

UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV (Mercury)

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Conclusion & Basic Actions

- (19, 34) .. sufficient evidence of ***significant global adverse impacts*** from mercury (Hg) and its compounds to warrant further international action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of Hg and its compounds into the environment
- (20) .. **national, regional & global actions (immediate & long-term) should be initiated ASAP** to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce or eliminate releases of Hg and its compounds

Actions for Governments (1/5)

- (21) All countries are **urged to adopt goals and to take national actions**, as appropriate, with the objective of:
 - identifying exposed populations & ecosystems
 - reducing anthropogenic Hg releases which affect human health & the environment
- (24) Urged to promote and improve **evaluation and risk communication methods**, based on *inter alia* guidance from the WHO & FAO, which enable citizens to make health-protective dietary choices, considering risk & benefit information, primarily concerning fish consumption

Actions for Governments (2/5)

- (25) Governments, private sector & IGOs to take immediate actions to reduce risks to human health & environment posed on a global scale by **Hg in products/production processes**, e.g.,
 - Considering application, and sharing of information on, **BAT and measures to reduce Hg emissions from point sources**
 - Taking action on reducing risk of exposure related to **Hg in products** (e.g., batteries) and to production processes (e.g., chlor-alkali facilities) through e.g., when warranted, introduction of bans or restrictions on uses
 - Considering **curbing primary production** and introduction into commerce of excess Hg supply

Actions for Governments (3/5)

- (26) Governments in a position to do so should **assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition**, through technology transfer, capacity-building and access to financial resources
- (27) Governments, IGOs, NGOs & private sector to **develop and implement partnerships**, in a clear, transparent and accountable manner, as one approach to reducing risks to human health and environment from releases of Hg and its compounds

Actions for Governments (4/5)

- (30) Governments, IGOs, NGOs and private sector are encouraged to **form a partnership to assist UNEP in mobilizing resources**
- (31) The development of **pilot partnerships** are encouraged to demonstrate early success, including by using, as appropriate, existing structures such as regional centres, and fostering collaboration by countries in and between regions

Actions for Governments (5/5)

- (33) Governments and stakeholders, especially in developed countries, and relevant IGOs within their respective mandates, to **mobilize technical and financial resources to work towards successful partnerships**, which assistance could include *inter alia* identification of best practices and transfer of appropriate technology
- (38) Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders are urged to **make contributions** in order to support the implementation of the Hg Programme

Actions for UNEP(1/5)

- (22) Develop further the Hg programme ... by initiating, preparing & making public **a report on supply, trade and demand information for Hg** (including artisanal and small-scale gold mining) and, based on a consideration of the life-cycle approach, submit a report for consideration of possible further actions in those areas for the consideration of GC24 (Feb/2007)
- (23) Develop further the Hg programme .. to **facilitate and conduct technical assistance and capacity-building activities** .. to support countries' efforts to take action on Hg pollution

Actions for UNEP(2/5)

- (28) Invite Governments (particularly of DCs and EITs) to **identify, in consultation with stakeholders, priority partnership areas ASAP:**
 - identify a set of pilot partnerships by 1 Sep/05
 - post information on the UNEP Hg web site, and
 - keep the web site current as additional partnerships are proposed & developed
- **Work with Governments and relevant stakeholders to:**
 - compile & report needs identified to execute partnerships
 - assist in mobilizing resources in support of partnerships
- **Share & disseminate information** submitted by partnerships on progress, lessons learned & emerging best practices (via UNEP Hg web site, other methods of communication) and report on results of those partnerships
- **Report on partnership programme** at SAICM PrepCom3 (Sep/05) & the SAICM ICCM (Feb/06)

Actions for UNEP(3/5)

- (29) **For each partnership** established under this decision, the following should be identified:
 - Goals
 - Process and timeline for development and implementation
 - Roles and responsibilities of partners, including identification of lead countries in particular areas (e.g., a developing and a developed country might share the lead role)
 - Mechanism to implement effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess and report on progress

Actions for UNEP(4/5)

- (32) **Facilitate** work between the UNEP Hg Programme and Governments, other IGOs, NGOs, private sector and the partnerships, to:
 - Improve global understanding of international Hg **emission sources, fate and transport**
 - Promote the development of **inventories** of Hg uses and releases
 - Promote the development of environmentally sound **disposal and remediation practices**
 - Increase awareness of environmentally sound **recycling practices**

Actions for UNEP(5/5)

- (36) **Report on progress** in implementing this decision to GC24 (Feb/07)
- (37) **GC24 to assess**, on the basis of this progress report, **the need for further action** on Hg, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions

UNEP Hg Web Site

- General Hg web site address:
 - <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>
- Hg Partnerships:
 - <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/default.htm>