

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Agenda item 10

Adoption of the report

Chemicals management

Draft decision submitted by the contact group on chemicals

The annex to the present document contains text for a draft omnibus decision on chemicals management. The paragraph numbering used in the original draft considered by the contact group has been retained for ease of reference and is therefore not sequential. The numbering will be amended in the event that the Council/Forum adopts the decision. The draft decision has not been formally edited.

Annex

CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Preamble

Recalling its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003, 23/9 of 25 February 2005 and SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Acknowledging the widespread concerns over the serious adverse effects of mercury on human health and the environment and the urgent need for international action,

[REPLACE WITH NEW SAICM TEXT]

Noting the Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium developed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety held in Budapest from 25 to 29 September 2006, [

Expressing appreciation for the activities of the UNIDO GMP on Small Scale Gold Mining

Having considered the report of the ED on chemicals management contained in document UNEP/GC/ 24/7 and the associated documents.

Taking into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities as reflected in Rio Principle 7 in addition to the other relevant Rio Principle.

Cooperation between the UNEP , relevant MEAs and other organizations.

Reinforces the applicability of the decision GC 24 XXX t the effective management of chemicals.

Lead and Cadmium issues

1. Acknowledges the data and information gaps identified in the UNEP Interim Scientific Reviews on lead and cadmium and that further action is needed to fill these data and information gaps, taking into account the specific situation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition
2. *Encourages* efforts of Governments and others to reduce risks to human health and the environment of lead and cadmium throughout the whole life cycle;
3. Requests the ED to provide available information on lead and cadmium to address the data and information gaps identified in the Interim Reviews based and complete an inventory of existing risk management measures.

Mercury issues

4. *Acknowledges* the progress made within the UNEP mercury program since 2005, including the establishment of and progress made under several partnerships and other initiatives;
5. *Recognizes* that current efforts to reduce risks from mercury are not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury;

5 bis

Concludes therefore that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment. For this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue.

Pre-6 Recognizes that a range of activities are required to address the challenges posed by mercury, including substitution of products and technologies; technical assistance and capacity building; development of national policy and regulation; data collection,

research and information provision, bearing in mind the need to provide assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6 *Commits* to increased efforts to address the global challenges to reduce risks from releases of mercury, taking into account the following priorities:

- a) to reduce atmospheric mercury emissions from human sources;
- b) to find environmentally sound solutions for the management of waste containing mercury and mercury compounds
- c) to reduce the global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes;;
- d) to reduce global mercury supply, including considering curbing of primary mining and taking into account a hierarchy of sources; ,
- d) bis to find environmentally sound storage solutions for mercury
- d) ter to address , considering the result of the analysis as in 6 bis d, the remediation of existing contaminated sites affecting public and environmental health;
- e) to increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socio-economic impacts.

6 ter *Urges* Governments to gather information on means to reduce risk that may be caused by a supply of mercury, considering:

- a. Reduced reliance on primary mercury mining in favor of environmentally preferable sources of mercury such as that which has been recycled;
- b. Options and solutions for the long-term storage of mercury;
- c. Regional activities to improve data on imports and exports of mercury and enforcement of customs control through, for example, the Green Customs initiative and;
- d. The market and socio-economic effects of the activities contemplated above;

and to provide this information to the Executive Director.

6 quater *Urges* Governments to develop and analyse options to address the trade and supply of mercury, including considering environmentally sound storage and curbing primary mining , drawing on the UNEP report on mercury supply trade and demand (UNEP/GC/24/INF 16) and if requested for UNEP to provide technical support to to assist developing countries in this work.

and to provide this information to the ED.

6 bis *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report drawing on, inter alia, ongoing work in other for a addressing:

ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS

- a. Best available data on mercury emissions and trends including where possible an analysis by country, region and sector, including a consideration of factors driving these trends and the applicable regulatory mechanisms,
- b. Current results from modeling on global scale, the contribution of regional emissions to deposition which may result in adverse effects, or other information serving that purpose, and potential benefits from reducing such emissions, taking into account the efforts of the Fate and Transport partnership;
- c. An overview of sector based best practices for reducing mercury emissions, including costs where possible and an evaluation of emission reduction scenarios;

SITE BASED CONTAMINATION

d) an analysis, with input from governments and other relevant stakeholders, on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of the mercury compound releases from these sites an assessment of environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases.

6 hex *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate work between the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships, as appropriate:

- a) to improve global understanding of international mercury emissions sources, fate and transport;
- b) to promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and emissions;

8 *Urges* Governments and other stakeholders to continue and enhance their support of the UNEP Mercury Partnerships, through the provision of technical and financial resources, as a means to achieve reductions in demand for and releases of mercury and thereby reduce the risks to human health and the environment from mercury

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, working in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the UNEP Mercury Partnerships by:

- a. Developing an overarching framework for the UNEP Mercury partnership inter alia through organising a meeting of partners and other stakeholders, including
 - i. Development of business plans
 - ii. Identification of partnership goals
 - iii. Development of operational guidelines
- b. Expanding the number and scope of partnerships to include new, growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion;
- d. Enhancing the artisanal and small scale gold mining partnership through, inter alia, increased cooperation with UNIDO, exploration of innovative market-based approaches and disseminating alternative capture and recycling technologies;
- e. Endeavour to secure adequate funds for Global Mercury Partnership efforts.

11. *Decides, further*, to establish an ad hoc working group of Governments, regional economic integration organisations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments.

[12. Decides that an ad hoc open –ended working group will be guided by the priorities set out in paragraph 6

12bis. Adopts terms of reference for the AHOEWG:

- a) Consider the reports and information referred to in paragraphs 6bis-6 quarter of the present decision and a compilation by ED of other available relevant information;
- b) Examine for each of the priorities set out in paragraph 6:
 - i. The range of available response measures and strategies
 - ii. The feasibility and effectiveness of voluntary and legally binding approaches and
 - iii. Implementation options
 - iv. Costs and benefits of response measures and strategies
- c) Also examine, with respect to each of the response measures and strategies with respect to, inter alia, the following considerations:
 - i. The respective capacities and capabilities of developed and developing countries and countries with economies of transition
 - ii. The need for capacity building, technical assistance, technology transfer, and suitable sources of finance.

12 quint Invites Governments to consider convening national and regional preparatory workshops, including involvement of relevant stakeholders;

12 ter Decides that the AHOEWG shall

- a) meet twice, once before the UNEP 10th SS and once between the UNEP 10th SS and the GC 25
- b) Provide a progress report to the UNEP/SS and a final report reflecting all views expressed, presenting options and any consensus recommendations to the GC25

12 quarter Decides that, at its 10th SS may provide further guidance to the work of the AHOEWG

13. Decides to consider the outcomes of the AHOEWG at its 25th session, with a view to taking a decision on the final report.

PLACEMENT TO BE DETERMINED: - Requests the ED to compile other relevant information for consideration by the AHOEWG

14. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of this decision, in particular with regard to the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Ad Hoc Working Group;

15. *Asks* UNEP Chemicals to serve the Ad Hoc Working Group as secretariat and to prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.