

Ref: MC/ES/2021/60

7 September 2021

Subject: Update on the online briefings and meetings prior to the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that several events are being organized by the secretariat in the run-up to the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4.1) to be held on 1-5 November 2021 and to support government officials in timely implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Four regional online consultation meetings will be held in September and October, for Asia and the Pacific, for Africa, for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Central and Eastern European States. Parties in each of these regions should have received an invitation to attend their respective meeting already. A tentative programme for each regional meeting will be available shortly. I would like to draw your attention to the following dates of the pre-meeting sessions to test connectivity prior to the regional meetings:

- Asia Pacific, on 22 September, at 10.00-11.00 CET;
- Africa, LAC and EES, on 29 and 30 September, at 11.00–13.00 CET and 15.00-17.00 CET on each day.

Connection details of the testing sessions and the regional meetings will be shared with confirmed participants in due time. Updated information about the regional meetings will be made available on the Convention [webpage](#).

Further, please kindly note the updated Minamata Online calendar of the briefings on the online segment of COP-4. The public briefings on documents tabled at COP-4.1 will be held on 20 September at 16.00-17.00 CET and on 21 September at 10.00-11.00 CET. The closed session for Parties only on the proposed work programme and budget for 2022-2023 will be held on 18 October from 12.00 to 14.00 CET. An additional session on the budget may be organized during week of 18-22 October if needed. The Secretariat is currently working on an electronic budget forum, which is a platform for Parties to view and provide comments and questions to the secretariat on the budget documents for COP-4.1. The forum is planned to be launched mid-September.

Last but not least, let me encourage Parties and in particular National Focal Points to attend the sessions on national reporting under article 21 of the Convention. The first of four sessions was held on 7 September. The next sessions on 14 and 16 September will focus on the draft reporting guidance (pursuant to decision MC-3/13) and the new online reporting tool, and the session on 22 November will provide additional possibility to seek information from the secretariat. For recordings of these sessions and more details on Minamata Online kindly visit the [Minamata Online webpage](#) and its updated calendar.

I thank you for your work to [#MakeMercuryHistory](#) and am looking forward to your engagement at the upcoming events and COP-4.1.



Yours sincerely,

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