



Distr.: General
18 August 2014
Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Intergovernmental negotiating committee
to prepare a global legally binding instrument
on mercury
Sixth session**

Bangkok, 3–7 November 2014

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Work to prepare for the entry into force of the Minamata
Convention on Mercury and for the first meeting of the
Conference of the Parties: activities to facilitate rapid entry
into force of the Convention and its effective implementation
upon entry into force**

**Initial information on sources of releases and methodology for the
development of inventories**

Note by the secretariat

1. Article 9 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury provides, in paragraph 3, that each party “shall, no later than three years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it and on a regular basis thereafter, identify the relevant point source categories” of releases. Paragraph 2 of article 9 defines “relevant sources” as “any significant anthropogenic point source of release as identified by a Party that is not addressed in other provisions of this Convention”.
2. Paragraph 6 of article 9 also provides that each party shall establish, as soon as practicable and no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, and maintain thereafter, an inventory of releases from relevant sources.
3. Paragraph 7 of article 9 provides that the Conference of the Parties “shall, as soon as practicable, adopt guidance on ... the methodology for preparing inventories of releases”.
4. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries requested the intergovernmental negotiating committee “to support, as practicable and consistent with the priorities in the Convention, those activities required or encouraged by the Convention” that would “facilitate the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon entry into force, including guidance ... on the identification of sources of releases and the methodology for preparing inventories of releases.”

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.6/1.

5. Methodologies for the preparation of inventories of emissions are under consideration by the group of technical experts established by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, in its resolution on arrangements in the interim period, to develop the guidance called for in article 8 of the Convention. One of the methodologies under consideration is the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases, produced by the United Nations Environment Programme. The toolkit addresses both emissions and releases, covering a broad range of sources, to allow an assessment of the full scope of the mercury challenge. For each source, the mercury released into land and water, as well as the mercury emitted into the air, can be determined. The use of the toolkit may thus provide a mechanism for a party to identify any relevant source categories, as well as to develop the inventory of releases from relevant sources.

6. The committee may wish to defer consideration of a recommended methodology for the identification of relevant sources and the preparation of inventories of releases from such sources pending progress by the group of technical experts in its assessment of methodologies for inventory development.
