



# Mercury: mining in the global context

David Piper  
Deputy Head  
UNEP Chemicals



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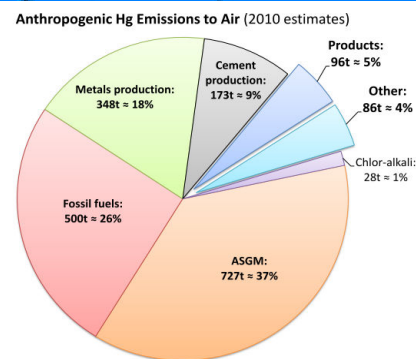
## Why mercury?

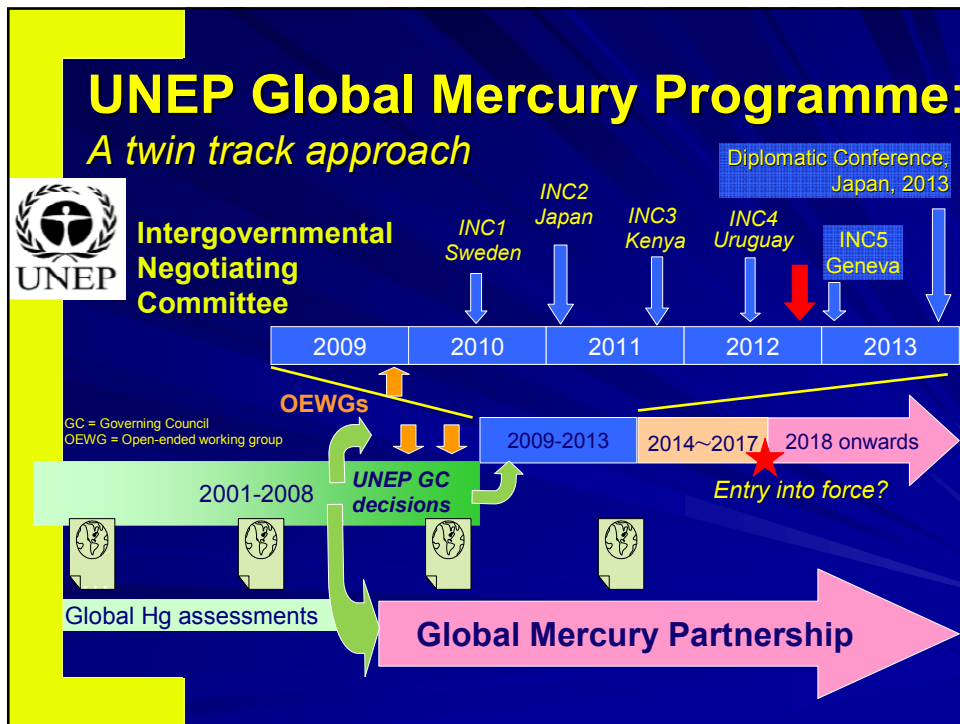
### Global concern...

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

The most cost-effective approach is to tackle at source

Source: Dastoo, A. and Davignon, D. (2008), Eds: Pirrone, N. and Mason, R. Interim Report of the UNEP Global 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

## Primary Mining: Proposed Convention Text



### 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.

## Primary Mining: Proposed Convention Text



### 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.

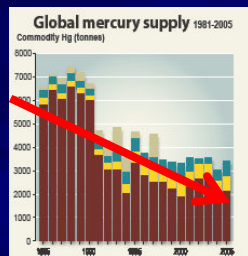
# Primary Mining: Proposed Convention Text



## (a) Uses listed in Part II of Annex D

Mercury-using process	Provisions of use
Vinyl chloride monomer production	<p>Measures to be taken by the Parties shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Promoting measures to reduce the use of mercury;</li> <li><b>(ii) Promoting measures to reduce the reliance on mercury from primary mining;</b></li> <li>(iii) Controlling emissions and releases pursuant to Articles 10 and 11;</li> <li>(iv) Supporting research and development in respect of mercury-free catalysts and processes;</li> <li>(v) Not allowing the use of mercury [five years] after the Conference of the Parties has established that alternatives have become globally accessible and socio-economically and technically feasible.</li> </ul>

# Mercury supply and demand



## Short term effect:



## Long term effect:

Demand/Consumption by Product Category (2007)	
Batteries	200 – 400 t
Dental use	250 – 350 t
Measuring devices	250 – 350 t
Switches and relays	100 – 200 t
Lighting	110 – 140 t

**Processes**  
Mercury-cell chlor-alkali  
Acetylene-based VCM



**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




<http://www.unep.org/hazardousubstances/>

## 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:



United Nations Institute for Training and Research

### UNITAR Chemicals and Waste Management Programme

#### GHS implementation

- GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
- Funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF)
- National partner: Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic

#### SAICM implementation

- Development of a resource mobilization strategy for chemicals and wastes management
- Development of a national SAICM implementation plan
- Initial assessment of issues related to nanotechnology and manufactured nano materials
- Funded by Switzerland
- National partner: State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic

## 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:

visit: <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/>

Or email

[metals.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:metals.chemicals@unep.org)

**David Piper**

Tel: +41 (0)22 917 83 45

E-mail: [david.piper@unep.org](mailto:david.piper@unep.org)

Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics,  
International Environment House 1, 11-13 Chemin des Anémones  
CH 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland