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

Geneva, 24–29 September 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Matters stipulated by the Convention for action by the
Conference of the Parties**

**Matters for action by the Conference of the Parties under
articles 3, 4, 5, 14 and 16 of the Minamata Convention on
Mercury**

Note by the secretariat

1. The Minamata Convention on Mercury provides that the Conference of the Parties shall take action on specific issues under article 3 (mercury supply sources and trade), article 4 (mercury-added products), article 5 (manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used), article 14 (capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer) and article 16 (health aspects).

I. Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

2. Paragraph 13 of article 3 of the Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate whether the trade in specific mercury compounds compromises the objective of the Convention, and consider whether specific mercury compounds should, by their listing in an additional annex to the convention, be made subject to paragraphs 6 and 8 of article 3.

3. A report on trade in mercury and mercury compounds was developed in 2006 and provided to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. A new report has been under preparation since 2016 to assess current levels of trade. The report will provide an indication of whether there is significant trade in specific mercury compounds.

II. Article 4: Mercury-added products

4. Paragraph 8 of article 4 of the Convention provides that, no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall review Annex A and may consider amendments to that annex. Paragraph 4 of article 4 provides that the secretariat shall, on the basis of information provided by parties, collect and maintain information on mercury-added products and their alternatives and make such information publicly available.

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5. Paragraph 2 of article 4 of the Convention provides that no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, as part of the review process under paragraph 8, shall review the progress and the effectiveness of the measures taken under paragraph 2 of this article, relating to the measures and strategies taken by a party in relation to reduction of use of products listed in annex A.

III. Article 5: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

6. Paragraph 10 of article 5 of the Convention provides that, no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall review Annex B and may consider amendments to that annex. Paragraph 4 of article 5 provides that the secretariat shall, on the basis of information provided by parties, collect and maintain information on processes that use mercury or mercury compounds and their alternatives and make such information publicly available.

IV. Article 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

7. Paragraph 4 of article 14 provides that the Conference of the Parties shall, by its second meeting and thereafter on a regular basis, and taking into account submissions and reports from parties including those provided for in article 21 and information provided by other stakeholders:

- (a) Consider information on existing initiatives and progress made in relation to alternative technologies;
- (b) Consider the needs of parties, particularly developing-country parties, for alternative technologies;
- (c) Identify challenges experienced by parties, particularly developing-country parties, in technology transfer.

V. Article 16: Health aspects

8. Paragraph 2 of article 16 provides that the Conference of the Parties, in considering health-related issues or activities, should:

- (a) Consult and collaborate with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate;
- (b) Promote cooperation and exchange of information with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate.

9. During the period prior to the Convention's entry into force, the interim secretariat has worked closely with the World Health Organization on matters related to public health, in particular the development of a public health strategy on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, as well as the provision of advice to Governments on transitioning to mercury-free equipment in the health-care sector. The World Health Organization has also provided information related to the identification of vulnerable populations, as well as advice on the consumption of fish.

VI. Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

10. The meeting may wish to consider the following actions in relation to these articles:

- (a) For article 3, the Conference of the Parties may wish to re-examine the issue of trade in mercury compounds at a future meeting and request the secretariat to inform the Conference of the Parties if it becomes aware of any issues in relation to such trade;
- (b) For articles 4 and 5, the Conference of the Parties may wish to request the secretariat to compile information provided by parties, including information relating to measures taken by parties in relation to paragraph 2 of article 4, and prepare a report regarding the possible inclusion of additional mercury-added products in Annex A and additional manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used in Annex B to the Convention, and on the implementation of paragraph 2 of article 4, and to present it to the Conference of the Parties for review at its third session;

(c) For article 14, the Conference of the Parties may wish to request the secretariat to request submissions and reports from parties and other stakeholders on issues relating to existing initiatives and progress made in relation to alternative technologies; on the needs of parties, particularly developing-country parties, for alternative technologies; and on challenges experienced by parties, particularly developing-country parties, in technology transfer, and to present the information received to the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting for its consideration;

(d) For article 16, the Conference of the Parties may wish to request the secretariat to continue working in cooperation and collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization and to ensure that any list of health-related issues presented to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration is developed in a collaborative manner.
