Latin America and Caribbean Mercury Storage Project Inception Workshop
22-23 April 2009, Montevideo, Uruguay

Answers to Guide the Discussion:

CENTRAL AMERICA

Question	Panama	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Mexico	Honduras	Comments
Do you have a national mercury reduction action plan in place? If yes, do you have the relevant policies/regulation in place? What are your current activities (examples include inventory, awareness raising activities, recycling, waste management, 1	Panama has its national mercury inventory in place with an associated Action Plan (UNITAR assisted)	Costa Rica has developed a "Reduction of Mercury Use in Hospitals pilot project", however, no national reduction action plan in place yet. This pilot project was limited to National Children's Hospital. In 2009 it was extended to the Hospital of San Ramon and will be extended to other Costa Rican hospitals. Four interactive plans were developed: inventory, storage, training and	Has no plan in place. They have inventory activities. Memorandum of understanding to conduct mercury inventory with UNITAR is underway	Has a Regional Plan of Mercury. There is an inventory and a Market Report. Pilot project in Hospitals	Has no National Plan. Has a pilot project in one hospital. They will have a storage site and studying the feasibility	

		mercury reduction and medical equipment replacement. There are temporary storage sites (one in each hospital: 24.2 kg of mercury in Children´s and 5.2 kg of mercury in San Ramon, stored in high density plastic bottles.) Environmental regulations in place: DE27000-MINAE: List and characteristics of industrial hazardous waste DE27001-MINAE: Management of industrial hazardous waste DE27002-MINAE: Extraction of toxics and hazardous components from industrial hazardous				

		waste. Maximum mercury limit for PECT test: 0.2 mg/L DE25991-S: Potable Water Quality. Maximum mercury limit: 0.001 mg/L DE26042-S: Wastewater. Maximum mercury limit: 0.01 mg/L				
2. Is your country a net exporter of mercury at the present time? Do you know which countries receive this mercury and for what purpose this mercury is used? Are the uses likely to contribute to	No exports. Imports hg containing products from Costa Rica. Imported in 2004 - 30.27	Costa Rica does not have a National Inventory Mercury pesticides are not used in our country because they are prohibited. PROCOMER (Exterior Commerce Promoter of Costa Rica, from spanish, Promotora de Comercio Exterior de Costa Rica) said that for 2007 and	No Plan, presence of mining activities	Exports to LA countries	No control or registry	

the global mercury pollution problem?		2008 there were no exports of elemental mercury (code: 2805400000) or batteries (code: 8506300000). There were exports: In 2007: -Fluorescent lamps (code: 8539311011): US$ 68,931.6 (10,667.0 kg) -TVs (code: 8528729000): US$ 4,512.0 (220.0kg) In 2008: -Fluorescent lamps (code: 8539311011): US$ 40,164.9 (9,348.9 kg) -TVs (code: 8528729000): US$				

		23,170.5 (3,786.0kg) The countries that received TVs are: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Perú, Panamá, El Salvador, Estados Unidos, Colombia. The countries that received fluorescent lamps are: Republica Dominicana, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panamá, Jamaica, Guyana, Honduras, Cuba, Chile, México, Puerto Rico,				
33 Can your country effectively make use of the mercury	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	The tool should consider also Hg mercury containing

storage “tool” to encourage further reduction in either domestic or global mercury demand?						spent products and waste
4 Without making any commitment now, can you say whether your country officials would be open to the idea of storing excess mercury?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Involve other sectors and promote risk communicati on and risk management among them. Link with Stockholm NIPs
55 What are the main technical (or other) aspects of mercury storage necessary to ensure public health and safety? To ensure	Human resources and monitoring, methods. Use the existing capacity in the countries	Technical assessment needs. Environmental Impact Assessment	Depend on the inventory results	Risk study, economic feasibility. Technical meetings	Environmental Impact assessment	The pressure of the legally binding instrument will influence. Strengthen and improve legislation

environmental responsibility?						
6 What (other) social considerations need to be considered with regard to mercury storage?	Public awareness campaigns and Risk communications and global compact. Inform to all sectors. Negotiation with communities	Involve key stakeholders (communities, industry, academy, environmental and health ministries, etc) and create a plan for training and education in the proper handling and storage of mercury: identify risk situations, properly disposal of mercury containing products, actions to reduce mercury, benefits of long term mercury storage	Involve the National Environmental sector and Chemical safety Commission	Involve all sectors	Involve the Council of Chemical safety, Universities, Private sectors	
7 What financial options could be available to deal with storage costs?	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs.	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs	No economic options Feasibility studies will determine the economical needs	Involve the producer into the burden. Polluter pays principle. Involve

	needs			recyclers. Consider taxes to products. Take back programs
Create new policies/regulations for the proper construction (environmental impact assessment), storage site conditions, storage site administration and mercury handling				
-Difficulty in finding a proper site for the storage facility -Lack of political or communities support				
Difficulty in finding				