

Ref: MC/ES/2021/2_CORR

26 January 2021

Subject: Update on the intersessional work under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Note: This is a revised version of the communication issued by the Secretariat on 22 January 2021. The amended text refers to the information on facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds (in bold**).*

Dear Madam/Sir,

As the year 2021 has begun, I would like to take this opportunity to recall a number of pertinent time-bound obligations of the Parties under the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

I am also pleased to update you on some of the work under the Convention in the intersessional period.

Time-bound obligations under the Convention

The 2020 deadline for mercury-added products (Article 4)

Article 4 Paragraph 1 and Annex A part I of the Minamata Convention require Parties to take measures not to allow the manufacture, import or export of certain mercury-added products by 2020, unless a Party has a registered exemption for up to five years. Information on the implementation of this provision, as well as other provisions that take effect upon the entry into force, is to be included in the national report under Article 21 due by 31 December 2021.

Information on facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds (Article 5)

Article 5 Paragraph 5 of the Convention requires Parties with one or more facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B to endeavour to identify such facilities within their territory and submit to the Secretariat, no later than three years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, information on the number and types of such facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities. The deadline for submitting the information, as applicable, was 16 August 2020 for those Parties who joined the Convention on 16 August 2017. **The Secretariat has received one so far, which is available on the [website](#).** I would like to invite relevant Parties to submit this information at their earliest convenience.

ASGM national action plan (Article 7)

Article 7 Paragraph 3 of the Convention requires Parties that have notified that artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is more than insignificant to submit national action plans in three years. 28 Parties have sent their notification and eight Parties have submitted their plans to date. These plans are available on the [website](#). I am looking forward to further submissions of national action plans.

National plan to control mercury emissions and releases (Article 8)

Parties that have prepared a national plan to control mercury emissions according to Article 8 Paragraph 3, and a national plan to control releases according to Article 9 Paragraph 4 of the Convention, are required to submit such plans to the Conference of the Parties within four years of the entry into force of the Convention, which is 16 August 2021 for the first 50 Parties. Parties who might have already prepared national plans are welcome to submit them to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.



Implementation plan (Article 20)

Any Party that might have developed an implementation plan for meeting the obligations of the Minamata Convention is required to transmit such plan to the Secretariat as soon as it has been developed. Two Parties have submitted their implementation plans so far, which have been posted on the [website](#). The Secretariat welcomes further submissions of implementation plans under Article 20 if such plans have been developed by the Parties.

National reports (Article 21)

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Minamata Convention, each Party is required to report on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention using the full format ([Decision MC-1/8](#)) by 31 December 2021. The Secretariat is currently working on draft guidance for the full national reporting format as requested by COP-3 ([Decision MC-3/13](#)), which will be submitted to COP-4. In addition, the fully-fledged electronic reporting tool will be made available to Parties from July 2021.

The deadline for the first biennial national reports (short format) was 31 December 2019. By January 2021, 91 national reports were received, acknowledged, checked for completeness, and reviewed for areas that may need clarifications by the Secretariat, achieving a 79.8% rate for the first reporting cycle. All received reports are available on the [website](#).

Update on ongoing intersessional work and other information

The review of Annexes A and B

The ad hoc group of experts on the review of Annexes A and B has been working through online meetings and thematic group calls, instead of convening a face-to-face meeting ([Decision MC-3/1](#)). The decision invited the Parties that had submitted information on alternatives to mercury-added products and manufacturing processes using mercury and mercury compounds to submit revised information by 30 November 2020, and requested the Secretariat to make available the submitted information by 31 December 2020. The Parties that had submitted information earlier were invited to group calls convened between September and November 2020 and had an opportunity to provide additional information. The information received has been made available on the page on [intersessional work](#) of the Convention website. Compilation of all the submissions, which will be included in the report of the ad hoc group, was circulated to the group and the Parties that had submitted information for their comments by 31 January 2021. The group and the Secretariat will work to prepare a report by 30 April 2021, as requested in COP decision.

Proposed indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention

Following an online information session on the proposed indicators on 17 September 2020 (see [Plan of Work](#)), submissions of initial views were received by 30 November 2020, and have been posted on an online workspace. The next steps is an exchange session, which is split into two parts with the first on Tuesday, 2 February 2021 and the second on Thursday, 4 February 2021, both from 14:00 to 16:00.

Dental amalgam

Parties are invited to provide information on the implementation of any additional measures on dental amalgam taken in accordance with part II of Annex A to the Convention by 31 January 2021 ([Decision MC-3/2](#)).



Custom codes

Parties and others are invited to provide comments on the draft report on customs codes that is being prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Products Partnership of the Global Mercury Partnership by 30 January 2021 ([Decision MC-3/3](#)). Since the Secretariat is still working on the draft, it is likely that this deadline is extended. The draft report, with an adjusted commenting deadline, will be posted on the web page on [intersessional work](#).

I thank you for your work on the implementation of the Minamata Convention and your commitment to [#MakeMercuryHistory](#).

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz

Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary

To: Governments through their official channels of communication to the UN Environment Programme

Cc: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme and to the UN in Geneva