

High-level Special Event:

The Minamata Convention on Mercury:

Towards its early entry into force and effective implementation

Co-organized by the Governments of Japan, Switzerland, United States of America, and Uruguay, and assisted by the United Nations Environment Programme

Practical information on the special event

Date/time: Wednesday, 24 September 2014, from 1.15 pm to 2.30 pm. Delegates are requested to be seated before the scheduled time of opening.

Venue: Conference Room 7, General Assembly Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York (located below the General Assembly Hall)

It has the capacity to seat approximately 100 people in the room.

Access: Normal ground pass for delegates to access the UN Headquarters building will allow access to the venue for the special event. Currently, no secondary pass is required to access to the venue, subject to the registration below. For obtaining normal ground pass, please consult the respective Permanent Missions to the UN at New York.

Format: It is an open event, and all Member States have been invited to the special event. No additional pass will be required for participation in the special event.

Registration: For security and also for organizational purpose, those who wish to participate in the special event should submit a list of delegation attending the event. Only those delegates who notified in advance their participation will have name signs for the respective States (States' name signs are digitally displayed and they need to be programmed prior to the event). The names of delegates should be sent to: treaty@unep.org and mercury.chemicals@unep.org

Arrangements for a ceremony for signing and/or ratification, approval or acceptance of the Minamata Convention during the special event:

It is expected that representatives of some Governments will deposit the instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance, and representatives of a number of Governments will sign the Minamata Convention during the special event.

Those Governments taking treaty action (signing, ratification, etc.) should, if not done so, notify the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat, either directly or through the respective Permanent Missions at New York, as soon as possible. A copy of the instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance, as well as full powers for a representative to sign the Minamata Convention (which is required in case an official other than Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs will sign the Convention) should be submitted in advance, preferably by Friday, 19 September 2014 and in any case no later than Monday, 22 September 2014. Such communication should be sent to:

Ms. Bernadette Mutirende (mutirende@un.org; tel: + 1 212 963 5047), Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, with copy to: treaty@unep.org and mercury.chemicals@unep.org

Working language:

On the basis of confirmation of participation in the special event communicated by the Governments concerned to date (18 September 2014), simultaneous interpretation will be arranged in the following languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Japanese)

Speakers list

Under item 3 of the provisional programme, entitled “Towards early entry into force and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury”, participants may wish to make brief remarks on relevant points. Given the limited time available, a list of speakers will be drawn for that purpose. Request for making such brief remarks should be submitted to treaty@unep.org and mercury.chemicals@unep.org. In case a large number of requests are submitted, precedence might be given to the Governments that co-host the special event and those that have taken treaty action (signing, ratifying, etc.) in the order of the list of speakers, taking into account also the diplomatic protocols.

Queries on practical arrangements:

Any queries concerning the special event may be sent to treaty@unep.org and mercury.chemicals@unep.org.

18 September 2014