



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

No time to waste

International expert group meeting on Hg waste
management, 10-11 September 18, Vienna



NO TIME TO WASTE:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

International expert group
meeting on the sustainable
management of mercury
waste

Funded by
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coordination with
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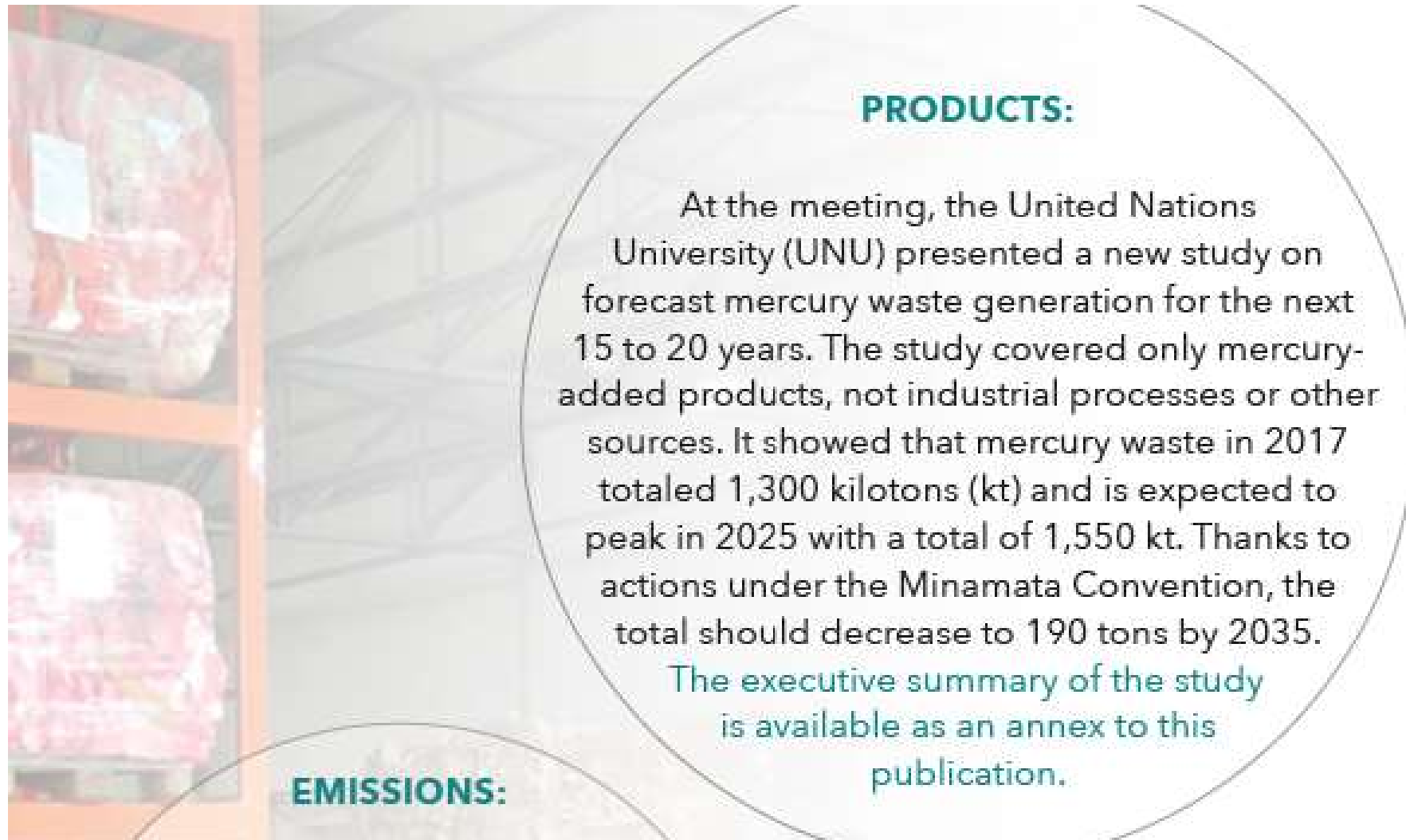


Objective and who was there

- **More than 75 participants** from the private sector, Member States, international organizations, academia, regional organizations and civil society
- The discussions had three aims:
 - to present the **current status of mercury waste management**;
 - to facilitate **an exchange of knowledge and technology transfer** between stakeholders;
 - to begin to **build a roadmap** for an integrated approach to mercury waste management.
- This meeting is **part of a much larger conversation**. It is intended to **complement discussions that are already occurring** as part of the Global Mercury Partnership, the Basel Convention and the Minamata Convention.
- **Back to back arrangement** with the OEWG Basel Convention and Global mercury partnership waste management area meeting



Scene setting



PRODUCTS:

At the meeting, the United Nations University (UNU) presented a new study on forecast mercury waste generation for the next 15 to 20 years. The study covered only mercury-added products, not industrial processes or other sources. It showed that mercury waste in 2017 totaled 1,300 kilotons (kt) and is expected to peak in 2025 with a total of 1,550 kt. Thanks to actions under the Minamata Convention, the total should decrease to 190 tons by 2035.

The executive summary of the study is available as an annex to this publication.

EMISSIONS:



Scene setting

EMISSIONS:

If mercury waste is not dealt with in an environmentally sound manner, it can lead to releases of mercury into the environment. In 2015, it was estimated that over 160 tons of mercury were emitted. This is around 7.5 per cent of the total global mercury emissions of approximately 2,220 tons (UN Environment, Global Mercury Assessment, 2018).

is available as an annex to this publication.

MERCURY SUPPLY:





Scene setting

(UN Environment, Global Mercury Assessment, 2018).

MERCURY SUPPLY:

The second largest source of mercury supply is from product and waste recycling. In 2015, the amount of recycled mercury made available to the commercial sector was estimated to be 1,040 to 1,410 tons (UN Environment, Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand, 2017).



Scene setting

- Relevant international regulations and guidance under the Minamata and Basel Convention presented by the Secretariats
- Perspectives from governments (Costa Rica, Vietnam, Nigeria) and a number waste management companies (Batrec, CEBU Common treatment facility, BMT, ECON, K&S, Lamps for your, Mayasa, Nomura Kohsan, Reclite, Remondis QR)



3 Key topics

The meeting covered three key topics:

- 1. interim disposal**
- 2. mercury waste treatment and**
- 3. final disposal**





Conclusions - What we found

- **Prevention** remains the key issue. If we do not generate waste, we do not need to manage it. **Product design** is also a major factor to avoid the use of hazardous components.
- **The current situation** sees many challenges in developing countries and economies in transition, where a **lack of appropriate infrastructure and systems** for environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous waste creates obstacles.
- Technology is available for treatment, but this technology is mostly applicable for developed countries. **We need to find solutions for developing countries and economies in transition.** This might mean local solutions.
- **Strengthening public-private partnerships (PPP)** is crucial for successful mercury waste management. This is not only because of **access to technology** from the private sector, but also because of **the cooperation required for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** schemes.



Conclusions - What we found

- **A regional approach** is useful for most situations, but the specific circumstances of each case must be considered.
- Likewise, **an integrated approach** – where mercury waste is considered along with other hazardous wastes – is likely to be useful, depending on specific conditions.
- **Appropriate funding and business models** are important, particularly for developing countries, both for local and regional solutions as well as to ensure the sustainability of integrated approaches to hazardous waste management.
- For the future, **pilot projects** could be developed to **test regional and integrated approaches**.



No time to waste

More detailed information about the expert group meeting in our publication and as well in UNU study on mercury waste estimation.

The UNU study on mercury waste forecast will be presented at a side event on Wednesday at 14:00.

www.unido.org/mercury