



## “GLOBAL MERCURY WASTE ASSESSMENT” SEPTEMBER 2017 REPORT

A response by the World’s nations to the abundant evidence of the negative effects of mercury pollution on human health and the environment, the Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force on 16 August 2017. The Convention includes provisions covering the entire lifecycle of mercury, including towards its environmentally sound management once waste.

During the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (Geneva, 24 to 29 September 2017), UN Environment will be releasing the Global Mercury Waste Assessment, the first ever global report on mercury waste. The report is based on fact-finding missions to almost 30 countries allowing an initial survey of current practices in mercury waste management.

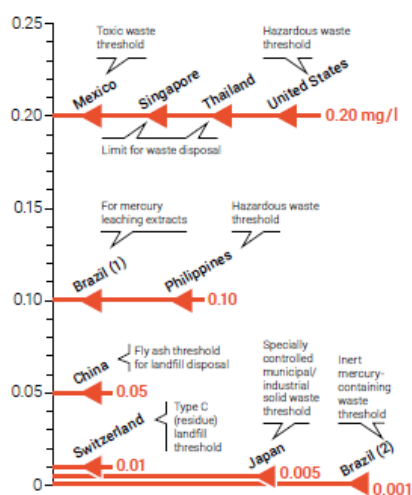
The central finding is clear: many countries still face fundamental challenges related to waste management generally, and mercury waste management in particular. Many countries continue to manage mercury waste as part of municipal or industrial waste, and dispose of it as mixed waste in landfills or at open dumping sites. Even countries that implement some waste management practices may not have specific control measures for mercury waste, and the challenge of separate collection of mercury waste, in particular household mercury waste, remains.

### Mercury waste threshold levels

Sources: Compilation of Information on the Use of Mercury Waste Thresholds. UNEP (DTIE)/Hg/INC.7/19 (2015); Fact-finding missions in 2016-2017 for the Global Mercury Waste Assessment.

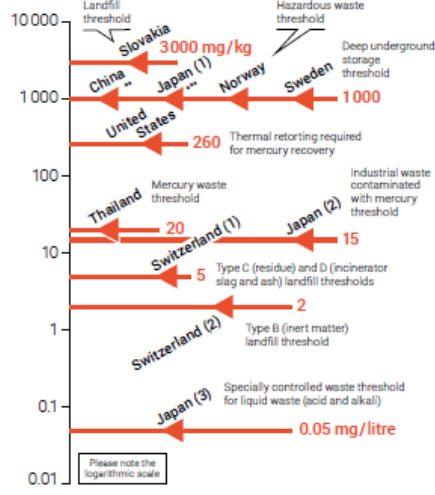
#### By leaching test

Milligrams of mercury per litre



#### By weight

Milligrams of mercury per kilogram\*



\* milligrams per litre for Japan (3); \*\* for hazardous wastes containing mercuric iodide, thiocyanate mercury, mercuric chloride, mercuric cyanide and mercury nitrate; \*\*\* for wastes subject to trade restrictions under the Basel Convention and for recyclable materials containing mercury

### DOWNLOAD REPORT & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report will be available for download at: [www.unep.org/ietc/what-we-do/mercury-waste](http://www.unep.org/ietc/what-we-do/mercury-waste)