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**Intergovernmental negotiating committee  
to prepare a global legally binding  
instrument on mercury**

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**Preparation of a global legally binding  
instrument on mercury**

## Glossaries of key terms

### Note by the secretariat

1. At its meeting held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 October 2009, the ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury agreed on a list of information that the secretariat would provide to the committee at its first session to facilitate its work. Among other things, the secretariat was requested to provide a glossary of key terms. The present note responds to that request.
2. Annex I to the present note sets out selected entries from the *Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*, published by the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Environmental Law and Conventions in 2007. The entries are presented as originally published and have not been formally edited by the secretariat. It should be noted that certain words in the glossary are underlined to indicate that they are the subjects of their own separate entries in the glossary. It should also be noted that some definitions in the glossary are taken from definitions provided by multilateral environmental agreements. In such cases the agreement that is the source of the definition is cited in brackets at the end of the definition.
3. In addition, a glossary of technical terms relevant to mercury, prepared by the secretariat, is set out in annex II to the present note.

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\* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/1.

## Annex I

## Selected entries from the United Nations Environment Programme glossary of terms for negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements

Term	Definition
Aarhus Convention	Shorthand for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2001.
Acceptance	In practice acceptance is used instead of <u>ratification</u> when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require an <u>agreement</u> to be ratified by the head of State. Acceptance has the same legal effect as ratification
Accession	Act whereby a State becomes a <u>Party</u> to an international <u>agreement</u> already negotiated and closed for signature. Accession has the same legal effect as <u>ratification</u> although an acceding State has not signed the agreement.
Acclamation	Mode of <u>adoption</u> of <u>decisions</u> without voting. The decision is considered adopted when all delegations have indicated their support by applause.
Accreditation	Approval and assertion of the fact that <u>credentials</u> submitted by <u>delegates</u> to a particular <u>meeting</u> are in order.
<i>Ad hoc</i>	Latin word meaning 'for this purpose'. An <i>ad hoc</i> <u>committee</u> for example, is created with a unique and specific purpose or task and once it has studied and reported on a matter, it is discontinued.
Add.	Stands for "addendum". Used to reference additions to existing documents.
Additionality	<p>1) Funding principle envisaged to ensure that the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> funds do not substitute for existing development finance but provide new and additional funding to produce agreed global environmental benefits</p> <p>2) Approval test for projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. CDM projects are considered additional if they would not have taken place in the absence of the CDM.</p>
Adoption	<p>1) Adoption by a country of an international <u>agreement</u> refers to the process of its incorporation into the domestic legal system, through signature, ratification or any other process required under national law.</p> <p>2) Adoption by the international community of an international agreement is the formal act by which the form and content of a proposed treaty text are established</p> <p>3) Adoption of <u>decision</u>, <u>resolution</u>, or <u>recommendation</u> is the formal act (e.g. strike of gavel) by which the form and content of a proposed decision, resolution or recommendation are approved by <u>delegations</u></p>
<i>Ad referendum</i>	A Latin term meaning "subject to reference". When a <u>delegate</u> is asked for <u>agreement</u> which he or she is not authorized to give, he or she may agree <i>ad referendum</i> meaning he or she agrees provisionally and forwards the request for final approval.
Advance Informed Agreement	Principle or procedure whereby the international exchange of resources or products that could have adverse effects on the environment should not proceed without the informed agreement of, or contrary to the decision of, the competent authority in the recipient country. See also <u>Prior Informed Consent</u> .
Agenda	Programme of work during a <u>meeting</u> .

Term	Definition
Agenda 21	Programme of action on <u>sustainable development</u> adopted at the <u>UN Conference on Environment and Development</u> in 1992, often referred to as the “Blueprint for Sustainable Development”. Agenda 21 has 40 chapters dealing with all aspects of <u>sustainable development</u> including social and economic dimensions (combating poverty and promoting human health), conservation and resource management, major groups (e.g. women, indigenous people, business and unions) and means of implementation (e.g. financial resources, transfer of technology, public awareness and education).
Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Generic term for an international legally <u>binding</u> instrument. In this sense, encompasses several instrument such as <u>treaties, conventions, protocols</u> or oral agreements</li> <li>2) Specific term used to designate international instruments that are <u>sic</u> “less formal”, thus corresponding to <u>soft law</u> and deal with a narrower range of subject matter than treaties</li> </ol>
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. Established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation between African governments on economic, technical and scientific activities to halt the degradation of Africa’s environment. AMCEN plays an important role in providing political guidance to Africa’s position on many MEAs
Amendment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A modification or addition to an existing legal instrument (e.g. <u>treaty, Convention</u> or <u>protocol</u>)</li> <li>2) A modification to a proposal under negotiation (e.g. draft <u>decision</u>, draft <u>recommendation</u> or draft <u>resolution</u>).</li> </ol>
Anthropogenic emissions	Emissions resulting from human activities
Approval	In practice, approval has been used instead of ratification when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require an international <u>agreement</u> to be ratified by the head of State. Approval has the same legal effect as <u>ratification</u> .
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations. A regional community of 10 States with the aim of accelerating economic growth and social progress and promoting peace and security.
Assessed contribution	<u>Contribution</u> , expressed in percentage, of a <u>Member State</u> to the budget of an international organisation. Should be distinguished from the notion of a <u>voluntary contribution</u> .
Basel Convention	Shorthand for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Adopted in 1989, entered into force in 1992.
Basel Protocol	Shorthand for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation to the Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes. Adopted in 1999, not yet entered into force.
BAT	<u>Best available technique</u> or <u>best available technology</u>
BCRCs	Basel Convention Regional Centres. Centres established under the <u>Basel Convention</u> to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition ( <u>CEITs</u> ) within their own region, to achieve the objectives of the Convention, through <u>capacity building</u> for environmentally <u>sound management</u> .
Best available technique	Most effective and advanced technique, the environmental impacts of which are limited.
Best environmental practice	The application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies.
Binding	Adjective which means that an instrument entails an obligation (usually for States) under international law
Bottom-up approach	Approach based on the participation of all <u>stakeholders</u> , particularly those at the local levels

Term	Definition
Bretton Woods Institutions	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (now one of five institutions in the World Bank Group) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Established by the Bretton Woods Agreements in 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire USA
Brundtland Commission	Shorthand for the World Commission on Environment and Development. Named after its Chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norwegian Prime Minister. The Commission produced a report in 1987, Our Common Future, which laid down the concept of <u>sustainable development</u> .
Bureau	A formal structure that oversees the running of <u>meetings</u> . The Bureau is usually composed of representatives of each regional group and a <u>Secretariat</u> representative. In some instances, such as the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management an extended bureau may be created that includes intergovernmental organizations and <u>non-governmental</u> organizations.
CACAM	Negotiating coalition of countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Albania and the Republic of Moldova
Capacity building	Process of developing the technical skills, institutional capability and personnel to, for example, implement <u>MEAs</u> .
Carbon market	A popular term for a trading system through which countries may buy or sell units of <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions in an effort to meeting their national limits on emissions, either under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> or under other agreements, such as that among members states of the <u>European Union</u> .
Carbon sequestration	The process of removing additional carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in other 'reservoirs', principally through changes in land use. In practical terms, the carbon sequestration occurs mostly through the expansion of forests.
Carbon tax	Tax by governments on the use of carbon-containing fuels.
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market. Regional economic integration community.
Caucus	A group of <u>like-minded delegates</u> which meet both during and outside negotiations to develop common positions and negotiation strategies.
CDM	<u>Clean Development Mechanism</u>
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEIT	Country with Economy in Transition. Designates a country that was formerly a centrally planned economy and is undergoing transition to a market-oriented economy.
Certified Emissions Reductions	CER. Unit equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent, which may be used by countries listed in Annex I of the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> towards meeting their <u>binding</u> emission reduction and limitation commitments.
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons. A category of chemical substances that contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer. Regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
Chair	Presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> , and the way he/she should be addressed. Synonym: Chairperson or Chairman.
Chair's compilation	Text prepared by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> that lays out proposals made by delegations.
Chair's text/draft	Proposal prepared by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to assist reaching <u>consensus</u> .
Chapeau	Phrase at the beginning of an article or paragraph to guide the interpretation of this article or paragraph.

Term	Definition
Chemical Review Committee	<u>Subsidiary body</u> under the <u>Rotterdam Convention</u>
CHM	<u>Clearing-house Mechanism</u> , the term originally referred to a financial establishment where checks and bills are exchanged among member banks so that only the net balances need to be settled in cash. Today, its meaning has been extended to include any agency that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply.
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States. A community of States and economic union composed of 12 former constituent republics of the Soviet Union.
Clean Development Mechanism	One of three market-based mechanisms under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) whereby developed countries may finance <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions-avoiding projects in developing countries, and receive credits for doing so which they may apply towards meeting mandatory limits on their own emissions.
Clean technologies	Both process and product engineering that reduces the pollutants and environmental impacts inherent in industrial production.
Clearing house	Mechanism, which facilitates and simplifies exchange of information or transactions among multiple <u>Parties</u> .
Climate change	Change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
Closed-door meeting	<u>Meeting</u> to which access is restricted. Usually restricted to <u>Parties</u> or Governments and excludes <u>observers</u> .
Coalition	A group of <u>like-minded States</u> or <u>delegations</u> that work together towards a common objective.
Code of Conduct	Set of rules to guide behaviour and decisions.
Codex	Usually reference to a code of law. Also used as shorthand for Codex Alimentarius. A publication on food standards maintained jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
Committee	Subset of a <u>Plenary</u> open to all <u>Parties</u> established to perform particular tasks (e.g. drafting committee), address a particular issues (e.g. credentials committee) or a particular set of <u>agenda</u> items (then equivalent to a <u>working group</u> ). Committees make <u>recommendations</u> to the <u>Plenary</u> .
Committee of the Whole	Also known as CoW. Often created by a <u>COP</u> to aid in negotiating text. It consists of the same membership as the <u>COP</u> . When the Committee has finished its work, it turns the text over to the <u>COP</u> which finalized and then adopts the text during a plenary session.
Competent Authority	Governmental authority designated by a <u>Party</u> to be responsible for receiving the notification of a <u>transboundary movement of hazardous wastes</u> or other <u>wastes</u> and any information related to it, and for responding to such a <u>notification (Basel Convention)</u> .
Complementarity	Funding principle according to which funded activities must be coherent with national programmes and policies to maximise global environmental benefits.
Compliance	Fulfilment by a <u>Party</u> of its obligations under an international <u>agreement</u> .
Compliance committee	<u>Committee</u> mandated to review <u>compliance</u> with the provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> . The powers of compliance committees vary according to each <u>agreement</u> .

Term	Definition
Conference of the Parties	One of the designations for the main negotiating body under an international <u>agreement</u> . The <u>COP</u> is a policy-making body that meets periodically to take stock of <u>implementation</u> of the agreement and adopt <u>decisions, resolutions</u> or <u>recommendations</u> for the future implementation of the agreement.
Conference Room Paper	A category of in-session document containing new proposals or outcomes of in-session work and is for use only during the <u>sessions</u> concerned.
Consensus	A mode of <u>adoption</u> of <u>decisions, resolutions</u> or <u>recommendations</u> without voting. A decision is adopted by consensus if there is no formal explicit <u>objection</u> made. Whether there is consensus on an issue or not is determined by the presiding officer on the basis of the views expressed by delegates and his/her subjective assessment of the sense of the <u>meeting</u> .
Contact group	A group formed during negotiations to reach <u>consensus</u> on an issue proving particularly contentious. May be established by the <u>plenary</u> or a <u>Committee of the Whole</u> and is open to all <u>Parties</u> and sometimes to <u>observers</u> .
Contracting State	A State which has consented to be bound by an international <u>agreement</u> whether or not the international agreement has entered into force ( <u>Vienna Convention</u> on the Law of Treaties).
Contribution	Amount that a <u>Party</u> owes annually to the general trust fund of an <u>agreement</u> or an international organization. Determined on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by the governing body of the agreement or the international organization.
Convention	A <u>binding agreement</u> between States. Generally used for formal multilateral instruments with a broad number of Parties.
COP	<u>Conference of the Parties</u>
COP/MOP	<u>Conference of the Parties</u> to a Convention serving as a Meeting of the Parties to a Protocol
<i>Corr</i>	Stands for the Latin term <i>corrigendum</i> . Used to reference corrected versions of documents during a <u>meeting</u> .
Council of Europe	A regional political organization founded in 1949. Should be distinguished from the <u>Council of the European Union</u> .
Council of the European Union	The Council of the <u>European Union</u> forms together with the European Parliament the legislative arm of the EU. Participated in by Ministers from all the EU Member States and presided by the representative of the country currently holding the Presidency of the EU. Should be distinguished from the <u>Council of Europe</u> .
COW	See <u>Committee of the Whole</u>
Credentials	A document evidencing a person's authority. Signed by the Head of State or Government or other high authority. Without credentials in order, a person is not considered a <u>delegate</u> and cannot legally act on behalf of his/her State and participate in decision making.
Credentials Committee	A <u>committee</u> established by the <u>Plenary</u> of a meeting to review the <u>credentials</u> submitted by delegations.
CRP	<u>Conference Room Paper</u> Working document during negotiations. Unlike main meeting documents, CRPs are not preserved in the archive of meeting documents.
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development. Called for in <u>Agenda 21</u> and established by <u>ECOSOC</u> as the highest level forum within the UN on <u>sustainable development</u> . Mandated to monitor the <u>implementation</u> of <u>Agenda 21</u> and the <u>JPOI</u> .
Decision	Formal expression of the will of the governing body of an international organization or international <u>agreement</u> . Usually <u>binding</u> but may also correspond to soft law.

Term	Definition
Decision Guidance Document	Document that provides information that would assist a country in making an import decision on a chemical listed in Annex III to the <u>Rotterdam Convention</u>
Declaration	A formal statement of aspirations issued by a <u>meeting</u> . Usually issues by high-level representatives. A declaration is not <u>binding</u> .
Declaratory	Said of something that declares in intention, opinion or reserve, rather than expresses an agreed commitment.
Declaratory interpretation	Statement made at the time of <u>signature</u> or <u>ratification</u> of an international <u>agreement</u> . Spells out a State's interpretation of one or more of the provisions of the agreement.
Delegate	Representative of a State or organization who has been authorized to act on its behalf and whose <u>credentials</u> are in order.
Delegation	Team of <u>delegates</u> to a <u>meeting</u> from the same country or organization.
Designated National Authority	The national agency responsible for addressing specific issues or acting as the <u>focal point</u> for an <u>MEA</u> .
Diplomatic Conference	Conference of <u>plenipotentiaries</u> held to adopt and sign an international <u>agreement</u> . The text of the agreement has usually been negotiated before the Conference convenes.
Dispute	Disagreement on a point of law (e.g. the interpretation of an international <u>agreement</u> ) or fact (e.g. an action taken by a State).
Drafting group	Informal group established by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> , <u>committee</u> or <u>working group</u> to draft <u>consensus</u> text. <u>Observers</u> generally may not attend drafting group meetings.
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance. Allowance paid to UN staff or <u>delegates</u> to a UN <u>meeting</u> which is intended to account for lodging, meals, gratuities, and other business-related expenses during the period of the meeting.
Earmarked	Dedicated to a particular purpose. Usually said of funds or <u>contributions</u> .
Earth Negotiations Bulletin	An independent reporting service published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), providing daily summaries of major international environmental <u>meetings</u> and <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to various <u>MEAs</u> .
EC	<u>European Community</u>
Economic instruments	One of the tools for environmental protection that makes use of fiscal incentives (subsidies) and deterrents (taxes), as well as market measures such as tradeable emissions permits, rather than regulating specific outcomes.
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council. One of the principal organs of the UN, addressing economic, social, cultural, educational, health, environmental and other related matters.
Ecosystem	Dynamic complex of plant, animal, micro-organism communities and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit (CBD). Ecosystems are irrespective of political boundaries.
EECCA Countries	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Emissions trading	Mechanism under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> through which <u>Parties</u> with emission commitments may trade units of their emissions allowances with other Parties.
Enforcement	Range of procedures and actions taken by a State and its competent authorities to ensure that persons or organizations failing to comply with laws or regulations are brought back into <u>compliance</u> or punished through appropriate action.

Term	Definition
Entry into force	Coming into legal effect of an international <u>agreement</u> i.e. time at which an international agreement becomes legally <u>binding</u> for the States that have ratified it or acceded to it or otherwise expressed their consent to be bound by the agreement.
Environmental Impact Assessment	Process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated and alternatives are analyzed. EIA is an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes.
Environmentally Sound Management	Defined as taking all practicable steps to ensure that <u>hazardous waste</u> or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from such wastes, in terms of the <u>Basel Convention</u>
EU	<u>European Union</u>
European Commission	The executive body of the European Union. Alongside the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, it is one of the three main institutions governing the Union. Its primary roles are to propose and implement legislation, and to act as “guardian of the treaties” which provide the legal basis for the <u>EU</u> . The Commission negotiates international trade agreements (in the <u>World Trade Organization</u> ) and other international <u>agreements</u> on behalf of the EU in close cooperation with the <u>Council of the European Union</u> .
European Community	Most important one of the three European Communities. Originally European Economic Community. That name changes with the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, which at the same time effectively made the European Community the first of three pillars of the <u>European Union</u> , called the Community (or Communities) Pillar.
European Union	The European Union is an intergovernmental and supranational union of 27 democratic member states. The European Union was established under than name in 1992 by the Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty). Member in its own right of several international organizations and a <u>Party</u> to various international <u>agreements</u> sometimes alongside its member states.
<i>Ex officio</i>	Latin phrase meaning “by virtue of one’s position or function”
<i>Ex situ</i>	Latin phrase meaning “not the original or natural environment
EXCOP/Ex-COP	Extraordinary <u>Conference of the Parties</u> . Conference of the Parties held outside the normal scheduled cycle of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
Executive Director	Title of the head of some international organizations.
Executive Secretary	Title of the head of some international organizations or <u>secretariats</u> of <u>MEAs</u>
Extraterritorial	Set of measures or laws that apply beyond a State’s jurisdiction.
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The UN specialised organization for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. Established in 1945.
Final clauses/provisions	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> that set the rules of the functioning of the agreement
Financial rules	Rules governing the financial administration of an international organization, a <u>Conference of the Parties</u> , <u>subsidiaries bodies</u> and the <u>Secretariat</u> .
FoC	<u>Friends of the Chair</u>
Focal point	An official or agency designated by a government to serve as the focus or channel of communication for a particular issue or <u>agreement</u> .

Term	Definition
Framework Convention	<u>Convention</u> that provides a decision-making and organizational framework for the adoption of subsequent complementary <u>agreements</u> (e.g. <u>protocols</u> ). Usually contains substantial provisions of a general nature, the details of which can be provided in the subsequent agreements
Friends of the Chair	An informal group of a few prominent negotiators invited to assist the Chair of a <u>meeting, working group or contact group</u> to develop a <u>consensus</u> proposal on a specific issue.
Full powers	A document emanating from the competent authority of a State designating a person or persons to represent the State for negotiating, adopting or authenticating the text of an international <u>agreement</u> , for expressing the consent of the State to be bound by an international agreement, or for accomplishing any other act with respect to an international agreement.
G-8	Group of eight industrialised countries comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US
G77	Originally group of 77 developing countries established in 1964 at the first session of <u>UNCTAD</u> . Now gathering 132 developing States. The Group seeks to harmonise the positions of developing countries prior to and during negotiations. China sometimes also associates itself with the G77 in which case the group is referred to as G77/China or G77 plus China
GATT	General agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994). One of the <u>agreements</u> annexed to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the <u>World Trade Organisation (WTO)</u> .
Gavel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hammer used by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to recall <u>delegations</u> to order and/or signal the <u>adoption of decisions, resolutions, or recommendations</u>.</li> <li>2) Also used as a verb in many expressions: “Gavel the meeting to a close” – to declare a meeting closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Gavel down objections” to silence <u>delegates</u> who are vociferously raising <u>objections</u></li> <li>- “Gavel through a decision”; to strike the gavel at a pace that does not allow time for delegations to raise <u>objections</u>.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
General Assembly	Shorthand for the UN General Assembly. The main political body of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all <u>Member States</u> , each of which has one vote.
General clauses/Provisions	Clauses/provision of an international <u>agreement or decision</u> that create the context, principle and directions helping the understanding and application of the rest of the <u>agreement or decision</u> .
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. Established in 1967 to advise sponsoring UN agencies on the scientific aspects of marine pollution.
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Managed by an <u>ECOSOC</u> subcommittee of experts.
Global compact	A UN initiative launched in 1999 to bring the private sector together with UN agencies and civil society to support ten principles related to human rights, labour, anti-corruption and the environment.
Global Environment Facility	Launched in 1991, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grant and concessional funds to developing countries for projects and programmes targeting global environmental issues: climate change, biological diversity, international waters, ozone layer depletion, land degradation and <u>persistent organic pollutants</u> . Its implementing agencies are UNEP, UNDP and the IBRD. Designated as the operating entity of the financial mechanism for some MEAs (e.g. the CBD and the UNFCCC).

Term	Definition
Global Environmental Outlook	A periodic report that provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the global environment. Published every five years by <u>UNEP</u> . Completed by the GEO Yearbooks, published annually.
GMEF	Global Ministerial Environment Forum. A ministerial-level forum on environmental policy open to all States. Held periodically in conjunctions with the sessions of the <u>Governing Council of UNEP</u> .
Governing Council	The decision making body of the UN Agencies, Programme and Funds e.g. Environment Programme ( <u>UNEP</u> ). Meets annually through regular and special sessions.
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Adopted in 1995 and administered by <u>UNEP</u> .
Greenhouse gas	Atmospheric gas that traps the heat and is responsible for warming the earth and <u>climate change</u> . The major greenhouse gases are carbon dioxides (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O) Less prevalent – but very powerful – greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ). Those gases are regulated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) and the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> . Some greenhouse gases are also regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> for their effect on the ozone layer.
GRID	Global Resources Information Database. The basis for <u>UNEP's</u> environmental assessment programme.
GRULAC	Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries. A regional negotiating group.
Hard law	Term used to describe the legally <u>binding</u> nature of various <u>agreements</u> or provisions, which leave no or little room for discretion. Often opposed to <u>soft law</u> .
Hazardous wastes	<u>Wastes</u> that exhibit one or more hazardous characteristics, such as being flammable, oxidizing, poisonous, infectious, corrosive or ecotoxic ( <u>Basel Convention</u> ).
HCFCs	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons. Regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbons. Regulated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) and the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> as well as under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
High-level segment	Segment of a <u>meeting</u> composed of the highest-level representatives of State Parties attending the meeting.
Hotspot	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Area particularly rich in total numbers of species (“biodiversity hotspot”)</li> <li>2. Area of especially high concentrations of pollutants.</li> </ol>
ICJ	International Court of Justice. The principal judicial organ of the UN. The ICJ has established a special chamber for environmental issues.
IEC	Information, Education and Communication (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> )
IFCS	International Forum on Chemical Safety. Established in 1994 to promote the environmentally <u>sound management</u> of chemicals. Suspended 2009
ILO	International Labour Organization. UN <u>specialised agency</u> which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. Founded in 1919.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
IMF	International Monetary Fund. International organization established to, inter alia, promote international monetary cooperation, foster economic growth, and high levels of employment, and provide temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment. Established in 1945 as one of the <u>Bretton Woods Institutions</u> .
IMO	International Maritime Organization. UN organizations, created in 1948, to address shipping activities.
Implementation	For a <u>Party</u> to an international <u>agreement</u> process of adopting relevant policies, laws, and regulations, and undertaking necessary actions to meeting its <u>obligations</u> under the <u>agreement</u> .
<i>In situ</i>	Latin phrase meaning “within the original place”.
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Forum established to negotiate an international <u>agreement</u> .
Incrementality	Funding principle according to which funded activities produce global environmental benefits (e.g. “to provide a basis for calculating incrementality at regional and extra-regional scales for the reduction of the environmental hotspots in coastal areas”)
INF.	Information document. Usually provided during <u>meetings</u> to provide background information to draft <u>decisions</u> , <u>resolutions</u> , and <u>recommendations</u> . These documents are not subject to negotiations.
Informal consultations	Exchange of views among <u>delegations</u> which take place outside the formal setting of negotiations. Usually undertaken with the aim of identifying a compromise position.
In-session documents	Documents distributed during a meeting, such as conference room papers ( <u>CRP</u> ) limited distribution documents ( <u>L docs</u> ), informal documents etc.
Institutional clauses/provisions	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> that relate to the institutions established under the <u>agreement</u> .
Inter alia	“Among other things”. Often used in legal documents to compress lists of <u>Parties</u> . Etc.
Interlinkages	Connections between and among processes, activities, or international <u>agreements</u>
Intervention	Synonym for <u>statement</u>
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP in 1998 to assess the scientific technical and socio-economic impacts of climate change.
ISO	International Organization for Standardization. <u>Non-governmental organization</u> the members of which are national standards institutes of 156 countries. Established in 1946 to facilitate the international coordination and unification of industrial standards.
Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	One of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Outlines a framework for action to implement the commitments undertaken at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) including goals and time-bound targets.
Joint Liaison Group	Group of representatives of the Secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Set up to explore common activities related to climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. The Ramsar Convention is an invited observer in this Group.

Term	Definition
JUSCANZ/ JUSSCANNZ	A negotiating group composed of Japan, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand. Other delegations sometimes associate with it.
Kyoto Protocol	Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Provides for <u>binding</u> emission reductions for Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC. Adopted in 1997, entered into force in 2005.
LDC Expert Group	Panel of experts providing advice to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
LDC Fund	Fund established by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist least developed countries to undertake activities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.
Least developed countries	Countries at the lowest level of the scale of development. Status defined according to level of income, human resources, and economic vulnerability.
Like-Minded	Group of <u>delegations</u> that share common interests and positions on specific issues.
Listing	Inclusion of a product or species in a list of regulated products or species.
London Convention	Shorthand for the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Waste and other Matter. Adopted in 1972. Entered into force in 1975. Will be replaced by the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention when the protocol enters into force.
LRTAP	Shorthand for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Negotiated under the auspices of the <u>UN Economic Commission for Europe</u> . Adopted in 1979, entered into force in 1983.
Mandate	What a <u>meeting</u> , organization or individual has been given authority to do.
MARPOL	Shorthand for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto. Adopted in 1973, entered into force in 1983.
Marrakech Accords	Series of <u>decisions</u> adopted at the seventh <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) related to the Kyoto Protocol.
May	As negotiating language, “may” entails discretionary action and creates no obligation for the addressee. It is not <u>binding</u> .
Meeting	Generic term used for conferences, <u>summits</u> , <u>sessions</u> , etc.
Meeting of the Parties	A body equivalent to the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> . The terminology differs according to <u>agreements</u> . In practice, there is a tendency within environmental negotiating fora to use “Conference of the Parties” for the <u>conventions</u> and Meeting of the Parties for <u>protocols</u> .
Member State	State which is a member of an international organization
Memorandum of Understanding	A simplified type of international instrument, which can be concluded between States, between States and international organizations. MOUs can provide a framework for cooperation or be concluded for specific time-bound activities.
Millennium Development Goals	A set of eight goals and associated targets to achieve poverty alleviation by 2015, which found their origin in the <u>Millennium Summit</u> .

Term	Definition
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	A global assessment of the earth's ecosystems supported by the UN Secretary General. The MA completed its work in 2005 with the publication of its report. The acronym MEA is often used wrongly for the MA.
Millennium Summit	Meeting of high-level government representatives convened in 2000. The Summit adopted an agenda for the elimination of poverty through the implementation of target-oriented goals
Monterrey Conference	Shorthand for the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002.
Monterrey Consensus	Outcome of the <u>Monterrey Conference</u> .
Montreal Protocol	Shorthand for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. <u>Protocol</u> to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Adopted in 1987, entered into force in 1989.
Motion	Formal oral proposal on a matter of procedure.
Multilateral Environmental Agreement	A generic term for <u>treaties</u> , <u>conventions</u> , <u>protocol</u> and other <u>binding</u> instruments related to the environment. Usually applied to instruments of a geographic scope wider than that of a bilateral <u>agreement</u> (i.e. between two States).
Multilateral Fund	Shorthand for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Assists developing countries to implement the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
Must	As negotiating language "must" creates an obligation to act for the addressee. It is <u>binding</u> .
<i>Mutatis mutandis</i>	Latin phrase meaning "with such changes as are necessary on the points of detail" (e.g. "the dispute settlement provisions of the Convention apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the Protocol")
NAFTA	North America Free Trade Agreement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development. A framework for action towards the socio-economic development of Africa. Adopted in 2001 by the Organization of African Unity (now African Union).
New and additional financial resources	1) Financial resources that are provided in addition to the UN target level of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) for <u>Official Development Assistance</u> (ODA). 2) Financial resources that are new and additional to annual general ODA funding which has remained constant or increased in absolute terms or in ODA/GNP terms.
NIP	National implementation Plan, required under the <u>Stockholm Convention</u> on <u>Persistent Organic Pollutants</u> .
Non-Governmental Organization(s)	Also referred to as NGO(s). Applied to community groups and not-for-profit organizations. In the UN system, it also includes business associations. The term gathers organizations with different <u>mandates</u> (e.g. research, education and awareness building, lobbying, technical assistance, field projects etc).
Non-Paper	Informal text aimed at facilitating negotiations. It is not a formal proposal.
Non-Party	Refers to a State that has not ratified, acceded or otherwise become a Party to an international agreement. As a Non-Party, a State may have limited rights to participate in negotiations or deliberations under the agreement, or to invoke provisions of the agreement.
Non-recorded vote	Vote where the way in which each <u>delegation</u> votes is not reported in the official records or the <u>report of the meeting</u> .
Notification	Formal communication that bears legal consequences (e.g. start of a time-bound period).

Term	Definition
Objection	Oral or written <u>statement</u> by which a <u>delegation</u> informs a <u>meeting</u> that it objects to the <u>adoption</u> of a proposed <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> , <u>recommendation</u> , or measure.
Obligation clauses/provisions	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> or <u>decision</u> that provide for the actions to be taken, individually or jointly by the <u>Parties</u> to achieve the objectives of the agreement or decision.
Observer	Non-state or State actor invited to participate in a limited capacity in discussions during negotiations. Observers are not allowed to negotiate text and have no voting powers. In practice, some observer States do negotiate, although they do not participate in final decision making.
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is an organisation of advanced economies mainly in North America, Europe and the Pacific region that share a commitment to democratic government and a market economy. Originated in 1948 as the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), to help administer the Marshall Plan for the re-construction of Europe after World War II.
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Regional cooperation organization created in 1981.
OEWG	Open Ended Working Group
Official Development Assistance	Also known as “foreign aid”. Consists of loans, grants, technical assistance and other forms of cooperation from developed to developing countries.
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Organization of eleven developing countries whose economies rely on oil export revenues. Created in 1960 to, inter alia, achieve stable oil prices, which are fair and reasonable for both producers and consumers.
Open-ended	Said of a <u>meeting</u> or group which is not time-bound (unless specified otherwise) and participation is not restricted.
Operative paragraphs	Paragraphs of an international <u>agreement</u> , <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> or <u>recommendations</u> that provide for the actions to be taken, individually or jointly, by the <u>Parties</u> to achieve the objectives of the <u>agreement</u> , <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> or <u>recommendation</u> . Often contrasted with the <u>preamble</u> .
Order	1. “Call to order” direction by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> that a <u>delegate</u> or group of delegates should be silent to allow the meeting’s procedure to take place in an orderly manner. 2. “Out of order” – the status of something that is not in accordance with the <u>rules of procedure</u> .
Our of order	Not behaving in accordance with the <u>rules of procedure</u> .
Ozone secretariat	<u>Secretariat</u> administered by UNEP. Services the <u>Vienna Convention</u> and the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
Package deal	Proposal that includes several issues, not necessarily related, which has to be accepted or rejected as a whole.
Party	Refers to a State (or regional economic integration organization such as the European Union) that has ratified acceded to, or otherwise formally indicated its intent to be bound by an international <u>agreement</u> and for which the agreement is in force. Also called “Contracting Party”. While most Parties have signed the instrument in question, it is not usually a necessary step in order to become a Party (see Accession).
Persistent Organic Pollutants	Also referred to as POPs. Chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods of time. Regulated under the Stockholm Convention.
Permanent Representative	Head of a permanent mission

Term	Definition
PIC	1) Prior informed consent. Used in the context of negotiations on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing as well as on traditional knowledge of local and indigenous communities. Also used in the context of the PIC Convention 2) Pacific Island Country
PIC Convention	Shorthand for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Also called the Rotterdam Convention.
Plenary	The main meeting format of a <u>Conference of the Parties</u> or a <u>Subsidiary Body</u> . <u>Decisions</u> or <u>recommendations</u> approved by sub-sets of the Plenary have to be forwarded to the Plenary for formal final <u>adoption</u> .
Plenipotentiary	Individual who carries or has been conferred the <u>full powers</u> to engage the State he or she represents
Point of order	Formal question raised by a <u>delegation</u> as to whether the proceedings are in order or a particular action by a <u>delegate</u> or a presiding officer follows the <u>rules of procedure</u> .
POPRC	Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee, a <u>subsidiary body</u> under the <u>Stockholm Convention</u> .
POPs Convention	Shorthand for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
Preamble	Set of opening <u>statements</u> called “ <u>recitals</u> ” of an international <u>agreement</u> , <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> , or <u>recommendation</u> that guides the interpretation of the document. Often contrasted with the <u>operative paragraphs</u> .
Preambular paragraphs	The paragraphs found in the preamble to an international <u>agreement</u> , <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> , or <u>recommendation</u> and that helps interpret the document
Precautionary approach / principle	Approach/principle according to which the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing action where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm to the environment or human health. The approach/principle is embedded in several instruments, including Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The precautionary approach is often used in negotiations to infer a less definite meaning that the precautionary principle.
PrepCom	Preparatory Committee. A <u>committee</u> mandated to prepare a <u>meeting</u> . It can be mandated to address substantive issues or not. The phrase is often used to refer to the meetings of the preparatory committee.
Pre-session documents	Documents prepared by the Secretariat for distribution before a <u>meeting</u> . These include draft <u>decisions</u> , <u>resolutions</u> , <u>recommendations</u> or non-papers etc
Presiding Officer	<u>Delegate</u> elected by a meeting to preside over the proceedings, maintain order and lead the work of the meeting.
Prior Informed Consent	Consent to be acquired prior to accessing genetic resources or shipping internationally regulated chemicals, substances or products. Granted by competent authorities on the basis of the information provided by the partners to a prior informed consent agreement. The notion is linked to the principle of the Advance Informed Agreement.
Procès verbal	Record of all <u>statements</u> made during a meeting.
Protocol	1) International legal instrument appended or closely related to another agreement which constitutes a separate and additional agreement and which must be signed and ratified by the parties to the convention concerned. Protocols typically strengthen a convention by adding new, more detailed commitments 2) Rules of diplomatic procedure, ceremony and etiquette 3) Department within a government or organization that deals with relations with other missions.
Provisional agenda	Draft agenda of a meeting that has yet to be adopted.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Public-Private partnership	A cooperative initiative between public (i.e. governmental) and private entities (including businesses, NGOs, etc) towards a specific action.
Quorum	The minimum number of Parties or members that must be present for a meeting to start or <u>decisions</u> to be made. The quorum is stated in the rules of procedure and it may be expressed in absolute numbers or as a percentage of an overall number (e.g. 60% of the Parties).
Rapporteur	1) Delegate (more specifically a member of the Bureau) elected/nominated to prepare or oversee the preparation of the report of the meeting 2) Person appointed by a body to investigate an issue or function and report back to that body.
Ratification	Formal process by which a Head of State or appropriate governmental official or authority signs a document which signals the consent of the State to become a Party to an international agreement once the agreement has entered into force and to be bound by its provisions.
Recitals	Set of opening statements of an international agreement, decision, resolution, or recommendation that guides the interpretation of the document. Also referred to as 'Preamble' or 'preambular paragraphs'.
Recommendation	Formal expression of an advisory nature of the will of the governing body of an international organization or international agreement. It is not binding.
Recorded vote	Vote where the way in which each delegation voted is reported in the official records or report of the meeting.
Regional groups	Alliances of countries, more or less by geographic location, which meet privately to discuss issues and nominate bureau members and other officials for activities under the Convention. The five regional groups are Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and Others Group.
Registration	Process by which delegates are issued a pass to access a meeting's venue and discussions.
Report on/of the meeting	Document that records all discussions and results of a meeting. A report is not the same as minutes, which record all interventions. A report "on" the meeting does not need the approval of the body in question whereas a report "of" a meeting does.
Reservation	Unilateral statement made by a State upon signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to an international legal instrument, indicating that it wishes to exclude or alter the legal effect of certain provisions in their application to that State. Reservations are generally permitted, but some international agreements expressly prohibit reservations.
Resolution	Formal expression of the opinion or will of the governing body of an international organization or international agreement. Usually non-binding.
Rev.	Stands for revision. Used to reference revised versions of documents during negotiations.
Rio Conference	Shorthand for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The outcomes of the Conference include: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Agenda 21, the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (also known as 'the Forest Principles'). UNCED also led to the negotiation and adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Rio Convention(s)	Used to designate the <u>conventions</u> negotiated and adopted during the <u>Rio Conference</u> in 1992. These Conventions are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to which the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), adopted in 1994, is also added.
Rio Declaration	Shorthand for the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted at the Rio Conference, the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Set of 27 Principles on sustainable development.
Roster of experts	Experts nominated to perform certain tasks as defined by the governing body of an international agreement or international organization.
Rotterdam Convention	Shorthand for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Also referred to as the “PIC Convention” Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2004.
Rules of Procedure	Set of rules adopted by a meeting to govern the work and decision making of its formal settings (e.g. for plenary or working groups).
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Approach developed on the basis of an open-ended consultative process involving representatives of all stakeholder groups, jointly convened by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and UNEP. Adopted in 2006.
Scale of assessment	Agreed formula for determining the scale of contribution of each Member State of an international organization.
Secret ballot/vote	Type of vote. Organized to ensure that each delegation’s vote remains secret.
Secretariat	The body established under an international agreement to arrange and service meetings of the governing body of that agreement, and assist Parties in coordinating implementation of the agreement. Also performs other functions as assigned to it by the agreement and the decisions of the governing body.
Secretary-General	Normally: Head of the United Nations Secretariat
Session	Meeting or series of meetings of a particular body (e.g. Eighth Special Session of UNEP Governing Council; “working group II met in four sessions”
Shall	As negotiating language, “shall” creates an obligation for action for the addressee. It is binding.
Should	As negotiating language, “should” entails advice, not an obligation, to do something. However, while non-binding, it implies a stronger imperative than “may”.
Show of hands	Type of voting procedure by which delegations raise a hand or nameplate to signal “yes”, “no” or “abstain”. A vote by show of hands is a non-recorded vote.
Side events	Events taking place concurrently with a meeting. Usually in the form of discussion panels, workshops, seminars, launches, etc organized either by the Secretariat, States, international organization or non-governmental organizations.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SIDS	Small Island Developing States. Low-lying coastal countries that share similar development challenges and concerns about the environment, especially their vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change. Agenda 21 recognized that SIDS and islands supporting small communities are a special case both for environment and development. Currently 41 SIDS are included in the list used by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
Signatory	A State that has negotiated and signed an international agreement.
Signature	Act by which the head of State or government, the foreign minister, or another designated official indicates the authenticity of an international agreement and, where ratification is not necessary, it may also indicate the consent of the State to be bound by the agreement.
Single negotiated text	Draft text compiling all the delegations proposals into a coherent whole.
Soft law	The term used for quasi-legal instruments which do not have any binding force, or those whose binding force is somewhat weaker than the binding nature of traditional law, often referred to as "hard law". In the field of the international law soft law consists of non-treaty obligations which are therefore non-enforceable and may include certain types of declarations, guidelines, communications and resolutions of international bodies (e.g. resolutions of the General Assembly). Soft law may be used to encourage broader adhesion to a proposal.
Sound management	Taking all practicable steps to ensure that management takes place in a manner which protects human health and the environment against the adverse effects of activities, processes, products or substances.
Speakers' list	List of delegations seeking the floor. Maintained by the presiding officer, in the order in which delegations have made the request.
Special session	A session of a body outside and additional to its regularly scheduled sessions. Focused on a particular issue.
Specialized agency	Autonomous international organization linked to the United Nations through special agreement.
Spokesman/ spokesperson	A delegate speaking on behalf of a group of countries or organizations.
Sponsor	Delegation which proposes a decision, resolution, recommendation or amendment for adoption by a meeting.
Square brackets	Typographical symbols placed around text under negotiation to indicate that the language enclosed is being discussed but has not yet been agreed upon. It is possible to have square brackets within square brackets, as there may be disagreement about both the general provision and the specific language. Square brackets are also used to indicate changed or added text in quote.
Stakeholder	Individuals or institutions (public and private) interested and involved in a process or related activities.
Stalemate	Point at which negotiations make no progress and no possible solution is in sight.
Stalled	Said of negotiations which are making no progress. Usually temporary situation.
Standing Committee	Committee established under various international agreements to perform certain functions as agreed to by the Conference of the Parties.
STAP/stap	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility. Provides strategic scientific and technical advice to the Global Environment Facility on its strategy and programs.
Statement	Oral or written expression of opinion.
<i>Status quo</i>	Latin phrase meaning "the current state of affairs".

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Steering Committee	Restricted group of individuals planning the work of a major meeting. Deals exclusively with procedural matters.
Stockholm Conference	Shorthand for the UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1971. The outcomes of the Stockholm Conference were: the establishment of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the establishment of an Environment Fund, an Action Plan and the Stockholm Declaration
Stockholm Convention	Shorthand for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Adopted in 2001, entered into force in 2004. Also referred to as the "POPs Convention"
Stockholm Declaration	One of the outcomes of the 1972 Stockholm Conference. A set of 26 Principles on environmental protection.
Strategic environmental assessment	Procedure for incorporating environmental consideration into national policies, plans and programmes. Sometimes referred to as "strategic environmental impact assessment".
Sub-committee	Committee created by another committee to address a specific issue.
Subsidiary body	A body, usually created by the governing body of an international agreement or international organization, with a specific mandate (e.g. Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the Convention on Biological Diversity). Different from a working group in that it is usually permanently established to assist the governing body.
<i>Sui generis</i>	A Latin term meaning "being the only example of its kind, constituting a class of its own, unique". Often used to describe a unique (legal) system.
Summit	Meeting at which the participants are high-level officials, such as Heads of State or Government
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable use	Use in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term degradation of the environment, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.
Synergies	Results of joint activities that goes beyond the sum of individual activities, making efforts more effective and efficient.
Tally	Count of positive and negative votes and abstentions.
TEAP	Technology and Economic Assessment Panel: Created within UNEP to provide technical information to Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on alternative technologies to the use of ozone depleting substances.
Technology Transfer	Transmission of know-how, equipment and products to governments, organizations or other stakeholders. Usually also implies adaptation for use in a specific cultural, social, economic and environmental context.
Tehran Convention	Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. Signed in 2003 and entered into force in 2006.
Terms of Reference	The mandate and scope for work of a body or individual
To case a vote	To vote.
To give the floor	Permission granted by the presiding officer of a meeting to make a statement.
To seek the floor	To ask permission to the presiding officer of a meeting to make a statement.
To table a proposal	To present the text of a proposal for consideration by other delegations.
To take the floor	To make a statement during a meeting.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Transboundary movement	Movement from an area under the national jurisdiction of one State to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another State or to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State.
Travaux préparatoires	Preparatory work. Record of negotiations and other documents which may be of evidentiary value in establishing the meaning of an international agreement.
Treaty	International agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation.
TRIPS Agreement	Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. One of the agreements under the World Trade Organisation.
Trust Fund	Fund to which the income of an international organization is added and from which the expenditures are drawn. There are two main types of trust fund – general trust fund, made up of contributions from Parties and non-earmarked contributions from other sources, and special trust fund, made up of earmarked contributions.
Type II Partnership	A multi-stakeholder partnership involving, inter alia, governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, universities, and/or other institutions. Type of partnership launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to implement commitments embedded in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
Unanimity	Type of decision making. A decision is adopted by unanimity when it has received the support of all delegations. Established by show of hands, voting or other means.
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio, Brazil in 1992. (see Rio Conference).
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development. Established in 1964 to promote the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy and held shape policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.
Under Secretary-General	Third highest rank in the United Nations Secretariat.
UNDG	United Nations Development Group. A forum bringing together UN agencies working on development and the Millennium Development Goals.
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme. Created in 1965. Body responsible for coordinating UN development-related work.
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme. Established in 1972 to lead and coordinate UN environment-related work.
UNESCO	UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Created in 1945.
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Established in 1978 to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Set up in 1966 and became a specialized agency of the UN in 1985. Has responsibility for promoting industrialisation throughout the developing world.
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Established in 1965 to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through appropriate training and research, including through the conduct of training programmes in multilateral diplomacy and international cooperation and training programmes in field of social and economic development.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
UNU	United Nations University. Established in 1973 to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are of concern to the UN and its Member States.
<i>Verbatim</i>	Latin phrase meaning “word-for-word”. “in full”. Way of recording a meeting’s discussions
Vienna Convention	1) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Adopted in 1984, entered into force in 1985 2) Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Adopted in 1969, entered into force in 1980 3) Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of treaties. Adopted in 1978, entered into force in 1996.
Vienna Setting or Vienna Process	The “Vienna Setting” is an informal negotiating format established to help delegates reach agreement during the final stages of a meeting. It involves a relatively small group of delegates with each major negotiating group represented by only one or two people mandated to make a deal on behalf of their group. It was a format modelled after the final negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety involving spokespersons for the major negotiating groups. Also referred to as the Cartagena Setting.
Voluntary Contribution	A contribution of any kind that unlike assessed contributions is not assessed under a binding international agreement, including the furnishing of funds for other financial support, services of any kind (including the use of experts or other personnel), or commodities, equipment, supplies or other material.
Vulnerability	The degree to which a community, population, species, ecosystem, region, agricultural system or some other quantity is susceptible, or unable to cope with, adverse effects.
Waigani Convention	Shorthand for the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region. Adopted in 1995, entered into force in 2001.
Waiver	Agreed exemption from an obligation, usually for a limited period of time.
Wastes	Substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law (Basel Convention).
WCO	World Customs Organization. International organization established in 1952 to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations and promote an honest, transparent and predictable Customs environment.
Weighted voting	System in which the votes of different delegations are not equal but instead counted with reference to an agreed formula.
WEOG	Western Europe and Others Group
WFP	World Food Programme. Established in 1961. The food aid arm of the UN.
WHC	World Heritage Convention. Shorthand for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Adopted in 1972 under the aegis of UNESCO entered into force in 1975. Also used as shorthand for the World Heritage Centre the equivalent of the Convention’s secretariat.
WHO	World Health Organization. The UN specialised agency for issues related to health. Established in 1948

Term	Definition
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization. A UN specialised agency established in 1970 to administer all matters related to intellectual property. WIPO has established an intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, which meets periodically.
Wise use	Sustainable utilization for the benefit of humankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of ecosystems within the context of sustainable development.
WMO	World Meteorological Organization. One of the UN specialized agencies established in 1950 to address matters related to meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
Working Group	<p>1) During a meeting, a sub-division of the plenary mandated to negotiate specific issues of the agenda usually arranged by clusters. Open to all Parties.</p> <p>2) Between meetings, a subsidiary body established by a governing body of an international agreement to provide it with advice on specific issues. These working groups can be open-ended and meet periodically or be time-bound and meet once only. Open to all Parties. Example: the Ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
Working languages	Languages in which texts are circulated and considered, and statements may be made during meetings. The official languages of the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The working language(s) of a particular meeting may be limited to one language, or may include a variety of languages that extend beyond the six UN languages.
Working paper	Informal paper used during a meeting to support negotiations
WSSD	<p>World Summit on Sustainable Development. Held in 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The outcomes of the WSSD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Johannesburg declaration on Sustainable Development</li> <li>- the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</li> <li>- Type II Partnerships</li> </ul>
WTO	World Trade Organization. An international organization established in 1995 to provide a forum for trade negotiations, handle trade disputes, monitor national trade policies and provide technical assistance and training for developing countries, among others.

## Annex II

## Glossary of technical terms relevant to mercury

Term	Definition
Absorbable organic halides (AOX)	A varied collection of organic compounds to which one or more chlorine atoms have become attached. The amount of AOX generated is a standard measurement that quantifies the amount of chlorinated organic material that is released.
Acceptable daily intake (ADI)	An estimate of the quantity of a substance in food or drinking water, expressed on a body-weight basis, that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable risk. ADI is expressed as milligrams of the substance per kilogram of bodyweight (mg/kg). (Source: Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives glossary of terms.)
AERMOD	Modelling system created by the American Meteorological Society/United States Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Model Improvement Committee, which introduced state-of-the-art modelling concepts into local-scale air quality models. (Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency.)
Air pollution control devices	Devices that can destroy contaminants or remove them from an exhaust stream before they are emitted into the atmosphere. A number of different devices are used to control a range of pollutants.
Anodic stripping voltammetry	A voltammetric method for quantitative determination of specific ionic species. The analyte of interest is electroplated on the working electrode by deposition and oxidized from the electrode by stripping. The current is measured during stripping. The oxidation of species is registered as a peak in the current signal at the potential at which the species begins to be oxidized.
Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme	An international programme established in 1991 to implement components of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.
Artisanal gold mining (also known as artisanal and small-scale gold mining)	Mining activities in which rudimentary methods are used to extract and process minerals and metals, usually on a small scale. Artisanal miners frequently use toxic materials in their attempts to recover metals and gems.
Atmospheric mercury depletion event	A decrease in mercury in the atmosphere close to the surface during polar springtime. Such depletions of mercury occur together with depletions of ozone.
Atomic absorption spectroscopy	A technique for determining the concentration of a metal element in a sample.
Atomic emission spectroscopy	A method of chemical analysis that uses the intensity of light emitted from a flame, plasma, arc, or spark at a particular wavelength to determine the quantity of an element in a sample. The wavelength of the atomic spectral line gives the identity of the element while the intensity of the emitted light is proportional to the number of atoms of the element.
Atomic fluorescence spectroscopy (also known as fluoroscopy or spectrofluoroscopy)	A type of electromagnetic spectroscopy used to analyse fluorescence from a sample. It involves using a beam of light, usually ultraviolet light, to excite the electrons in molecules of certain compounds and cause them to emit light of a lower energy, typically, but not necessarily, visible light. A complementary technique is absorption spectroscopy.
Balance (also referred to as budget)	Net quantity of a substance in a given geophysical reservoir or societal entity, taking into account all inputs and outputs of the substance.
Benchmark dose	A dose or concentration that produces a predetermined change in the response rate of an adverse effect (called the benchmark response or BMR) compared to background.
Best management practices	Measures that can be used to reduce the risk of potential pollutants entering the environment.
Bioaccumulation	The accumulation of substances such as pesticides or other organic chemicals in an organism. Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a toxic substance at a rate greater than that at which the substance is lost.

Term	Definition
Bioaccumulation factor	A number that describes bioaccumulation as the ratio of the concentration of a chemical inside an organism to the concentration in the surrounding environment.
Biochemical oxygen demand	The rate at which the biological organisms in a body of water take up dissolved oxygen. Widely used as an indication of the quality of water, it can be used to gauge the effectiveness of wastewater treatment plants.
Biological exposure indices	Reference values intended as guidelines for the evaluation of potential health hazards in the practice of industrial hygiene. They represent the levels of determinants that are most likely to be observed in specimens collected from a healthy worker who has been exposed to chemicals to the same extent as a worker with inhalation exposure to the threshold limited value.
Brainstem auditory brain potentials	Very small electrical voltage potentials that are produced in response to an auditory stimulus from electrodes placed on the scalp. They reflect neuronal activity in the auditory nerve, cochlear nucleus, superior olive and inferior colliculus of the brainstem.
CALPUFF	Advanced non-steady-state meteorological and air quality modelling system developed and distributed by Earth Tech, Inc. The model has been adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
Center for Exposure Assessment Modelling	Unit of the United States Environmental Protection Agency that provides exposure assessment methodologies and models for groundwater, surface water, food chain and multimedia assessment.
Cold vapour atomic fluorescence spectroscopy (CVAFS)	A variant of atomic fluorescence spectroscopy (see above).
Community multiscale air quality modelling system for atmospheric mercury	A system for modelling chemical transport in North America.
Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe	A programme under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution that provides a framework for monitoring mercury emissions and depositions in Europe.
Creatinine	A compound present in the muscles and blood that is passed from the body in urine. Elevated creatinine levels in the blood can be a sign that the kidneys are not functioning well. Creatinine is measured in the blood and in the urine as part of a creatinine clearance test, a diagnostic test for assessing kidney function.
Determinant	A substance tested for in a biological sample, which may be a parent compound, a metabolite or a substance in the blood at a level indicative of a reversible biological change induced by absorption. Levels are assessed as part of biological monitoring, which can be used to assist in determining the internal, or biologically effective, dose of a chemical.
Divalent mercury (also expressed as Hg <sup>2+</sup> or Hg(II))	The most stable and common of the ionized forms of mercury in the environment. In the atmosphere, mercury species containing divalent mercury are more easily washed out of the air by precipitation and deposited than is elemental mercury.
Dry deposition	A process by which particles and gases from the atmosphere are transported to surfaces (such as the surfaces of soil, water or vegetation) at points of direct physical or chemical interaction in the absence of precipitation. Dry deposition, which occurs in the intervals of time between precipitation events, includes inputs of tiny particulates from the atmosphere, as well as the uptake of gaseous sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide by plants, soil, and water. Unlike the wet deposition rate, the rate of dry deposition can be much greater close to point-sources of emission.
Electrostatic precipitator	A device used to reduce emissions of certain pollutants from combustion flue gases.
Elemental mercury (also expressed as Hg <sup>0</sup> or Hg(0))	A chemical element with the symbol Hg. A heavy, silvery metal, mercury is one of five metallic chemical elements that are liquid at or near room temperature and pressure. Mercury is the only metal that is liquid under standard conditions for temperature and pressure.

Term	Definition
Emission and dispersion modelling system	A system for assessing how airbase and airport operations affect air quality. The main focus is on mobile sources such as aircraft engines, auxiliary power units, aerospace ground equipment and ground vehicles such as trucks and cars; fixed sources such as power plants and fuel storage tanks are considered to a lesser extent. The system produces estimates of criteria pollutant emissions and features dispersion algorithms that are used to estimate downwind concentrations.
Environmentally sound management	Management of hazardous wastes or other wastes in such a way as to take all practicable steps to ensure that such wastes are managed in a manner that protects human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.
Extended producer responsibility	A strategy designed to promote the integration of environmental costs associated with goods throughout their life cycles into the market price of those goods.
Fabric filter	A type of filter used to capture particulate matter, including in combustion flue gases.
Flue gas desulfurization	A technology or process that removes sulfur oxides and sulfur dioxides (SO <sub>2</sub> ) from the products of combustion or flue gases that are produced in boilers at power plants (biomass or coal fueled).
Fluidized bed combustion technology	A combustion technology that employs jets of air to suspend solid fuels in the air during combustion. The result is a turbulent mix of gas and solids and a tumbling action much like a bubbling fluid that provides more effective chemical reactions and heat transfer. Another feature is the burning of combustible materials together with inert materials that provide ideal conditions for combustion. The technology allows the use of low-grade coals and other poor-quality fuels.
Global Environment Monitoring System/Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme	A programme that provides information for Governments, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, other relevant institutions and the general public on levels of and trends in contaminants in food, their contribution to total human exposure and their significance for public health and trade. The programme is implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with a network of WHO collaborating centres and participating institutions located in over 70 countries around the world.
Global Mercury Project	An initiative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization that was launched in 2002. The project brings together Governments, non-governmental organizations, representatives of industry and community stakeholders in an effort to build the capacity required to monitor mercury use and pollution in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and capacity to develop policies and institutions capable of removing barriers to the adoption of cleaner technologies for mineral extraction.
High-efficiency particulate arrester (also known as HEPA filter)	A filter that removes at least 99.97 per cent of airborne particles 0.3 micrometers (µm) in diameter.
Human biomonitoring	Monitoring of human beings, using biomarkers, that focuses on environmental exposures, diseases and disorders and genetic susceptibility.
Indirect exposures model – version 2 for mercury (IEM-2M)	An aquatic and terrestrial fate, transport and exposure model used to predict environmental mercury concentrations based on air concentrations and deposition rates to watershed soils and lakes. IEM-2M simulates the fate of elemental, divalent and methylmercury using mass balance equations. Mass balances are performed for each mercury species, with internal transformation rates linking the three species. Sources include wetfall and dryfall loadings and diffusion of atmospheric mercury vapour to watershed soils and the water body. Sinks include leaching from watershed soils, burial from lake sediments, volatilization from the soil and water column and advection out of lakes. Methylmercury concentrations in fish are estimated from water concentrations based on bioaccumulation factors.
Industrial source code air dispersion model (IXC3)	A local-scale atmospheric transport model.

Term	Definition
J-Moss	Labelling system used to indicate the presence of specific chemical substances in electrical and electronic equipment. The purpose of the system is to promote the use of recyclable resources and parts through providing information on the specific substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment.
Lethal concentration, 50 per cent (LC <sub>50</sub> )	The concentration of a toxic substance in a medium (for example, water) at which 50 per cent of the individuals in a test sample die. It is used to describe the level of toxicity of a substance to a specific species (for example, fish) in laboratory tests.
Lethal dose, 50 per cent (LD <sub>50</sub> )	The dose (intake) of a toxic substance at which 50 per cent of the individuals in a test sample die. It is used to describe the level of toxicity of a substance to a specific species (for example, mice, birds or other animals) in laboratory tests.
Lifetime	<p>In atmospheric physio-chemistry, the time during which the first-order processes (or totality of the first-order processes) of scavenging result in mercury species mass reduction in a given amount of time in a geophysical reservoir. For a reservoir with homogeneous mercury species distribution the lifetime is equal to the ratio of the mass contained in the reservoir to the scavenging rate. Since the mass of mercury in the reservoir left to be reacted or removed decreases over time, the amount reacted or removed per unit of time decreases in a natural logarithmic fashion. For example, a lifetime of mercury of one year does not mean that all the mercury in a sample would be gone in one year if emissions were zero; it means that the rate of removal at the start of the time period in terms of mass per unit of time, if it did not change, would result in the removal of all the mercury in one year; since the rate of removal decreases as the mass of mercury decreases, however, the amount of mercury left after one year is equal to <math>1/e</math> times the initial mass, where <math>e</math> equals 2.71828183.</p> <p>In descriptions of life cycles of products, the time span beginning when a product is put into use (usually the time of purchase) and ending when the product can no longer be used or is discarded.</p>
Load	The intensity of input of pollutants to a given ecosystem from the environment. The comparable concept of atmospheric load refers to the intensity of input of pollutants to a given ecosystem from the atmosphere.
Low-nitrogen oxide burner (also known as low-NO <sub>x</sub> burner)	Utility boiler combustion technology designed specifically to generate relatively low levels of nitrogen oxides.
Lowest observed effect level (also known as lowest observed adverse effect level – LOEL or LOAEL)	The lowest concentration or amount of a substance, found by experiment or observation, that causes an adverse alteration of the morphology, functional capacity, growth, development or life span of a target organism distinguishable from normal (control) organisms of the same species and strain under defined conditions of exposure.
Marine boundary layer	The layer of air immediately above the surface of the ocean, where the exchange of mercury between air and water takes place.
Mass spectrometry	An analytical technique for determining the elemental composition of a sample of a substance. It is also used for elucidating the chemical structures of molecules, such as peptides and other chemical compounds. Mass spectrometry works through the ionization of chemical compounds to generate charged molecules or molecule fragments. The charged molecules, or ions, are then measured to determine their mass-to-charge ratios.
Maximum residue level (MRL)	The maximum concentration of residue that is recommended by the Codex Alimentarius to be legally permitted or recognized as acceptable in or on a food. It is based on the type and amount of a residue considered to be without toxicological hazard for human health, an amount described by the terms “acceptable daily intake” and “temporary acceptable daily intake”, the latter of which incorporates an additional safety factor and takes into account other relevant public health risks as well as food technology aspects (Source: WHO). Maximum concentration of residue is expressed in milligrams of residue per kilogram of food (mg/kg), on a fresh weight basis.

Term	Definition
Maximum tolerated dose	A high dose used in chronic toxicity testing that is expected, on the basis of an adequate subchronic study, to produce limited toxicity when administered for the duration of the test period. It should not induce overt toxicity, for example, appreciable deaths of cells or organ dysfunction; toxic manifestations that are predicted materially to reduce the life span of animals being tested except as a result of neoplastic development; or 10 per cent or greater retardation of body weight gain as compared with control animals. In some studies, toxicity that could interfere with a carcinogenic effect is specifically excluded from consideration. (Source: IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Terminology, 1997.)
Meals per season	The number of meals consumed during a season (usually by fish). It is used to estimate consumption of mercury. The number of meals per week in a season is also considered.
Method detection limit	A detection limit, or lower limit of detection, is the lowest quantity of a substance that can be distinguished from the absence of that substance (a blank value) within a stated confidence limit. The method detection limit includes the possible effect of errors that may occur during each stage of the performance of a particular method of analysis.
Methylmercury (also expressed as MethylHg or MeHg)	An organometallic substance in which mercury is bound to a single methyl group.
Metric ton	1,000 kg
Micrograms per kilogram of body weight ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight)	A unit of measurement used to describe an amount, often referred to as “intakes” or “doses”, of mercury, such as intakes that are considered safe for humans. In some cases it is used to express daily intake ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight/day) and in other cases weekly intake ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight/week).
Milligram (mg)	$10^{-3}$ gram
Multimedia, multipathway and multireceptor risk assessment	A system used to conduct screening-level risk-based assessments of potential human and ecological health risks resulting from chronic (i.e., long-term) exposure to various chemicals (including mercury) released from land-based waste management units.
Municipal solid waste (also known as urban solid waste)	Waste that includes predominantly household waste (domestic waste), sometimes with the addition of commercial wastes, collected by a municipality within a given area. It is in either solid or semisolid form and generally excludes industrial hazardous wastes. The term “residual waste” refers to waste left from household sources containing materials that have not been separated out or sent for reprocessing.
Natural emission	Mercury input to the atmosphere that is not the result of current or previous human activity. Natural emissions are commonly limited to mercury from purely natural sources (e.g., volcanoes, evasions from mercury-enriched soils) and re-emission of previously deposited mercury.
Neutron activation analysis	A nuclear process used for determining certain concentrations of elements in a vast amount of materials. It allows discrete sampling of elements as it disregards the chemical form of a sample and focuses solely on its nucleus. The method is based on neutron activation and therefore requires a source of neutrons.
No observed effect level (also known as no observed adverse effect level – NOEL/NOAEL)	The greatest concentration or amount of a substance, found by experiment or observation, that causes no alteration in the morphology, functional capacity, growth, development or life span of target organisms distinguishable from those of normal (control) organisms of the same species and strain under the same defined conditions of exposure. (Source: International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Compendium of Chemical Terminology, 1997.)
Particle scrubber	Equipment designed to reduce emissions of particles from combustion flue gases.
Particulate mercury (also expressed as $\text{Hg}_p$ )	Mercury bound in, or adsorbed on, particulate material. In the atmosphere, particulate mercury is deposited much faster than elemental mercury.
Polytetrafluoroethylene	A synthetic fluoropolymer of tetrafluoroethylene that has numerous applications. Most commonly known as Teflon, it is a thermoplastic polymer which is a white solid at room temperature.

Term	Definition
Potential hydrogen (more commonly known as pH)	An expression of ability to attract hydrogen ions, it is used to quantify acidity or alkalinity using a scale of 0–14, with 7 indicating pH neutrality, numbers less than 7 indicating increasing acidity and numbers greater than 7 indicating increasing alkalinity.
Pre-industrial state	A conventional term that refers to the state of the natural mercury cycle before the beginning of human industrial activity; in Europe noticeable production and consumption of mercury began during the medieval period.
Provisional tolerable weekly intake	The level of permissible human weekly exposure to those contaminants unavoidably associated with the consumption of otherwise wholesome and nutritious foods. An endpoint used for food contaminants such as heavy metals with cumulative properties.
Quick Start Programme	A funding mechanism, established under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, that supports initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition in the area of sound chemicals management. Funding is provided from a United Nations Environment Programme trust fund and through multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation.
Re-emission	Secondary input of mercury to the atmosphere from geochemical reservoirs (soil, sea water, fresh water) where mercury has been accumulating as a result of previous or current human activity.
Reference dose	Term used in the evaluation of the risk of toxic effects of chemicals (such as methylmercury) on humans; the reference dose is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime.
Reference exposure level	The concentration at or below which no adverse health effects are anticipated for a specified period of exposure to a specified substance.
Regional Lagrangian Model of Air Pollution	A long-range atmospheric transport model.
Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)	A European Community regulation (EC 1907/2006) on chemicals and their safe use. It deals with the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances. The new law entered into force on 1 June 2007.
Selective catalytic reduction equipment	Equipment designed to reduce emissions of certain pollutants from combustion flue gases. In such systems, ammonia vapour is used as a reducing agent and is injected into the flue gas stream, passing over a catalyst. Reductions of nitrogen oxide emissions of 80–90 per cent are achieved. The optimum operating temperature is usually between 300° C and 400° C. This is normally the flue gas temperature at the economizer outlet. (Source: International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre)
Selective non-catalytic reduction equipment	Similar to selective catalytic reduction equipment. No catalyst is used, however, and reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions is limited to 30–50 per cent.
Slag	Waste material produced when coal is dug from the earth; also a substance produced by mixing chemicals with metal that has been heated until it is liquid in order to remove unwanted substances from it.
Spray dryer adsorber system	System designed to reduce emissions of certain pollutants from combustion flue gases.
Threshold limit value (TLV)	The level of a chemical substance to which it is believed a worker can be exposed day after day for a working lifetime without adverse health effects. TLV is an estimate based on the known toxicity in humans or animals of a given chemical substance and the reliability and accuracy of the latest sampling and analytical methods. It is not a static definition, because new research often results in the modification of the assessment of the risks posed by substances, and new laboratory and instrumental analysis methods can improve analytical detection limits.

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<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Toxicity characteristic leaching procedure	A method for extracting samples of soil for chemical analysis. It is used to simulate leaching through a landfill.
Wet deposition	A process by which particles and gases are transported from the atmosphere to surfaces (such as the surfaces of soil, water or vegetation) through atmospheric precipitation. Different types of wet deposition include precipitation scavenging (also known as below-cloud scavenging), in-cloud scavenging and snow scavenging. Precipitation scavenging occurs when falling rain droplets collide with particles. In-cloud scavenging occurs when aerosol particles collide with the water droplets in clouds. A common example of this type of deposition occurs inside fog. In-cloud scavenging may also occur when clouds collide with terrain, such as a mountain. Snow scavenging occurs when falling snow collides with material below it.

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