



**United Nations
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**Intergovernmental negotiating committee
to prepare a global legally binding instrument
on mercury**

Second session

Chiba, Japan, 24–28 January 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Preparations for a global legally binding instrument on mercury

**Inventory of projects completed or under way in each country
relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including
awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization and
financial assistance projects**

Note by the secretariat

1. At its first session, held from 7 to 11 June 2010, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury requested the secretariat to prepare an inventory of projects completed or under way in each country relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, including awareness-raising, technical assistance, formalization and financial assistance projects.
2. Following the committee's first session, the secretariat requested all Governments to submit available information on projects either under way within their territories, or supported by their development cooperation programmes, in relation to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and requested the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership area under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership to provide the information requested.
3. In responding to this request, the partnership area leads used an inventory of partner projects developed in August 2009 as a starting point. They also sought further information through teleconferences, direct requests to key partners such as the Communities and Small-Scale Mining Initiative and a call for information on the "ecominerals" electronic discussion forum. To give countries alternative means of providing input regarding projects, UNEP made the inventory publicly available on its website, accompanied by a request for updated information, and hosted an artisanal and small-scale gold mining electronic discussion on Monday, 27 September 2010, through its Chemical Information Exchange Network.
4. The inventory has been updated based on input received and is available from: www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/tabid/434/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/1.

5. The inventory reflects both current and selected recently completed projects on artisanal and small-scale gold mining in all three regions where mercury is used extensively in such mining (Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa). As it stands, the inventory reflects a broad range of activities pertaining to the complex technical, legal and financial issues associated with artisanal and small-scale gold mining, from the drafting of related legislation in Mongolia, to the field-testing of mercury-capture technologies in Latin America, to developing standards for what is known as “fair traded, fair mined” gold from artisanal and small-scale miners. As the partnership area encounters additional information about relevant projects, the inventory will be updated accordingly.
6. Countries are invited to make further submissions, in addition to any corrections that they may deem necessary, to ensure that the inventory remains as up to date and complete as possible. Such information should be submitted to the partnership area co-leads, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Natural Resources Defense Council via the e-mail address mercury@unep.org.
7. The committee may wish to take note of the extent of activities currently under way on artisanal and small-scale gold mining within the scope of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, and to consider how such activities may best be reflected within the negotiations for a global legally binding instrument.
