



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY – 19 TO 21 JANUARY 2015 – PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



- 1. The sub-regional workshop organized for Caribbean countries in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held at the Hilton Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 19 to 21 January 2015. Convened by the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean), this workshop gathered representatives from twelve countries, as well as IGOs, NGOs and other observer organizations active in the sub-region.
- 2. The workshop was attended by 41 participants, including 27 Government representatives, 9 representatives from intergovernmental organizations, 2 representatives from non-governmental organizations and 3 observers. The following countries were represented in the workshop: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. 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 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. On Wednesday 21 January, participating countries presented the draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention that they prepared during the course of the workshop. The programme of the workshop is available in annex 1. Additional information, including UNEP presentations for download, is available at www.mercuryconvention.org.

<u>Background information:</u>

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

Monday, 19 January 2015

| 8.30 a.m. | REGISTRATION | |
|---|---|--|
| Item 1. Opening of the | workshop and introduction | |
| 9.00 a.m. – 9.45 a.m. | Opening remarks: Representative of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Representative of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention Representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago | |
| 9.45 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. | Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and organization of work (UNEP) Tour de table - Introduction of participants, identified needs and expectations | |
| 10.30 a.m. | COFFEE BREAK | |
| Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention | | |
| 10.45 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. | Overview of the negotiations process and major outcomes from INC6 (UNEP) Overview of the Convention and its key features (UNEP) Questions & Answers | |
| 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | Break out groups – focus on: Advantages and challenges of becoming a Party to the Convention Key ministries, institutions and other entities in the ratification process | |
| 12.30 p.m. | LUNCH BREAK | |
| Item 2. Overview of the | e Minamata Convention (continued) | |
| 1.45 p.m. – 2.15 p.m. | > 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 | | |
| 2.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on emissions and releases (UNEP) Introduction to the UNEP mercury toolkit and Mercury:Learn (UNITAR) Questions & Answers | |
| 2.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. | Mercury emissions and releases, and waste management in Trinidad and Tobago Mercury emissions and releases in Haiti Questions & Answers | |
| 3.15 p.m. | COFFEE BREAK | |
| Item 3.2 Implementation | on of the Minamata Convention - Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) | |
| 3.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNEP) Questions & Answers | |
| 3.45 p.m.– 4.15 p.m. | Development of a national strategic plan for ASGM in Suriname Technical solutions to mercury use in ASGM, including experiences in transitioning to mercury free techniques (Susan Keane, ASGM partnership area lead) Questions & Answers | |
| 4.15 p.m.– 5.15 p.m. | ➤ Break out groups – focus on Items 3.1 and 3.2 | |
| 5.15 p.m.– 6.15 p.m. | Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions END OF DAY 1 | |
| 6.15 p.m. | END OF DAY 1 | |
| 7.00 p.m. – 9.00.p.m. | RECEPTION | |





Tuesday, 20 January 2015

| 9.00 a.m. | START | | |
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| 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. – 9.30 a.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on supply, trade and storage (UNEP) Questions & Answers | | |
| 9.30 a.m.– 10.15 a.m. | Mercury supply and trade in Suriname The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act as a system to control mercury trade in Antigua and Barbuda Import control measures on ODS in Saint Lucia Questions & Answers | | |
| Item 3.4 Implementation | of the Minamata Convention - Waste and contaminated sites | | |
| 10.15 a.m.– 10.30 a.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on waste and contaminated sites (UNEP) Questions & Answers | | |
| 10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m. | Mercury added-products and its waste management in Jamaica Questions & Answers | | |
| 10.45 a.m. | COFFEE BREAK | | |
| Item 3.5 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Products and processes | | | |
| 11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on products and processes (UNEP) Questions & Answers | | |
| 11.15 a.m. – 12.00 a.m. | Mercury-added products in the health sector in Honduras Phase-out of mercury-added products and mercury free alternatives in the health sector in St. Kitts and Nevis Phase-out of mercury-added products in the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) Questions & Answers | | |
| Item 3.6 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Health aspects | | | |
| 12.00 a.m. – 12.15 a.m. | Key provisions of the Convention on health aspects (UNEP)Questions & Answers | | |
| 12.15 a.m. – 12.45 a.m. | Minamata Convention and health issues (WHO) The Poison Information Network: The catalyst for the prevention of mercury poisoning in Jamaica (Caribbean Poison Information Network, Jamaica) Questions & Answers | | |
| 12.45 p.m. | LUNCH BREAK | | |
| Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention (continued) | | | |
| 1.45 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. | ➤ Break out groups – focus on items 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 | | |
| 2.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. | > Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions | | |
| Item 4 Getting ready for ratification and early implementation | | | |
| 3.15 p.m.– 4.15 p.m. | Steps and technical modalities for the deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (UNEP) Lessons learned from the ratification of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (recorded presentation by the BRS Secretariat) Questions & Answers | | |
| | > | | |
| 4.15 p.m. | COFFEE BREAK | | |





| 4.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. | Presentation on stakeholders involvement in consultative processes (IPEN) Presentation on communication tools used to address the general public and particular audiences (ZMWG) Questions & Answers |
|-----------------------|---|
| 5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. | Break out groups – focus on: Discussion on the key 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 |

Wednesday, 21 January 2015

| 8.30 a.m. | START | |
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| Item 5. Mobilizing resources for the implementation | | |
| 8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. | Provisions of the Minamata Convention on financial and technical support (UNEP) GEF support in the interim period (GEF Secretariat) Mercury related regional activities (BCRC-Caribbean) Interventions by other stakeholders on available support (CARICOM Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP GEF, UNEP ROLAC, UNITAR, WHO) Questions & Answers | |
| 10.30 a.m. | COFFEE BREAK | |
| 10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | > 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. | Presentation by each country of its draft national roadmap Questions & Answers | |
| 4.30 p.m. | COFFEE BREAK | |
| Item 7. Opportunities for information exchange and cooperation | | |
| 4.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m. | Tour de table on opportunities for future needs and cooperation Questions & Answers | |
| Item 8. Closure of the workshop | | |
| 5.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. | Evaluation of the workshopFinal remarks | |
| 6.00 p.m. | END OF THE WORKSHOP | |





ANNEX 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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