



Distr.: General

12 July 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 (a) 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: items necessary for the  
effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry  
into force**

**Proposal on the register of exemptions to be maintained by the  
secretariat, including information on the maintenance of  
information supplied by States and regional economic  
integration organizations upon becoming parties**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 1 of article 6, the Minamata Convention on Mercury provides that any State or regional economic integration organization may register for one or more exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in Annex A and Annex B by notifying the secretariat in writing. It further provides, in paragraph 3 of article 6, that each party that has one or more exemptions shall be identified in a register and that the secretariat shall establish and maintain the register and make it available to the public. In paragraph 4, it provides that the register shall include:

- (a) A list of the parties that have one or more exemptions;
- (b) The exemption or exemptions registered for each party;
- (c) The expiration date of each exemption.

2. In preparing a proposal for the register of exemptions for the Minamata Convention, the secretariat took note of the format for the register of specific exemptions developed for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.<sup>1</sup> That format is set out in annex I to the present note. It should be noted that the register of exemptions under the Stockholm Convention includes additional information on the estimated quantity of annual production or use for each substance, which is not required under the Minamata Convention.

3. The secretariat has developed a proposed format for the register of exemptions for the Minamata Convention (see annex II). The secretariat suggests that the register of exemptions be posted on the Convention website ([www.mercuryconvention.org](http://www.mercuryconvention.org)), in the same location as that in which it

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

<sup>1</sup> The format was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by its decision SC-1/23.

publishes other information provided by States or regional economic integration organizations on becoming parties to the Convention.

4. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 1, on arrangements in the interim period, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention decided that the intergovernmental negotiating committee should develop, and adopt on a provisional basis pending decision by the Conference of the Parties, those items necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry into force, including in particular the register of exemptions to be maintained by the secretariat.

5. The committee may wish to consider the proposed format for the register of exemptions and to adopt it on a provisional basis, pending formal adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. This will allow use of the register, on a provisional basis, during the period from entry into force of the Convention until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Annex I

### Format used by the Stockholm Convention for the register of specific exemptions

The current status of the register may be viewed at the following page on the Convention website: <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/RegisterofSpecificExemptions/tabid/1133/Default.aspx>.

#### Format for the register of specific exemptions (decision SC-1/23, annex)

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Specific exemption</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Expiry date</i>	<i>Estimated quantity of production/use</i>	<i>Purpose(s) of production/use</i>	<i>Reason(s) for exemption</i>	<i>Remarks<sup>a</sup></i>
			(Country name)	(Date)				
			(Country name)	(Date)				

<sup>a</sup> The remarks column may be used to specify further limitations on the scope of the specific exemptions to be applied by the Party (e.g., area, timing and techniques of applications as well as target organisms in the case of pesticides); expected emissions from production; whether intermediates are to be further processed on- or off-site; degree of purity of the chemical with type of impurities; and the number of extensions to the specific exemption that have been granted to a particular party.

## Annex II

### Proposed format for the register of exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in Annex A and Annex B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

<i>Party</i>	<i>Specific category/ subcategory in Annex A or Annex B for which an exemption is registered</i>	<i>Reason(s) for exemption</i>	<i>Expiry date for the exemption(s)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Remarks</i>

<sup>a</sup> Note that, unless a shorter period is indicated by a Party, all exemptions expire five years after the relevant phase-out date listed in Annex A or B.