



Distr.: General
5 September 2017

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
First meeting**

Geneva, 24–29 September 2017

Item 5 (c) (iii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for action by the Conference of the Parties at
its first meeting: matters recommended by the
intergovernmental negotiating committee: physical
location of the permanent secretariat**

**Physical location of the permanent secretariat of the Minamata
Convention on Mercury**

Note by the secretariat

1. In paragraph 9 of its resolution on arrangements in the interim period (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex I), the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury requested

“the Executive Director [of the United Nations Environment Programme] to present and the Committee to consider, before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on proposals on how he or she will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention, including an analysis of options that, inter alia, addresses effectiveness, cost-benefit, different locations for the secretariat, merging the secretariat with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and utilizing the interim secretariat”.

2. As requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the Executive Director, through the interim secretariat and in close consultation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, prepared for consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee at its seventh session a report on proposals on how the Executive Director would perform the functions of the permanent secretariat of the Convention.

3. The Executive Director’s report, as originally presented to the intergovernmental negotiating committee at its seventh session (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.7/15) and as revised for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/MC/COP.1/14), identifies six locations that could be considered for the permanent secretariat of the Minamata Convention: Bangkok; Geneva; Nairobi; Osaka, Japan; Vienna; and Washington, D.C.

* UNEP/MC/COP.1/1.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the location of the permanent secretariat and adopt a decision along the lines of the draft decision set out in the annex to the present note.

Annex**Draft decision MC-1/[XX]: Physical location of the permanent secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

The Conference of the Parties

Decides to recommend to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme that the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury be located in [Bangkok] [Geneva] [Nairobi] [Osaka, Japan] [Vienna] [Washington, D.C].
