



23 July 2010

Mr Per M Bakken
Head, Chemicals Branch/DTIE
United Nations Environment Programme
11 - 13 chemin des Anémones
CH 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr Bakken

Further to the letter from the Executive Director requesting written submissions for input into the proposed documentation at the 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, the New Zealand delegation to INC 1 provides the following points for consideration.

Objective of Convention:

Ensure that the objective of the instrument is focussed on protection of the environment and human health from exposure to, and release of, mercury from anthropogenic (man-made) sources.

To ensure that New Zealand's natural discharges of mercury (such as from natural geothermal and volcanic activity) do not attract legally binding obligations.

Supply of products and processes:

Ensure that any legally binding obligations provide for New Zealand to exempt essential technologies that use mercury (such as energy efficient lighting and high voltage equipment) for which non-mercury alternatives are not viable for New Zealand.

Waste:

Protecting New Zealand access to overseas facilities for managing mercury waste products (such as exporting for treatment, recovery and long term environmentally sound storage) taking into account existing international agreements to which New Zealand is already a party, particularly the Basel Convention.

Yours sincerely

Janet Lowe
Deputy Director, Environment Division