The text of the Minamata Convention refers to the needs of vulnerable populations in several articles, as well as in paragraph 1 (i) of its annex C. At its third meeting (COP-3), the Conference of the Parties decided to include gender as a focus area of the Convention’s programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021. The second segment of its fourth meeting (COP-4) is to consider Agenda: Item 4(l) Gender.

This deep-dive information session will provide an opportunity to consider the document prepared for COP-4 and the overall agenda item in more detail. It will further provide an opportunity for questions to be clarified and exchange as Parties see fit to enable the preparation of Parties ahead of the in-person meeting in Bali.

**SPEAKERS**

- **Lara Ogibene**
  Legal and Programme Officer

- **Marianne Bailey**
  Programme Management Officer

**RESOURCES**

- COP-4 working document: 4/22 – Mainstreaming gender

**REGISTER NOW: 8 MARCH**

14H00-15H00 CET

Register for the WebEx session using the link above.

Information about Minamata Online Check the Season 2 calendar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday, 21 March 2022</th>
<th>Tuesday, 22 March 2022</th>
<th>Wednesday, 23 March 2022</th>
<th>Thursday, 24 March 2022</th>
<th>Friday, 25 March 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Morning Session</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Item 1: Opening of the meeting</td>
<td>Reports of contact groups</td>
<td>Consideration of outcomes</td>
<td>Consideration of remaining outcomes and draft decisions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Item 2: Organizational matters</td>
<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration and/or action by the Conference of the Parties</td>
<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration and/or action by the Conference of the Parties (cont.)</td>
<td>Item 6: Programme of work and budget</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Organization of work</td>
<td>(b) National reporting</td>
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<td>Item 6: Programme of work and budget</td>
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<td>(c) Election of Officers for the intersessional period and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties</td>
<td>(g) Implementation and Compliance Committee</td>
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<td>(d) Report on the credentials of representatives to the fourth meeting</td>
<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration and/or action by the Conference of the Parties</td>
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<td>Item 3: Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: consideration of rule 45</td>
<td>(e) Financial resources and mechanism</td>
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<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration and/or action by the Conference of the Parties</td>
<td>(i) Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>(k) Financial Rules</td>
<td>(ii) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance</td>
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<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:</td>
<td>(iii) Review of the financial mechanism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(a) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(i) Review of annexes A and B,</td>
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<td>(ii) Information on dental amalgam</td>
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<td>(iv) Proposals for amendments to annexes A and R</td>
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<td>15:00-18:00</td>
<td><strong>Afternoon Session</strong></td>
<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</td>
<td>Consideration of outcomes, adoption of report on credentials and adoption of remaining decisions</td>
<td>Item 9: Adoption of the report of the meeting</td>
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<td>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</td>
<td>(a) (iii) Customs codes</td>
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<td>Item 10: Closure of the meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(i) Effectiveness evaluation</td>
<td>(b) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(c) Releases of mercury</td>
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<td>(d) Mercury waste: consideration of the relevant thresholds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preamble</td>
<td>Convention Articles</td>
<td>Annex C, paragraph 1 (i)</td>
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<td>The preamble to the Minamata Convention on Mercury notes the parties' awareness of “health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and, through them, future generations”</td>
<td>In addition, article 16 on health aspects, article 18 on public information, awareness and education, article 19 on research, development and monitoring and article 22 on effectiveness evaluation all refer to the needs of vulnerable populations.</td>
<td>National action plans to address artisanal and small-scale gold mining are to include strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of childbearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</td>
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The documents provides an overview of ongoing and planned efforts to mainstream gender in the work of the secretariat.

It also identifies specific actions to be undertaken in the medium and long term to ensure that the principles of gender equality are firmly embedded in activities undertaken by the parties and other stakeholders under the Convention.
COP-4 Matters for Consideration/Action

COP-3
- COP-3 decided to include gender as a focus area of the Convention's programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
- In particular, activity 13 of the programme of work includes the development of a gender strategy with the objective of mainstreaming gender into the programme of work.
- To achieve this objective, the secretariat was to ensure that its programmes and projects were planned and implemented from a gender equality perspective by including gender issues in the secretariat's capacity-building projects and programmes and cooperation with other internal and external partners on gender-related issues at the international, regional and national levels.

COP-4 Agenda Item: 4(I)
- 4/22: Mainstreaming gender (Annex I)

COP-4 may wish to consider and adopt a decision as proposed in annex I:
- Take note of the gender road map
- Ensure that men and women benefit equally from all activities, projects and programmes undertaken under the Convention and calls on parties to further promote gender equality in the implementation of the Convention
- Invite parties to support the secretariat in its efforts to mainstream gender into all activities to be undertaken by the secretariat as well as by parties and other stakeholders, including thorough the development of a gender action plan for the Minamata Convention during the biennium 2022–2023

COP-5
Adoption of a gender action plan
1. Update on gender mainstreaming
Gender and Convention Implementation

Gender considerations in project development, review, reporting and evaluation

- Gender-specific exposures and impacts
- Inclusive stakeholder engagement and awareness raising
- Recognition of differentiated impacts of mercury management decisions
- Involvement in policy development and decision-making
- Engagement in project management

Roles of the various entities supporting the implementation of the Minamata Convention

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
  - Minamata Initial Assessments, national action plans, mercury reduction and management projects

- Specific International Programme
  - Capacity-building and technical assistance

- Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening
  - Institutional strengthening across five instruments, including the Minamata Convention

Implementing Minamata Convention obligations

Financial mechanism

Related fund
Global Environment Facility

GEF Policy on Gender Equality adopted in 2017

- Supporting women's improved access, use, and control of resources
- Enhancing women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes
- Targeting women as specific beneficiaries and creating opportunities from sustainable livelihoods and income-generation opportunities
- Investing in women's skills and capacity by supporting capacity development of different groups, including communities and women's organizations.
Example: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Unique among MEAs in the treatment of an informal sector

Recognizes women's particular vulnerabilities to ASGM occupational hazards

Flexible approach to meet national and local circumstances

National Action Plans must include “strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining”
Now in 23 countries, to transform ASGM to mercury-free approaches from mine to market

- Ensuring women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes
- Targeting women as specific beneficiaries and investing in women's skills and capacity
- Supporting women's improved access, use, and control of natural resources
- Considering gender in the chemicals and wastes value chain

Example: Ecuador Program for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Substances in their Life Cycle
Specific International Programme

GENDER LENS

Project Design
Implementation
Monitoring
Evaluation

Sex-disaggregated data
Awareness-raising
Effective participation
Equal opportunity
Evaluating results
SIP projects address gender

Armenia – implementation carried out through Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment to support implementation of Article 4 on mercury-added products

Iran – project on decommissioning of chlor-alkali plant in the petrochemical industry developed a Job Hazard Analysis tool for gender-specific risk assessments, guidance on worker health protection during demolition activities, and biomonitoring plans

Antigua and Barbuda Regional Project -- 10 countries collaborate through the Caribbean Region Mercury Monitoring Network to monitor mercury risks in the environment and the food chain in support of policy development, including studies of mercury levels in women of child-bearing age

Zambia – survey on mercury exposure in vulnerable populations, public awareness, and phase out strategy for mercury-added products including skin lightening creams

Rwanda – Gender Monitoring Office is part of National Mercury Working Group established to implement project which includes gender indicators
Other activities

In accordance with activity 13 of the Convention’s programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021 and thanks to the generous financial support of Sweden, the secretariat has carried out several activities geared towards mainstreaming gender into its work:

- In November 2020, the Secretariat issued a call for information on gender and mercury inviting Parties and interested stakeholders to submit scientific, technical and policy information on gender and mercury. The Secretariat received submissions from 10 countries and 16 stakeholders, for which I would like to thank all the submitters.

- The information was used to develop communication and awareness raising material, including a Minamata insight publication on gender and mercury and a video, which was launched by the Secretariat on 2020 International Women’s Day. The Secretariat is also planning to further share information on gender during dedicated online events, such as an online training course on gender and mercury.

- Nomination of a gender focal point within the secretariat who has been coordinating gender activities since November 2020 and represent the secretariat in the network of MEA gender focal points established by UNEP in December 2020.

- Gender road map
2. Gender at COP-4.2
4/22 Mainstreaming Gender

In January 2021, the secretariat developed the "Gender road map of the Minamata Convention on Mercury", which:

- analyses current initiatives undertaken by other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations bodies in the field of gender; and
- identifies priority actions to be undertaken by the secretariat, parties and other stakeholders to further mainstreaming gender into their activities.

The road map was developed in accordance with applicable gender-related rules, regulations and policies of the United Nations and UNEP.

The draft road map was shared with the network of multilateral environmental agreement gender officers and focal points for review.

The gender road map is included in Annex II to the document.
The COP is invited to note the gender road map. Parties are invited to support the secretariat in mainstreaming gender, including thorough the development of a gender action plan for the Minamata Convention during the biennium 2022–2023.

Annex I: Draft Decision

Draft decision MC-4/[––]: Gender mainstreaming

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 of 27 May 2016, entitled “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which, among other things, stresses the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting gender equality in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the efforts of parties and the secretariat to promote gender equality, efforts are still needed to ensure that women, men, girls and boys from all parties are equally involved in the implementation of the Convention and are represented in its bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive policies related to mercury,

1. Takes note of the gender road map of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and welcomes the secretariat’s efforts to mainstream gender into its activities, projects and programmes;
2. Notes the importance of gender mainstreaming to ensure that men and women benefit equally from all activities, projects and programmes undertaken under the Convention and calls on parties to further promote gender equality in the implementation of the Convention;
3. Invites parties to support the secretariat in its efforts to mainstream gender into all activities to be undertaken by the secretariat as well as by parties and other stakeholders, including thorough the development of a gender action plan for the Minamata Convention during the biennium 2022–2023;
4. Requests the secretariat to continue collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant partners in the field of gender;
5. Also requests the secretariat to report on the progress made in mainstreaming gender into the activities carried out under the Convention.
UN-wide and UNEP recent developments

- On 25 September 2015, in its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"), and recognized that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was crucial.

- In March 2019, in resolution 4/17, entitled “Promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance”, the United Nations Environment Assembly reaffirmed the importance of States respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights obligations, including women’s rights, when implementing environmental legislation and policies and invited Member States to prioritize the implementation of gender policies and action plans developed under the multilateral environmental agreements to which they were a party.

- In December 2020, UNEP initiated the creation of a network of multilateral environmental agreement gender officers and focal points to enable information-sharing on gender-related matters such as seminars, publication announcements and capacity-building opportunities in an informal setting.
Gender road map

4/22: Annex II

The gender road map includes a list of prioritized actions to be undertaken by the secretariat to ensure that principles of gender equality are firmly embedded in the activities, projects and programmes it undertakes.

Two top priorities were identified in the road map:

- the development of a gender plan of action under the Convention for mainstreaming gender considerations into all aspects of the work under the Convention, with clear indicators for monitoring progress; and
- the appointment of a gender focal point within the secretariat to coordinate, monitor and evaluate gender mainstreaming activities carried out under the Convention.

The road map also identifies specific actions to be undertaken in the medium and long term to ensure that the principles of gender equality are firmly embedded in activities undertaken by the secretariat, the parties and other stakeholders under the Convention.
Gender road map of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

1. The success of gender mainstreaming rests on a three-legged stool of building capacity and knowledge, building visibility and collaboration, and creating enabling conditions for measurable outcomes. These three activity domains could form the organizing principle for the gender action plan.

The road map here uses a different, actor-specific organizing principle (secretary/party/programme) but the cross tabs should inform the gender action plan itself.

2. Some of the recommendations below can be acted on with little expansion of resources but most will require substantial expansion in organizational capacity and financial resources. While this can be daunting, heightened donor awareness opens up new opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECRETARIAT</th>
<th>PARTIES, CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>PROGRAMMIES AND PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Establish a gender focal point</td>
<td>Strengthen inclusion of gender in national action plans</td>
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<td>Establish a gender-based working group</td>
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<td>Organize capacity-building training workshops for parties’ representatives on gender mainstreaming principles, United Nations and related mandates, and content-based understanding of gender and mercury</td>
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<td>Liaise with UN-Women for training events</td>
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Initiate decision-making on the process/actors/timeline to develop a gender action plan

Incorporate gender activities into workplans, main strategic planning documents and budget plans

Organize capacity-building training events/workshops for secretariat staff

Develop a media plan for ongoing efforts on public engagement/awareness

Review all secretariat documents and reporting protocols for gender visibility

Develop a “targeted funding” plan for gender activities

Sustain the MEA gender focal point network

Monitor and maintain gender parity in staffing

Prepare an annual report to parties on gender activities

4/22: Annex II

Other high priority actions listed in the road map include:

- Initiate decision-making on the process/actors/timeline to develop a gender action plan
- Incorporate gender activities into workplans, main strategic planning documents and budget plans
- Organize capacity-building training events/workshops for secretariat staff
- Develop a media plan for ongoing efforts on public engagement/awareness
- Review all secretariat documents and reporting protocols for gender visibility
- Develop a “targeted funding” plan for gender activities
- Sustain the MEA gender focal point network
- Monitor and maintain gender parity in staffing
- Prepare an annual report to parties on gender activities
The purpose and ‘added value’ of the action plan

Why an action plan?

The action plan would provide a blueprint for actions, including targets and indicators of progress, to promote gender equality and mainstreaming within the Secretariat and in the Minamata Convention’s activities undertaken by partners, Parties and other stakeholders.

The purpose of this Plan is to support and advance a gender-responsive implementation of the Minamata Convention. Accordingly, the overarching strategic objectives of the MC/GPA are:

- To increase the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention by mainstreaming gender awareness throughout its implementation
- To provide guidance to Parties and partners in bringing a gender lens to their research, evidence-gathering, and public awareness activities
- To provide a framework that makes visible the benefits of gender mainstreaming to all Minamata Convention actors
Expected outcomes

- Stakeholders, partners and Parties to the Minamata Convention at all levels **develop capacities** to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programmes;
- Women and girls, and especially members of indigenous communities, are given **equal opportunities** for meaningful participation in developing programmes, plans, and policies that are undertaken to achieve the goals of the Convention
- Economic empowerment initiatives, including efforts to develop alternative livelihoods, that aim to reduce or **eliminate dangerous use of and exposures to mercury** provide equal opportunities for men and women
- As projects and Parties increasingly incorporate **gender awareness** in their activities, there will be ongoing systematic knowledge-building and sharing on the gender dimensions of human exposures to mercury and mercury compounds
Thank you for your attention

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme

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TWITTER: @minamataMEA
#MakeMercuryHistory