

## Capacity-building in the phasing out mercury-added products – Concept Note

### 1. Background

Mercury-added products are priority areas of implementation of the Convention for most of the Parties. Article 4 of the Convention requires parties to phase out manufacture, import and export of mercury-added products listed in Annex A to the Convention, unless they have registered exemptions up to five years. Out of 39 Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Reports submitted by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, 35 reports prioritized mercury-added products. Many developing countries state in their MIA reports that they do not manufacture mercury-added products and that the priority is on controlling import. They need to establish legal provisions to prohibit the import of mercury-added products, and to build capacities of the customs and trade control authorities to enforce such prohibition.

### 2. Capacity-building project funded by the European Union

The European Union's voluntary contribution of EUR 500,000 for 2020-2022 on "[Support to the implementation of the Minamata Convention through accelerating the intersessional processes](#)" includes a component to provide capacity-building in developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing the provisions on mercury-added products. This component consists of:

- Training materials on mercury-added products.
- Global online workshops on mercury-added products, including sessions in French and Spanish.
- Training of partners to provide hands-on assistance to Parties in implementing Article 4.
- Sub-regional or national pilot projects to support the establishment of regulations on mercury-added products and their enforcement.

### 3. Steps to implement the project

The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will start these components through the following steps:

- Development of training materials in UN languages.
- Identification of experts or partner organizations to provide hands-on assistance to Parties.
- Identification of developing country Parties or Parties with economies in transition that participate in the pilot project in developing legislation or regulation to phase out manufacture, import and export of mercury-added products, and in enforcing such legislation or regulation involving customs and trade control authorities.

The Secretariat will reach out to potential partners and participating Parties building on the past communications with Parties and stakeholders on Specific International Programme and other projects, and with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Interested Parties and stakeholders are invited to contact the [Secretariat](#).