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# Mercury Activities in the GEF

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# Mercury Use and Emission (2008)

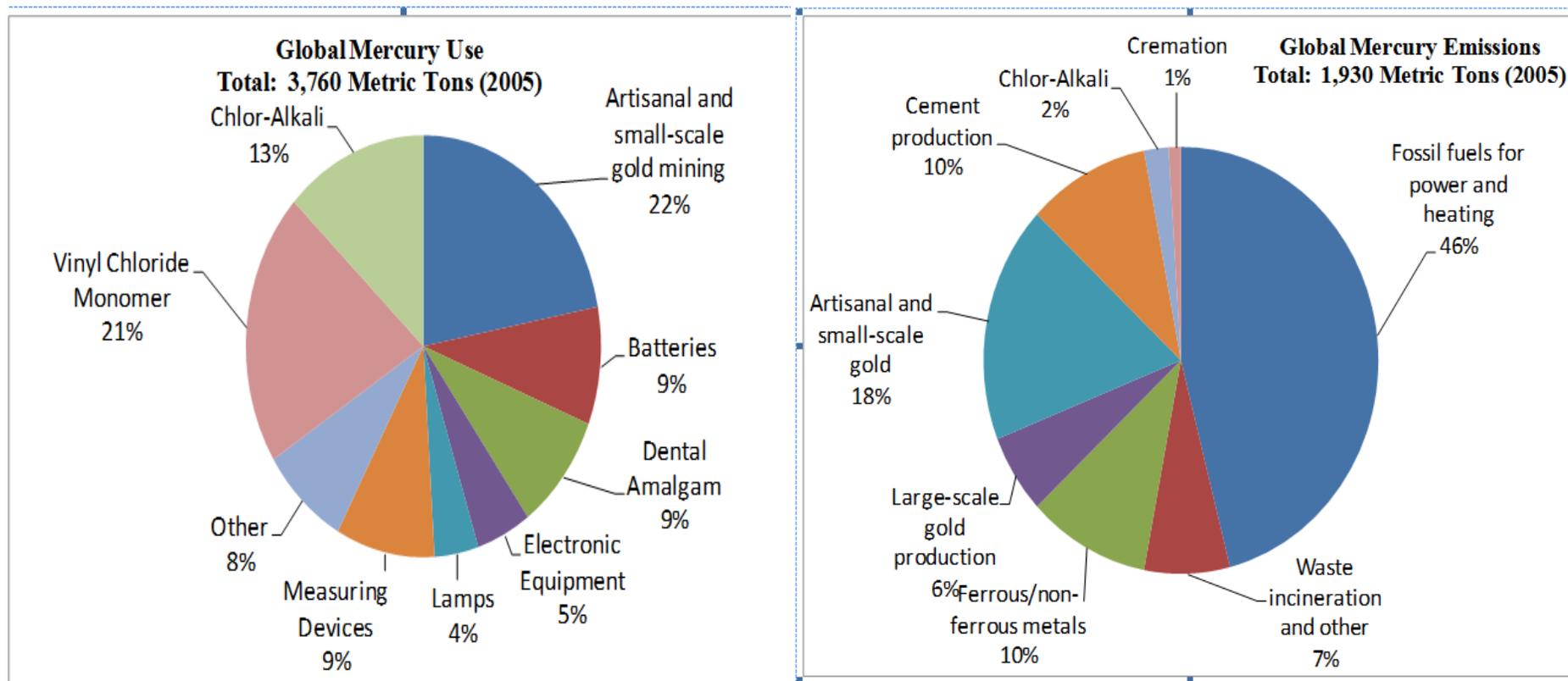


Figure 1: Global mercury use

Figure 2: Global mercury emissions

Figure 1: “Report on current supply and demand for mercury, including projections considering the phase out of primary mercury mining”. (UNEP, 2008)

Figure 2: “Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport”. (UNEP, 2008)



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# Roadmap to a “Mercury Convention”

2002: global mercury assessment published by UNEP and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), increased government recognition that mercury is a chemical of global concern.

2007: 24<sup>th</sup> UNEP Governing Council (decision GC 24/3) established an Ad Hoc Open ended Working group (OEWG) on mercury to consider either developing a legally binding instrument or adopting voluntary measures for mercury.

2009: OEWG agreed to support a legally binding instrument and proposed the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury. Adopted by the 25<sup>th</sup> UNEP Governing Council.

INC has met 3 times to discuss the provisions of the legally binding instrument and will meet again in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 27 June to 2 July 2012. GEF has been invited to attend all the INCs. This process is expected to lead to the adoption of “Minamata Convention” in 2013.



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# Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC)

Task of the INC is to develop a comprehensive and suitable approach to mercury that includes provisions:

- To specify the objectives;
- To reduce mercury supply, demand in products and processes, and international trade, enhance storage capacity;
- To reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury;
- To address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites;
- To increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange;
- To address compliance; And,
- **To specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance.**



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# Financial Mechanism: Guiding Principles and Modalities

- Discussion over financial mechanism started during INC2 and the guiding principle of this discussion are two-fold:
  - 1) “Strong linkages exist between the provision of financial and technical assistance and achieving compliance with a mercury instrument” and;
  - 2) “The ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under this Convention will depend on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance”.
- Financial Mechanism Modalities under Consideration include:
  - 1) The GEF Modality
  - 2) A standalone mechanism (new) created along the lines of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol.

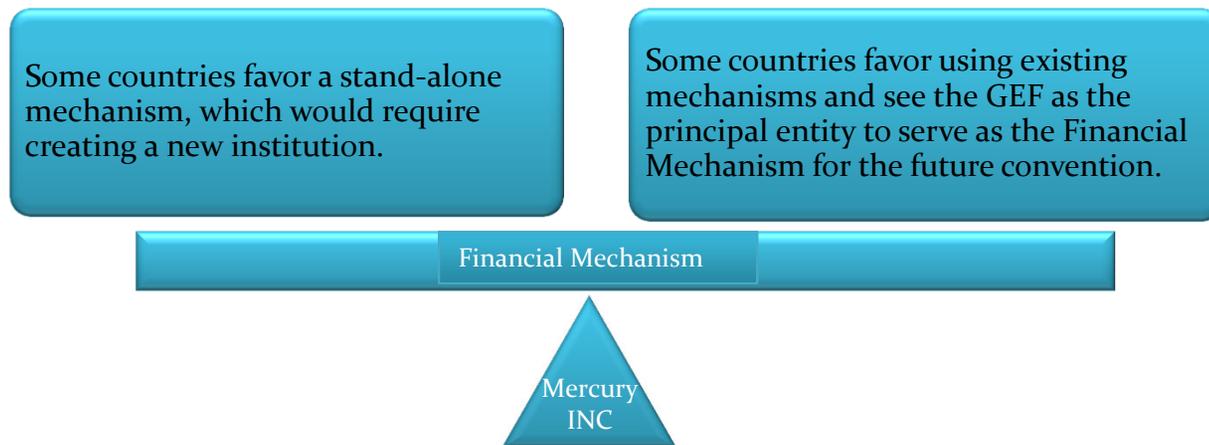


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## Financial Mechanism: Consensus and Diverging Views

Parties agree that a FM is needed to allow developing countries and CEITs to implement effectively the legal obligations under the convention.

However, diverging views exist in Parties over the specific modality of the financial mechanism.



The discussion will continue in the INC process and will not be finalized until INC5 ( scheduled January 2013 in Geneeva) or at the Diplomatic Conference in Minamata, Japan in fall or winter 2013.



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## GEF as Financial Mechanism-Track Records

The GEF, in its past years of serving as the largest public funder for Chemicals,

- ✓ Functioned under the guidance of, and be accountable to, the COP.
- ✓ Provided new and additional grant to achieve agreed GEBs.
- ✓ Aimed at cost-effectiveness to maximize GEBs.
- ✓ Ensured projects address national priorities.
- ✓ Ensured public participation in projects and makes available all project/program information to the public.
- ✓ Ensured that projects and programs are monitored and evaluated.
- ✓ Emphasized its catalytic role to leverage additional financing from other sources.



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## GEF Comparative Advantages

- ✓ GEF has the potential to support activities addressing more than one global convention or environmental issue.
- ✓ GEF takes an integrated approach by seeking synergies among POPs, ODS, mercury and sound chemicals management.
- ✓ GEF has considerable expertise and plays an active role on mercury related issues.
- ✓ Cost of administering a joint funding mechanism such as GEF is lower than the cost of administering of a new fund.



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# GEF Intervention on Mercury-related Activities

- In 1995, the GEF Council has recognized global problems posed by persistent toxic substances (PTS), including mercury. Specific reference to Mercury is made in the Contaminant Based Operational Program (#10).
- During GEF5 Replenishment, an allocation of \$10 million was provided to accompany the INC negotiation process.
- At the 39<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, GEF5 Mercury Strategy was approved. The strategy calls for a facilitative approach to address key issue areas and knowledge gaps through projects which can be deployed quickly and show results within the INC process timeframe.



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# GEF<sub>5</sub> Mercury Strategy

“GEF 5 mercury resources are intended to support assessment and pilot activities that will advance the development of the global mercury instrument and improve countries’ abilities to implement the its provisions when the (mercury) instrument enters into force. ”

- GEF Strategy for Mercury Programming

## Priority issue areas are :

- Reducing Mercury Use in Products
- Reducing Mercury Use in Industrial Processes
- Reducing Mercury Use and Exposures in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
- Enhancing Capacity for Mercury Storage
- Reducing Atmospheric Emissions of Mercury
- Improved Data and Scientific Information at the National Level
- Enhancing Capacity to Address Waste and Contaminated Sites.



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# GEF Projects Approved

- Under Implementation:
  - Global medical waste project medical waste project to reduce dioxins/furans releases and replace the use of mercury containing devices with mercury-free ones.
- Reducing Mercury Use and Exposures in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in:
  - West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) and;
  - Latin America (Peru and Ecuador).
- Reducing Mercury Use in Industrial Processes
  - Reduction of mercury emissions in zinc smelting sector in China
- Reducing Atmospheric Emissions of Mercury (POPs/ Mercury Co-reduction)
  - UPOPs/mercury release reduction from Health Sector in Africa- Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, Rwanda
  - Healthcare waste management as part of an FSP on waste management in Kazakhstan.



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# Projects in Pipeline

## Projects pending:

- Improved Data and Scientific Information at the National Level  
Development of mercury inventory in China
- Reducing Global and Local Environmental Risks from Mercury Mining in Kyrgyzstan

The following projects are being developed by Agencies in consultation with the GEF SEC:

- Minimizing Mercury Releases from Artisanal Mining in Asia, Central America, and South America
- Interim storage of Mercury in Uruguay
- Development of mercury inventories (India, Africa, etc.)



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# GEF Participation in INC<sub>4</sub> and Hosting Bureau Meeting

- INC<sub>4</sub> will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 27 June to 2 July 2012. GEF CEO will attend and address the Plenary Session.
- A GEF Side Event will be held in collaboration with from relevant Agencies and recipient countries.
- GEF is hosting the next Bureau Meeting in Washington DC on June 7-8, 2012.



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## “GEF Operational Program on Mercury”

- At the request of GEF 41<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, a paper titled “*Operational Program for Mercury and Options for a Financial Mechanism*” is prepared to present options the Council may wish to consider for an operational program on Mercury if the INC adopts the GEF as one of or the Financial Mechanism of the “Convention”.
- The paper provides:
  - 1) Elements of an Operational Program on Reducing and Eliminating Releases of Mercury Into the Environment;
  - 2) Possible models of Financial Mechanisms for a Mercury convention in which the GEF operates as the Secretariat



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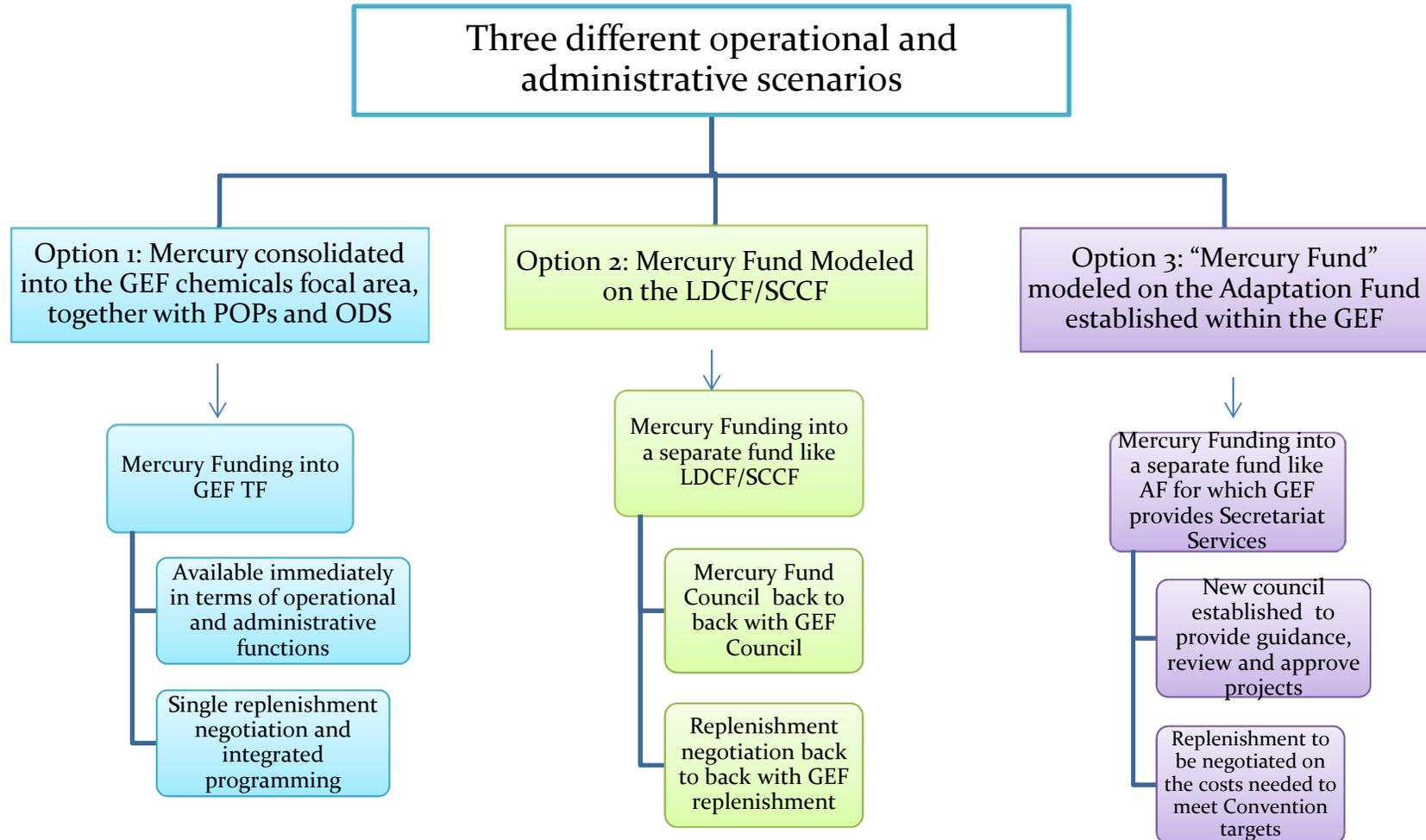
# Elements of the “Operational Program”

- Enabling Activities;
- Capacity Building, Technology Transfer, and Investments;  
FSPs and MSPs may focus on four areas:
  - 1) Develop and/or strengthen the capacity of developing countries and CEITs to address the threats posed by Mercury, based on countries’ needs and priorities.
  - 2) Promote sustainable alternatives.
  - 3) Facilitate the environmentally sound management of mercury stockpiles.
  - 4) Facilitate the identification and remediation of sites affected by mercury.
- GEF Coordination and Leveraging Functions
  - 1) Delivery capacity of the GEF will be enhanced through continued cooperation with Agencies.
  - 2) GEF will promote and facilitate more integrated responses and programs of action.



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# Comparison of Possible Models under the GEF



Thank you!



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