



Date: 13 August 2014

Excellency,

On behalf of the Governments of Japan, Switzerland, United States of America and Uruguay, we have the honour to invite you to attend the High-level Special Event, “*The Minamata Convention on Mercury: Towards its early entry into force and effective implementation*”, which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 24 September 2014, from 1.15 pm to 2.30 pm, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in the margins of the opening of the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and on the day after the United Nations Climate Summit in New York.

This High-level Special Event will provide an important momentum to accelerate entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and prepare for its effective implementation. The Minamata Convention, adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Kumamoto, Japan on 10 October 2013, remains open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters until 9 October 2014. To date, 101 States and one regional economic integration organization have signed the Convention, and one State has accepted it. The Convention will enter into force after 50 States deposit instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. Those Member States that have not signed the Convention are invited to do so before it is closed for signature. Also, those who are in a position to do so are invited to ratify, accept, or approve the Convention. This High-level Special Event will include a ceremony for signing the Convention and deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval, as well as an opportunity to exchange views among high-level representatives of Member States present at the occasion of the general debate of the General Assembly with a view to ensuring early entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention.

To: All Member States of the United Nations

For the attention of Ministers responsible for matters concerning the Minamata Convention on Mercury

To facilitate wide participation, in addition to our diplomatic channels, we have requested the UNEP secretariat and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention to inform Governments around the world about this High-level Special Event and make practical arrangements. We would be grateful if you could confirm your participation, including, where relevant, information of whether your Government will sign the Convention or deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval during this High-level Special Event to treaty@unep.org and mercury.chemicals@unep.org at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Nobuteru Ishihara
Minister of the
Environment
Japan



Bruno Oberle
State Secretary
Ministry of
Environment,
Transport, Energy
and Communications
Switzerland



Judith G. Garber
Acting Assistant
Secretary
for Oceans,
International
Environmental and
Scientific Affairs
Department of State
United States of
America



Luis Almagro
Minister for Foreign
Affairs
Uruguay