Mercury: mining in the global context

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Why mercury?

Global concern...

- atmospheric transport
- environmental residence
- bio-accumulation
- adverse effects on human health and the environment

The most cost-effective approach is to tackle at source
UNEP Global Mercury Programme:
A twin track approach

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

UNEP GC decisions

Global Hg assessments

Global Mercury Partnership

Negotiating a global treaty

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee:
> 125 Governments
> 500 participants including observers: UN agencies, civil society, academia, industry

Substantive articles reflect mandate and principles set out by UNEP Governing Council:

C. Supply
D. International trade in mercury
E. Products and processes
F. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
G. Emissions and releases
H. Storage, wastes and contaminated sites
I. Financial resources and technical and assistance
J. Awareness, research, monitoring, communication

Chair of the INC has been entrusted to prepare a draft treaty text for consideration at INC 5

Entry into force?

GC = Governing Council
OEWG = Open-ended working group

2001-2008
2009-2013
2014-2017
2018 onwards

INC1 Sweden
INC2 Japan
INC3 Kenya
INC4 Uruguay
INC5 Geneva
Article 2. Definitions (i)

“Primary mercury mining” means mining in which the principal material sought is mercury.

Article 3 paragraph 3

Each Party shall not allow primary mercury mining that was not being conducted within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for it.

Article 3 paragraph 4

Each Party with primary mercury mining within its territory prior to the date of entry into force of this Convention shall not allow the export, sale or distribution in commerce of mercury or mercury compounds produced from this supply source except for:

(a) Uses listed in Part II of Annex D; or

(b) Disposal in accordance with Article 13.
(a) Uses listed in Part II of Annex D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mercury-using process</th>
<th>Provisions of use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl chloride monomer production</td>
<td>Measures to be taken by the Parties shall include but not be limited to:</td>
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<td>(i) Promoting measures to reduce the use of mercury;</td>
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<td>(ii) Promoting measures to reduce the reliance on mercury from primary mining;</td>
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<td>(iii) Controlling emissions and releases pursuant to Articles 10 and 11;</td>
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<td>(iv) Supporting research and development in respect of mercury-free catalysts and</td>
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<td>processes;</td>
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<td>(v) Not allowing the use of mercury [five years] after the Conference of the</td>
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<td>Parties has established that alternatives have become globally accessible and</td>
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<td>socio-economically and technically feasible.</td>
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Mercury supply and demand

Short term effect:
- Reduced mercury supply
- Temporary increase in mercury price

Long term effect:
- Processes: Mercury-cell chlor-alkali, Acetylene-based VCM
- Overall decline in mercury demand
- Long term fall in mercury price

Supply > demand in all regions in the next few years
Supporting the Kyrgyz Republic:

- The State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry,
- The Osh Aarhus Environmental Information Centre

Support objective

UNEP and partners recognize:

- the importance of the mine for employment, to the community and its development;
- cessation of mining threatens livelihoods and the community;
- the need to identify and develop alternative economic activity as a priority
- to ensure an early transition to sustainable employment
Actions supporting the Kyrgyz Republic:

- Preliminary environmental and socio-economic assessments
- Assessment of remediation needs
- Action plan for further work
- Promoting alternative employment
  - Testing gold and other mineral deposits
  - Diversifying employment possibilities
- Raising awareness:
  - National Forum, Bishkek, July 2009
  - International Forum, Bangkok, Oct 2009
  - Partners meetings at INCs

Working together on chemicals management:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIS implementation</th>
<th>SAICM implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals</td>
<td>Development of a resource mobilization strategy for chemicals and wastes management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPFT)</td>
<td>Development of a national SAICM implementation plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>National partner: Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>Initial assessment of issues related to nanotechnology and manufactured nano materials</td>
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<td>Funded by Switzerland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National partner: State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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</table>
Working together on chemicals management:

UNEP Chemicals Mainstreaming Programme

LIRA Methodology
• LIRA: UNEP guidance on the development of legal and institutional infrastructures and sustainable financing options for the sound management of chemicals

Cost of Inaction Initiative
• Economic business case for investment in sound management of chemicals for sustainable development

Thank you for your attention

For more information contact:
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