



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY



Minamata Convention on Mercury

Mercury – a global pollutant

2003 – Governments agree on the need for global action on mercury, based on its adverse health and environment effects and its long range transport in the environment

2007 – Governments agree to consider the need for a legally binding instrument to further address the mercury issue

2009 – Governments agree to negotiate a legally binding instrument on mercury and establish the INC.



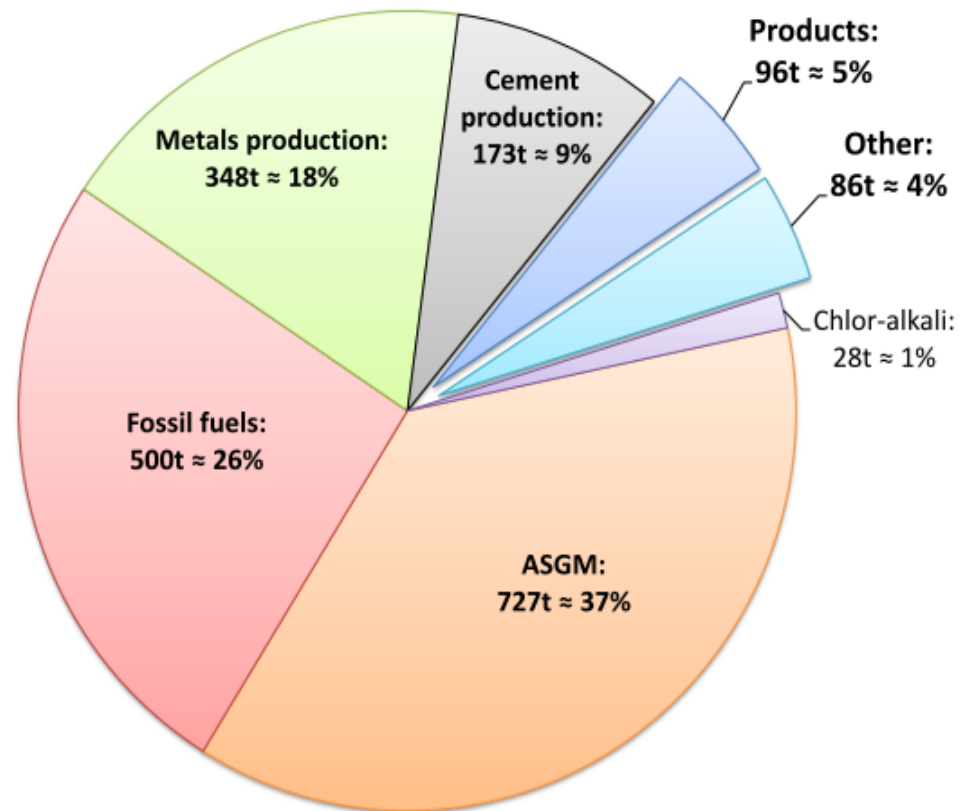
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Why mercury?

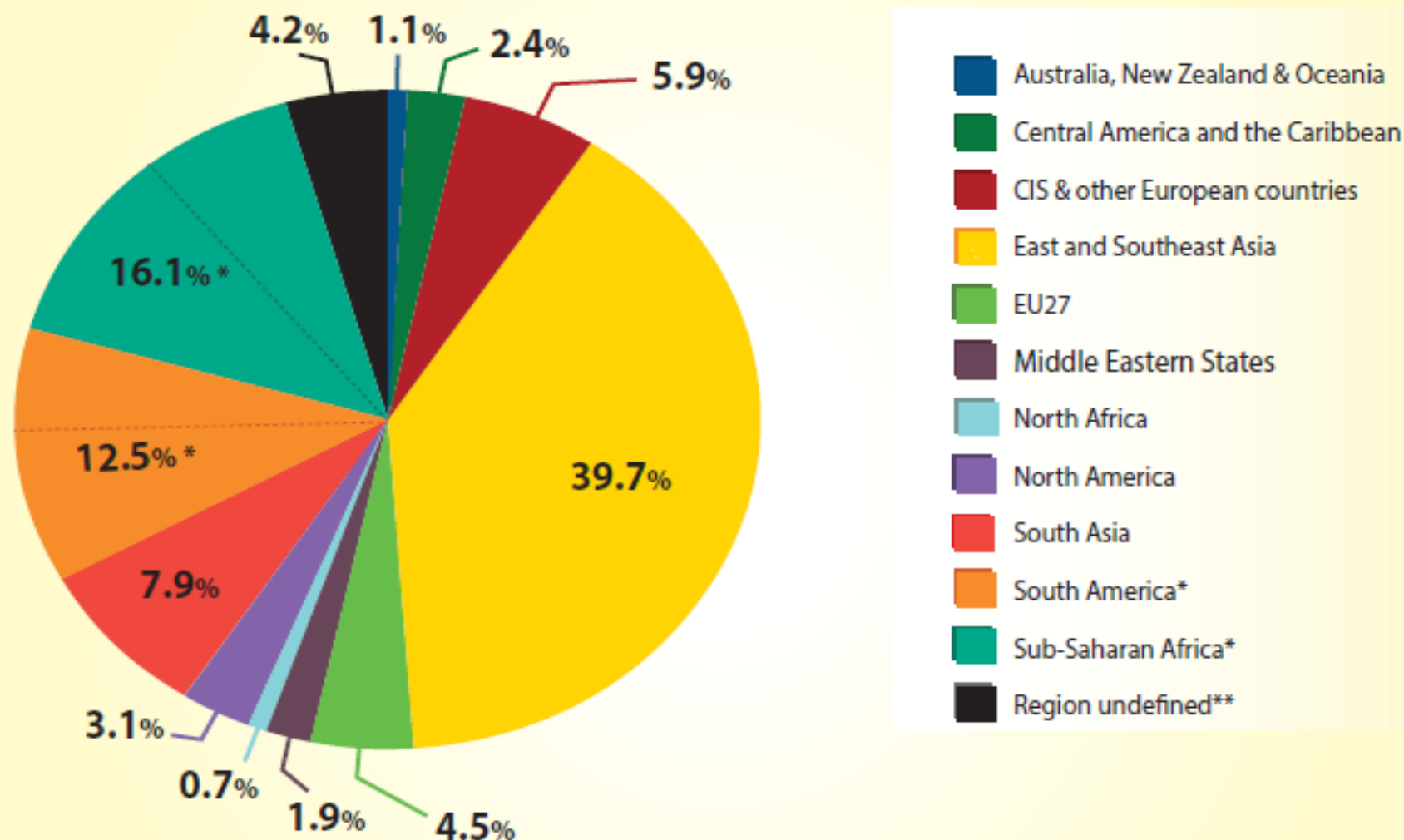
Global concerns because of:

- Atmospheric transport
- Bioaccumulation
- Effects on human health and the environment

Anthropogenic Hg Emissions to Air (2010 estimates)



Regional mercury emissions in 2010



* Artisanal and small-scale gold mining is by far the major contributor to mercury emissions in South America and Sub-Saharan Africa

** Emissions from contaminated sites.

Negotiating the Convention

- Negotiated between June 2010 and January 2013 over five INC meetings, held in
 - Stockholm (June 2010)
 - Chiba, Japan (January 2011)
 - Nairobi (November 2011)
 - Punta del Este, Uruguay (June 2012)
 - Geneva (January 2013)
- Adopted and opened for signature in October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan
- Currently 128 signatories and 32 Parties



Highlights of the Convention

- Preamble – sets background for Convention, establishes previous relevant decision, cooperative actions
- Objective – to protect human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury
- Definitions – sets out definitions used in more than one Article of the Convention. Some articles include definitions specific to that article



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Highlights of the Convention

- Articles can be divided into four main categories:
 - Substantive - describe the obligations on Parties which will reduce anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment;
 - Support to Parties – Financial resources, capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, implementation and compliance committee;
 - Information and awareness raising, including actions which will reduce impacts of mercury;
 - Operational matters.



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Highlights of the Substantive Articles

- All lifecycle stages of mercury covered by different articles of the Convention
- Ban on new mercury mines and phase-out of existing ones, including controls on use of mined mercury (Article 3)
- Obligations in Article 3 include
 - controls on mining
 - Identification of stocks
 - Control of exports
 - Consent to needed imports from Parties
 - Control of imports from non-Parties
 - Reporting



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Highlights of the Substantive Articles

- Phase-out and phase-down dates for mercury use in products and processes (Articles 4, 5 and 6)
 - Parties shall control import, export and manufacture of listed products after phase-out date
 - Discourage new mercury-added products or processes using mercury
 - Register for exemptions if needed
- International controls on ASGM (Article 7)
 - Parties with ASGM which is more than insignificant must reduce the use of mercury and the emissions of mercury
 - Parties with ASGM must prepare and implement a national action plan, submit it to secretariat, review every 3 years



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Highlights of the Substantive Articles

- Control measures on air emissions and releases to land and water (Articles 8 and 9)
 - Differential controls on new and existing sources
 - BAT/BEP for new sources within 5 years
 - Range of options for existing sources
 - National action plans can be developed
 - Inventory required within 5 years
- Emissions – list of relevant sources
 - Coal burning power stations, coal burning industrial boilers, non-ferrous metal mining, cement clinker production facilities, waste incineration
- Releases – relevant sources as identified by a Party not covered by another provision of the Convention
 - Could include activities such as drilling activities



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Highlights of the Substantive Articles

- Storage (Article 10)
 - Interim storage in environmentally sound manner
- Waste (Article 11)
 - Environmentally sound management
 - Only used for use allowed under the Convention
 - Transport in line with Basel Convention
- Contaminated sites (Article 12)
 - Endeavour to develop strategies to identify and assess sites



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Article 16 – Health aspects

- Encourages Parties to:
 - protect populations at risk
 - Promote education and preventive programmes
 - Promote health-care services
 - Establish and strengthen institutional and health professional capacities
- Conference of the Parties to work with WHO and ILO when considering health-related issues or activities



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Support to Parties

- Financial mechanism
 - The Global Environment Facility
 - A specific international programme to support capacity building and technical assistance.
 - Mechanism operates under the guidance of, and is accountable to the Conference of the Parties.
- Programme on capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- Implementation and Compliance Committee
 - Text establishes the committee, facilitative in nature, as well as how requests are submitted



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Information and awareness raising

- Facilitate exchange of range of information
- Public access to information, awareness and education
- Research, development and monitoring
- Implementation plans - opportunity not obligation
- Reporting – required by all Parties
- Effectiveness evaluation



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Operational Articles

- Establish COP
- Establish Secretariat, hosted by UNEP
- Standard operational articles
 - Settlement of disputes
 - Amendments to the Convention
 - Adoption and amendment of annexes
 - Voting, signature, ratification etc., entry into force, reservations, withdrawal, depositary, authentic texts



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Next steps

- Convention will enter into force when there are 50 Parties
- Intergovernmental negotiating committee has assisted to prepare for entry into force
 - Adopted guidance on a provisional basis
 - Adopted forms to be used under the Convention
- Support to countries for early implementation and ratification underway
- Ongoing technical support available



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Further information

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