



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ARABIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY - 5 TO 7 AUGUST 2014, DEAD SEA, JORDAN



1. The sub-regional workshop organized for Arabic speaking countries in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held at the Crowne Plaza Jordan Dead Sea Resort and Spa, Jordan, from 5 to 7 August 2014. Convened by the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention thanks to the generous support from the Government of Norway and other donors, this workshop gathered representatives from eight Arabic speaking countries, IGOs and NGOs active in the sub-region.
2. The workshop was attended by 25 participants, including 16 Government representatives, 5 representatives from intergovernmental organizations and 4 from non-governmental organizations. The following countries were represented in the workshop: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The full list of participants is available in annex 2.
3. The objectives of the workshop were to further enhance participants' knowledge of the Minamata Convention and the processes for its signature, ratification and early implementation. It also aimed at providing participants with information on the available sources of support and at creating opportunities for exchange and action at the sub-regional level. By the end of the workshop, each participating country had prepared a draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention. The programme of the workshop is available in annex 1. Additional information, including UNEP presentations for download, will be available at www.mercuryconvention.org.

Background information:

In its resolution on arrangements in the interim period, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 10 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan called upon States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible. The Conference further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate activities at regional and country level to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner. In response to this request, UNEP is conducting a series of workshops in the interim period until the Convention enters into force to assist countries in their process towards ratification and early implementation of their obligations under the Convention.



ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Tuesday 5 August, 2014

8.30 a.m.	REGISTRATION
Item 1. Opening of the workshop and introduction	
9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Representative of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention ➤ Representative of the Government of Jordan
9.30 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and organization of work (UNEP) ➤ Tour de table - Introduction of participants, identified needs and expectations
10.15 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention	
10.45 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of the negotiations process and upcoming INC related activities (UNEP) ➤ Overview of the Convention and its key concepts (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break out groups – focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified key priorities at the national level ○ Advantages of becoming a Party
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
1.45 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention	
Item 3.1 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Emissions and releases	
2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on emissions and releases (UNEP) ➤ Introduction to the UNEP mercury toolkit (UNEP) and e-learning platform (UNITAR) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
3.00 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 3.2 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)	
3.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
3.45 p.m.– 4.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation on the guidance available on developing a national strategic plan for ASGM (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.00 p.m.– 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break out groups – focus on Items 3.1 and 3.2
5.30 p.m.– 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 1



Wednesday 6 August 2014

9.00 a.m.	START
9.00 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	➤ Recap from Day 1 discussions
Item 3.3 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Supply, trade and storage	
9.15 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on supply, trade and storage (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.4 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Waste and contaminated sites	
9.45 a.m.– 10.00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on waste and contaminated sites (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.00 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation on waste management (Egypt) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.15 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 3.5 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Products and processes	
10.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on products and processes (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.6 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Health aspects	
11.15 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation by the WHO on the Minamata Convention and health (WHO) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on items 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6
1.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
2.00 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 4 Getting ready for ratification and early implementation	
2.45 p.m.– 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Steps and technical modalities to follow for the deposit of the instrument of ratification and signature (UNEP) ➤ Experience at the national level on the preparation for signature, ratification and early implementation (Yemen) ➤ Presentation on preparation for ratification (Jordan) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
3.30 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation on stakeholders identification and involvement (IPEN) ➤ Presentation on how to address the general public and particular audiences (ZMWG) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.45 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break out groups – focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of some general steps and priorities for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention ○ Development by each country of its draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 2



Thursday 7 August 2014

8.30 a.m.	START
Item 5. Mobilizing resources for the implementation	
8.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Presentation on the sources of funding and timelines and on UNEP's support for the ratification, including activities under the Global Mercury Partnership (UNEP)➤ Presentation on GEF support in the interim period (GEF Secretariat)➤ Interventions by other stakeholders on available support (UNEP, UNITAR, WHO, IPEN, ZMWG)➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.00 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Break out groups continued – focus on draft national roadmap
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 6. Draft national roadmaps prepared by each participating country	
1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Presentation by each country of its draft national roadmap➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 7. Opportunities for information exchange and cooperation	
4.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tour de table on opportunities for future needs and cooperation➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 8. Closure of the workshop	
5.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Evaluation of the workshop➤ Final remarks
6.00 p.m.	END OF THE WORKSHOP



ANNEX 2 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ARABIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE
RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON
MERCURY - 5 TO 7 AUGUST 2014, DEAD SEA, JORDAN

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