribbean region

- Mr. Fernando de Azevedo Silva Perdigão (Brazil)
- Ms. Giovanna Valverde Stark (Costa Rica)
- Mr. Dámaso Luna (Mexico)

Western Europe and other States

- Mr. Greg Filyk (Canada)
- Ms. Mona Westergaard (Denmark)
- Ms. Jill Hanna (European Commission)
- Mr. Henrik Eriksen (Norway)
- Mr. Chris Whaley (United Kingdom)
- Ms. Sezaneh Seymour (United States)

Meeting venue and timing

7. The expert meeting would be chaired by the co-chairs of the contact group on financial resources and technical and implementation assistance, Mr. Adel Shafei Osman (Egypt) and Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden) and attended by the 19 nominated experts listed in the section above. It would be supported by the presence of the Chair of the committee, Mr. Fernando Lugris, and assisted by the secretariat.

8. The Government of Hungary has offered to host the meeting, and the secretariat is currently considering possible venues together with the host Government. The meeting, expected to be convened over 3 days, is tentatively scheduled for 11 to 13 April 2012.

9. The outcome document of the expert group meeting must be finalized for submission to UNON Conference services for processing by 23 April 2012 at the very latest, in order to ensure its availability in accordance with the 6 week deadline for the fourth session. Should there be regional consultations organized in advance of the fourth session, the secretariat would also, as far as possible, aim to ensure that the outcome document is available in the languages needed for each consultation.

Possible approach

10. The co-chairs of the planned expert group meeting will present their proposal through a thought starter for the approach to the intersessional work and the documents to be prepared for the expert group meeting during the informal consultations, in order to allow discussion and feedback from bureau members and other participants. The thought starter would set out the proposed process and timing, meeting documents needed and anticipated outcome.