



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA POSITION ON UNEP WORK ON MERCURY

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- UNEPs work on mercury – and discussions in UNEP GC on ways of addressing issue of mercury
- Positions:
 - USA – partnerships
 - EU, Norway, Switzerland – voluntary actions insufficient; they fail to reduce use of mercury and don't affect trade. EU wants legally binding instrument
 - Africa - supportive of legally binding instrument



SA POSITION

1. In principle SA agrees that there is a need for a regulatory regime for mercury.

However it should be comprehensive, and not only deal with phase out - ie. should include research, substitutes, finance, technical support, liability and redress

2. On the expansion of UNEP work to **cadmium and lead**, into an international regime, SA's view is that the science has not yet matured on this, and that further work is needed
3. On UNEPs program on mercury, SA position is that we need support to better understand the scope of the contamination problem. Research should be at international and country level.



- Currently limited – more pressing priorities
- Predominantly an EU agenda being pushed
- Included in the Health Care Risk Waste Management Strategy – Dept of Health is focal point