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Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury
First meeting
Bangkok, 12–16 November 2007
Agenda item 4

**Review and assessment of options for enhanced voluntary measures
and new or existing international legal instruments**

Intersessional work

Submission by the contact group on intersessional work

The annex to the present document contains a submission from the contact group. It is presented as received and has not been formally edited by the Secretariat.

Annex

Interessional work

The secretariat is requested by the OEWG to undertake the following interessional work in preparation of the second meeting of the OEWG:

(a) In the context of financial considerations and the possible development of a new free-standing convention, of a new Protocol under the Stockholm Convention, and of voluntary arrangements, to provide information on:

1. the possible modalities to allow the Global Environment Facility to provide financial resources;
2. the elements of the structure of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, that could serve as a model; and
3. funding currently available through the GEF, SAICM and other funding arrangements for addressing mercury.

(b) On technology support, to provide information, based on experience with existing legally binding and voluntary arrangements, on how sustainable technology transfer and support could be facilitated for global mercury control actions.

(c) For the analysis of implementation options, to describe the process, including legal, procedural and logistical aspects, by which countries would pursue the options, using document OEWG.1/2 and the report of OEWG 1 as a starting point.

(d) In relation to the analysis and grouping of response measures, to organize response measures within each strategic objective according to the following clusters:

- inventories and knowledge building;
- targets and time tables;
- BAT/BEP and product standards/restrictions;
- Financial considerations and capacity building; and
- Technology transfer.

Response measures would be annotated to indicate those that can, in principle, be implemented at the national level¹ and those that would benefit from a coordinated international framework, whether through voluntary arrangements or legally binding instruments.

(e) On costs and benefits and for each of the strategic objectives, noting that there may be some instances where the assessment may be more appropriate at a sub-level or cluster of activities, to make a general qualitative assessment, such as small, medium, large or not applicable, of the potential costs and benefits associated with each of these objectives. This would take into account that the cost element would be based on the overall costs associated with implementing each strategic objective; and the benefits on the basis of the extent to which the strategy would reduce mercury related risk on a global basis and distinguish between local and global risk-reduction benefits.

In addition, the secretariat should gather and present any available information on the socioeconomic costs of continuing the status-quo.

(f) Regarding the analysis of sources, to undertake an assessment of whether projected demand could be met if primary mining was phased out and to provide, based on information that is available, a brief summary of major sources of mercury releases by country, or if unavailable, by region, using inter alia the atmospheric emission study, and covering the following areas: emissions from coal-fired power plants, industrial emissions (e.g., waste combustion, non-ferrous metals, cement production), artisanal gold mining use and emissions, and use of mercury in products and processes.

¹ Such indication would consider the capacity of countries to implement response measures.

(g) On the guidance on production, to prepare an updated paper on the major mercury containing products and processes that have effective substitutes, including information on the relative quantities of mercury used, and on experience in switching to non-mercury processes or products.

(h) On interim measures, to provide information on funding currently available through the GEF, SAICM and other funding arrangements to increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socioeconomic impacts
