

IX/15: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the important contribution of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes to the work on mercury being conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the contributions by the Chemicals Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme, Norway and the United States of America to capacity-building pilot projects in which the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes will be tested,

1. *Takes note* of the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes;¹
2. *Agrees* that the further development of the technical guidelines should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011;
3. *Invites* Parties and others to submit further comments on the draft technical guidelines to the Secretariat by 30 November 2008;
4. *Also invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country for developing the technical guidelines;
5. *Agrees* to establish a small intersessional working group, to be led by the lead country, if one is identified, or to be coordinated by the Secretariat, on the development of the technical guidelines, which shall work in particular by electronic means;
6. *Invites* countries and others to participate in the work of the small intersessional working group on the development of the technical guidelines and to inform the Secretariat of their participation by 30 October 2008;
7. *Requests* the lead country, if one is identified, or the Secretariat, subject to the availability of voluntary funding, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines, taking into account the comments received, by 30 April 2009 for publication on the Basel Convention website;
8. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the revised draft technical guidelines to the Secretariat by 30 September 2009;
9. *Requests* the lead country, if one is identified, or the Secretariat, subject to the availability of voluntary funding, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines, taking into account the comments received, by 31 January 2010, for publication on the Basel Convention website and for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;
10. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the revised draft technical guidelines to the Secretariat by 30 April 2010;
11. *Also invites* Parties and others to contribute financially and in kind towards the further development of the technical guidelines;
12. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on progress in developing the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

¹ UNEP/CHW.9/INF/24.