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**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 proposal for guidance and assistance to countries with
artisanal and small-scale gold mining in the development of
national plans**

Note by the secretariat

1. In paragraph 3 (a) of article 7, the Minamata Convention on Mercury provides that each party that has notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory are more than insignificant shall develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C to the Convention.
2. Activities aimed at addressing major concerns relating to artisanal and small-scale gold mining have been under way for many years, led initially by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the current co-lead of the relevant partnership area under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership. Guidance has been developed within the scope of the partnership area which addresses many of the key areas outlined for action in Annex C to the Convention. A guidance document on the development of a national strategic plan has been developed by the Partnership and revised on the basis of experience in its usage.¹ It has been developed with the intention of addressing artisanal and small-scale gold mining in a holistic manner and includes a review of legal, educational, economic, regulatory and enforcement frameworks, and provides guidance on developing budgets and workplans and identifying potential sources of funding and partners.
3. In its resolution on arrangements in the interim period (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex I), 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

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

¹ *Guidance Document: Developing a National Strategic Plan to Reduce Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining*, available at www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/NationalStrategicPlan/tabid/53985/Default.aspx.

encouraged by the Convention that will facilitate the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon entry into force, including in particular guidance and assistance to countries with artisanal and small-scale gold mining in developing their national action plans.

4. The committee may wish to consider whether the guidance developed under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership could serve as the basis for guidance on the development of a national action plan on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and to request the secretariat, in cooperation with the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership area of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, to revise the guidance document as required to address all areas set out in Annex C to the Convention, for further consideration by the committee at its seventh session.
