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United Nations Environment Programme

Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Third meeting
Geneva, 25–29 November 2019

Decision adopted by the third Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

MC-3/11: Enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that paragraph 4 of article 24 of the Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties, in consultation with the appropriate international bodies, may provide for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the secretariat and the secretariats of other chemicals and waste conventions, and may provide further guidance on this matter,

Also recalling decision MC-2/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, as well as decision BC-14/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, decision RC-9/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decision SC-9/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including the requests in those decisions for a stable framework for sharing of relevant services between the secretariats of these conventions,

Recognizing that sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats and the accountability of their executive heads,

Expressing gratitude for the operative proposal of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for sharing services between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,¹

1. *Takes note* of the content of the Executive Director's operative proposal and of the various options provided therein;
2. *Affirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies; the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch; and the possibility for the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to purchase services from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a cost

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/16.

recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the Minamata Convention for each biennium;

3. *Welcomes* the recommendation by the United Nations Environment Programme to establish inter-secretariat working groups to address specific aspects of relevant services;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the performance of secretariat functions for the Minamata Convention and mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to support the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in its efforts to enhance cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, including through the regular use of the task force comprising the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch as a stable framework of cooperation and sharing of relevant secretariat services, in accordance with decision MC-2/7;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To establish, with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical assistance and technical matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget;

(b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and sharing of services, together with an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the period 2022–2023, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.