

Reference: COP2/MC/FOLLOW-UP/DEC2018

3 December 2018

Subject: Action required to follow up on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 November 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-2) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 23 November 2018. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the parties and all stakeholders, who contributed to the success of the meeting, and who are working towards the implementation of the Convention.

At the meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed on a number of actions to implement the Minamata Convention and to prepare for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 25 to 29 November 2019. The attachment summarizes key action items to follow up on. For some items, submissions by parties and other stakeholders are invited, while for other items nominations are invited through the members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing the respective United Nations regions (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Central and Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and Others Group). Relevant dates for submissions and nominations are indicated in the attachment.

In several cases, the Conference of the Parties agreed on roadmaps with ambitious milestone dates. Adherence to these dates is essential to provide a sound basis for the Conference's deliberations at its third meeting.

Information should be submitted to:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
E-mail: MEA-minamatasecretariat@un.org

Attachments: Actions in follow-up to COP-2
Officers in the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for the period 2018-2019

To: Participants of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties
National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme
Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
International Environment House 1
Office address: 11-13 chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Postal address: Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org | www.mercuryconvention.org | www.unep.org



I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that paragraph 4 of article 17 of the Convention provides that each party shall designate a national focal point for the exchange of information under the Convention. National focal points play a highly important role including, but not limited to, the consent of importing parties under article 3, application for projects funded by the Specific International Programme, and invitation to relevant meetings. The list of national focal points nominated so far is available at the Convention website:

<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

If you represent a party that has not nominated a national focal point, please arrange for such nomination.

We look forward to receiving your contributions on the key issues referred to in the attachment.

Yours sincerely,

Rossana Silva Repetto
Executive Secretary



Attachment 1: Actions in follow-up to COP-2

1. Releases

Decision MC-2/3 established an intersessional process to identify relevant point source categories of releases of mercury and mercury compounds to land and water, including the establishment of a group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases.

The group will, as a first step, take into account the information submitted by parties and other stakeholders. The group will prepare a report including a list of any significant anthropogenic point source of release categories not addressed in the provisions of the Convention -other than article 9- , along with a suggested roadmap and structure for the development of draft guidance on methodologies for preparing its inventories, for possible adoption by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-3). As a next step, the group of experts will develop draft guidance on standardized and known methodologies for preparing inventories for the identified point sources, to be considered by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4).

Until COP-3, the group will comprise 25 technical experts, five drawn from parties from each of the five United Nations regions. The group and the secretariat will invite experts from relevant organizations, industry and civil society to participate as observers, as appropriate.

Regarding the recommended qualifications of members and observers, the Conference decided that members and observers should have at least one of the following:

- (a) Knowledge of the mass flow/mass balance of mercury in relevant mercury source sub-categories (e.g., from technical work in/with the relevant sectors);
- (b) Expertise relevant to different approaches for monitoring, measuring and calculating emissions and releases;
- (c) Knowledge of pollution release and transfer registers;
- (d) Expertise concerning or experience in using the United Nations Environment Programme Mercury Inventory Toolkit.

The group will work primarily through electronic means, including webinars. The working language of the group will be English.

Parties are therefore requested to put forward their nominations to their respective Bureau representatives, together with the nominee's curriculum vitae. Bureau representatives are requested to submit the final list of five nominated experts per region to the secretariat by 15 January 2019.

Pursuant to the same Decision, **parties and other stakeholders are invited to identify potentially relevant point source categories of release for which draft guidance on methodologies for the preparation of inventories should be developed, and submit relevant information to the secretariat by 15 February 2019.**



2. Mercury waste

Decision MC-2/2 established an intersessional process to develop threshold(s) for mercury waste, pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 11 of the Convention, including the establishment of a group of technical experts.

As stated in the decision, the group will focus its discussions on the following matters, taking into account the previous work done by experts in the open-ended process pursuant to decision MC-1/19 and by COP-2:

- (a) Work to further clarify and refine the coverage of each of the three categories of mercury waste listed in paragraph 2 of article 11;
- (b) The development of a comprehensive list of mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (a) of article 11, as well as an indicative list of mercury waste that might fall under subparagraphs 2 (b) and (c) of article 11;
- (c) The development, as a priority, of relevant approaches and methodologies for establishing thresholds for mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11 and, if possible, the recommendation of specific thresholds for this waste; the group will also consider the relevance of thresholds for categories of waste falling under subparagraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of article 11;
- (d) Work, as a separate and differentiated matter, to identify approaches for establishing thresholds for overburden, waste rock and tailings, except from primary mercury mining, during the intersessional period.

The group will comprise 25 technical experts, five drawn from parties from each of the five United Nations regions. The group and the secretariat will invite eight experts from industry and civil society to participate as observers.

Regarding the recommended qualifications of members and observers of the group of technical experts, the Conference decided that members and observers should have at least one of the following:

- (a) Significant experience in waste management and disposal issues, including management of different types of waste (industrial, domestic and hazardous waste);
- (b) Expertise relevant to different approaches for establishing thresholds, including hazard- and risk-based approaches, as well as other possible approaches;
- (c) Expertise in the environmental and health impacts of exposure to mercury;
- (d) Technical expertise in, knowledge of and experience in mining, particularly with regard to the environmentally sound management of overburden, waste rock and tailings.

The group will work by electronic means and will meet face-to-face at least once during the intersessional period preceding COP-3. The working language of the technical group of experts will be English.

Parties are therefore requested to put forward their nominations to their respective Bureau representatives together with the nominee's curriculum vitae. Bureau representatives are requested to submit the final list of five nominated experts per region to the secretariat by 15 January 2019.

Also, pursuant to Decision MC-2/2, **parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit the following information**, taking into account relevant information contained in the Technical Guidelines on



Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Mercury or Mercury Compounds (UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1), **by 15 February 2019.**

- (a) Examples of wastes to be added to the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.2/6, including, for wastes consisting of mercury compounds, specific names of compounds, and, for wastes containing mercury or mercury compounds (i.e., mercury-added products), the names and types of the mercury or mercury compounds, and pictures, if available;
- (b) Current practices of managing overburden, waste rock and tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining (e.g., laws, regulations and guidelines) and various approaches to thresholds for special care/handling, if any; and
- (c) Sampling and analysis methods that may be useful for verifying waste thresholds.

3. Guidance on the management of contaminated sites

The secretariat submitted to COP-2 a draft Guidance on the Management of Contaminated Sites, after having invited comments from parties and other stakeholders, as set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.2/7. Decision MC-2/8 invites parties and other stakeholders to submit additional comments and information to complement and further improve the draft Guidance, calling in particular for information and comments, including case studies, on:

- (a) Situations that are site-specific to mercury that parties may face, such as the decommissioning of chlor-alkali plants and addressing contamination due to artisanal and small-scale gold-mining activities, etc.;
- (b) The role played by inventories of contaminated sites in strategies and policies relating to contaminated sites;
- (c) Prioritization for further action on contaminated sites based on risk assessment;
- (d) The interface between contaminated site policies and land use planning policies;
- (e) Existing procedures for the characterization of contaminated sites, including approaches and techniques for sampling and analysis;
- (f) The existing range of proven and emerging remediation techniques, including situations in which certain techniques may or may not be appropriate, environmental advantages and drawbacks and costs;
- (g) Socioeconomic and cultural considerations during the remediation of contaminated sites;
- (h) Information on approaches to financing work on and building capacity for the identification, assessment, remediation and risk management of contaminated sites, including frameworks for domestic financing.

Parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit comments as required above by 15 February 2019.

4. Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

Decision MC-2/11 requested the secretariat to collect the information received from the existing regional, subregional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention. In addition, in light of the provisions of paragraph 4 of article 14 of the Minamata Convention, parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit information on existing initiatives and progress made in relation to alternative



technologies; on the needs of parties, particularly developing country parties, for alternative technologies; and on challenges experienced by parties, particularly developing country parties, in technology transfer.

Parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit relevant information by 31 May 2019.

5. Specific International Programme

At COP-2, the co-chairs of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme invited applicants to share their experiences with the application process of the first round so that the Board could facilitate changes as necessary for the second round of applications, which would be opened as funds became available.

Parties and other stakeholders are therefore invited to submit to the secretariat information relevant to their experience in the application process of the first round of the Specific International Programme (UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/16) by 15 January 2019.

6. Review of the financial mechanism

COP-2 requested the secretariat to compile information to be provided by the Global Environment Facility, the Specific International Programme, parties and other relevant sources as identified by paragraph 11 of article 13 as being necessary for the review of the financial mechanism.

Parties and other stakeholders are therefore invited to submit to the secretariat information relevant to the level of funding, the guidance provided by the COP to the entities entrusted to operationalize the financial mechanism and their effectiveness, and their ability to address the changing needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition, by 31 May 2019.

7. Effectiveness evaluation

Decision MC-2/10 reviewed the roadmap on the effectiveness evaluation set out in Decision MC-1/9, and amended the mandate and membership of the ad-hoc group of experts established pursuant to Decision MC-1/9.

The group will further develop a report building on document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8 in accordance with the following outline:

- (a) Executive summary
- (b) Introduction
- (c) Description of the effectiveness evaluation framework
- (d) Proposed methodology and schedule for the evaluation
- (e) Issues for further considerations, if any
- (f) Annex 1: Technical information on monitoring, if any
- (g) Annex 2: Draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee
- (h) Annex 3: Draft terms of reference of the global monitoring arrangements

With regard to the effectiveness evaluation framework, the group will:



- (a) Using the objective of the Minamata Convention, review and assess the detailed article-by-article process and outcome indicators in table 4 of document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8. The group will elaborate on the sources of information and baselines for those indicators, considering cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility and sustainability, and, on that basis, provide detailed rationales for the recommended indicators;
- (b) Identify which recommended indicators require monitoring data, in particular in relation to the control measures and objectives set out in the articles of the Convention;
- (c) Develop a methodology for integrating the recommended indicators with a view to providing an integrative picture of the general effectiveness of the Convention, (e.g., by use of aggregated or cross-cutting indicators); and
- (d) Amend the recommended draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the schedule for the first effectiveness evaluation, if needed, on the basis of the outcome of the above.

With regard to monitoring, the group will:

- (a) Identify:
 - (i) Which categories of the available comparable monitoring data would be most effective in providing information on global trends (distinguishing these data from data that may be of use for informing local, national and/or regional policies);
 - (ii) What monitoring data in air, water, biota, and humans could be used to assess the impact on levels and trends of mercury; and
 - (iii) The potential and limitations of the data identified, taking into account the impacts other than anthropogenic emissions and releases on these spatial and temporal trends;
- (b) Assess the extent to which the information reviewed meets the needs for monitoring as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 22 of the Convention and identify major gaps that could affect the usability of available data. Outline options or recommendations to enhance the comparability and completeness of the information;
- (c) With the aim of filling gaps in globally relevant monitoring data, for the options and recommendation outlined above, compare their cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, and sustainability, global coverage, and regional capabilities to identify opportunities for future enhancements to monitoring;
- (d) Identify available modelling capabilities to assess changes in global mercury levels within and across different media;
- (e) Examine options and identify sources of data based on those options that can be used for establishing a baseline for monitoring data;
- (f) Provide other technical inputs and necessary information to address any additional monitoring questions that may be identified in the course of elaborating the evaluation framework; and
- (g) Draft terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements, including developing monitoring guidance.

Decision MC-2/10 also provided that taking into account the desire of COP to augment the capabilities of the group in the area of effectiveness evaluation, members of the group may continue to serve unless the nominating regions decide otherwise. It provides that the group will invite the participation of up to 10 experts from civil society, indigenous organizations, intergovernmental organizations, industry, and the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as observers. It amended the qualification of the members and observers as follows:



- (a) Experience relevant to the development of a monitoring scheme for the collection and analysis of mercury sampling data for the purposes of assessing trends including expertise in either modelling, biotic and aquatic sampling, atmospheric sampling and/or human exposure, and/or indigenous traditional knowledge, or experience relevant to ecosystem processes or expertise on scenario-based long-term forecasting the status of the environment and multi-disciplinary impacts assessment;
- (b) Expertise relevant to developing and implementing monitoring under multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention; or
- (c) Experience relevant to effectiveness evaluation, or expertise on evaluation framework as set out by the UN Evaluation Group or on project management monitoring and evaluation as set out by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.

The current membership of the group is:

Africa

Mr. Lemnyuy Albin William Banye, Cameroon
Mr. Merimee Kalumba, Democratic Republic of Congo
Mr Edgard Brice Ngoungou, Gabon
Mr. Oumar Diaouré Cissé, Mali
Mr. Khunedi Vincent Gololo, South Africa

Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Ahmad Jonidi Jafari, Iran
Mr Noriyuki Suzuki, Japan
Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh, Jordan
Ms. Younghee Kim, Republic of Korea
Mr. Sarawut Thepanondh, Thailand

Central and Eastern Europe

Ms. Kateřina Šebková, Czech Republic
Ms. Reet Talkop, Estonia
Mr. Christopher Gordon Allen, European Union
Mr. Trajče Stafilov, Macedonia
Mr. Alexander Romanov, Russia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Anika Aska, Antigua and Barbuda
Mr. Linroy Christian, Antigua and Barbuda
Mr. Agustín Harte, Argentina
Mr. Arturo Gavilán, Mexico
(One seat to be filled)

Western Europe and Others

Ms. Alexandra Steffen, Canada
Ms. Lone Schou, Denmark
Mr Jan Koschorreck, Germany
Mr. Nicola Pirrone, Italy
Ms. Silje Fagernes Anonsen, Norway

The group will meet once face-to-face during the intersessional period preceding COP-3, and continue to work electronically as well. The working language of the group is English.



Parties are therefore requested to inform their respective Bureau representatives of possible changes on the membership of the group as regards the relevant regions, together with the curriculum vitae of candidates if they nominate new members. The Bureau representatives are requested to inform the secretariat of the final list of five nominated experts incorporating any changes to the membership by 15 January 2019.

Decision MC-2/10 also requested parties, other governments and relevant organizations to continue to provide information on their monitoring programmes to the secretariat. **Any relevant information to supplement document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8 should be submitted to the Secretariat by 15 February 2019.**

8. Emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste

COP-2 requested the secretariat to continue to collect and make available information relevant to emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste. **Parties and other stakeholders are therefore invited to submit to the secretariat relevant information by 31 May 2019.**

9. Review of Annexes A and B of the Convention

COP-2 requested the secretariat to prepare a document on the review of Annexes A and B of the Convention for consideration at COP-3. **Parties and other stakeholders are therefore invited to submit to the secretariat information relevant to the review of Annexes A and B, which may include information referred to in paragraph 9 of article 4 and paragraph 11 of article 5, by 31 May 2019.**



Attachment 2: List of COP Bureau members (2018-2019)

President: David Kapindula (Zambia)
Vice-Presidents: Alison Dickson (Canada)
María del Mar Solano Trejos (Costa Rica)
Karel Bláha (Czechia)
Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o (Gabon)
Mariscia Charles (Guyana)
Adel Jahankhah (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)
Svetlana Bolocan (Republic of Moldova)
Nina Cromnier (Sweden)