

**Report of the African regional preparatory meeting for the third meeting
of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

15 and 16 October 2019, Accra, Ghana

1. Overview

The African regional meeting in Accra, Ghana, was attended by a total of seventy-two participants. Among these, thirty-three participants represented twenty-five governments (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) in the region. The remaining thirty-nine participants attended as observers representing two government organizations, two UN bodies (UNDP, ILO), two Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres, and nineteen NGOs. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat participated remotely to session 8 of the second day of the meeting.

The Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the Africa Region in Nigeria (BCCC Africa) supported the organization and logistics of the meeting as a partner. The meeting participants acknowledged the support provided by donors from Austria, Japan, the Philippines, Norway, and Sweden.

Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o (Gabon) chaired the meeting as one of the bureau members from the region. It was, unfortunately, not possible for Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), the other bureau member from the region, to attend the meeting. Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) supported Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o in chairing the meeting.

2. Proceedings

The meeting was opened by the Chair. Honourable Minister Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana, delivered the welcoming remarks. Opening remarks were also delivered by Mr. Eisaku Toda, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

A number of Parties and other governments provided updates on their activities for the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat provided an update of activities since COP2, and an overview of the general structure and programme for COP3. The Secretariat further introduced the documents for COP3. A number of clarifying questions were raised, to which the Secretariat responded and provided further information as necessary and requested.

The group discussed its regional positions in plenary format, followed by a discussion by Parties only. Participants agreed on the process for finalizing regional positions and statements. The region prepared its own report and, to this effect, nominated Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire as rapporteurs for the meeting.

The Chair and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention delivered the closing remarks.

Annex I – Provisional Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

African regional preparatory meeting for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
15 and 16 October 2019, Accra, Ghana

The consultations will be co-chaired by the members who represent the region at the COP Bureau.

1) Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks will be delivered.

2) Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the provisional agenda, and agreement on the conduct of the meeting in terms of working hours, work in plenary and smaller groups and whether selected sessions are open or closed.

3) Update of activities since the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP2)

- (a) Overview of ratifications and Minamata Initial Assessments
- (b) Updates from Parties
- (c) Updates from non-parties

4) Overview of the general structure and programme for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP3)

Layout of the plan of activities for COP3, including the general ordering of agenda items, and issues for consideration which are not reflected in individual documents, and the organization of work.

5) Introduction of the documents for COP3

Documents will be presented in the structure of the COP3 agenda, which is provided in Annex I. A detailed COP3 document list is provided in Annex II.

Following the introduction of each document, there will be an opportunity for discussion to assist in preparing more detailed consideration of the issues and development, as appropriate, of regional positions. The meeting may choose to work in smaller groups to discuss issues in depth. Participation of observers (including representatives of IGOs and NGOs) will be at the discretion of the meeting.

- (a) **COP3 Agenda item 3**
 - COP.3/3 - Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: Consideration of rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure.
- (b) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a)(i)**
 - COP.3/4 – Review of Annex A and B to the Convention
- (c) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a) (ii)**
 - COP3/21 - Proposal to amend Annex A
- (d) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a)(iii)**
 - COP.3/5 – Approaches for customs codes to identify and distinguish non-mercury-added and mercury-added products listed in Annex A to the Convention.

- (e) **COP3 Agenda item 5(b)**
 - COP.3/6 - Report by the group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases
- (f) **COP3 Agenda item 5(c)**
 - COP.3/7 Outcome of the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds
- (g) **COP3 Agenda item 5(d)**
 - COP.3/8 - Guidance on the management of contaminated sites
- (h) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(i)**
 - COP.3/9 – Update on matters related to the Global Environment Facility
 - COP.3/9 Add.1 – Operation of the financial mechanism – Executive Summary
- (i) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(ii)**
 - COP.3/10 - Overall report on the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
 - COP.3/10 Add1- Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
 - COP.3/10 Add1/REV- Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
- (j) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(iii)**
 - COP.3/11 - Review of the financial mechanism - Information provided by the GEF, the Specific International Programme, Parties and other relevant sources as identified in paragraph 11 of article 13
- (k) **COP3 Agenda Item 5(f)**
 - COP3/12 - Information received from existing regional, sub-regional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support Parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention
- (l) **COP3 Agenda item 5(g)**
 - COP.3/13 - Report of the Implementation and Compliance Committee
- (m) **COP3 Agenda item 5(h)**
 - COP.3/14 - Report of the ad hoc technical expert group for the effectiveness evaluation
- (n) **COP3 Agenda item 5(i)**
 - COP.3/15 - Financial rules for the Conference of the Parties and any of its subsidiary bodies
- (o) **COP3 Agenda item 5(j)**
 - COP.3/16 – Proposal by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- (p) **COP3 Agenda item 5(k)**
 - COP3/17 - Information in relation to mercury emissions resulting from the open burning of waste
- (q) **COP3 Agenda item 6(a)**
 - COP3/18 - cooperative activities with the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization

- (r) **COP3 Agenda item 7**
 - COP3/19 - Report on the main activities of the secretariat in the intersessional period
 - COP3/20 - Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

- (s) **COP3 Agenda item 8**
 - COP3/22 - Venue and Date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties
 - COP3/22Add1 - Venue and Date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties

Discussion of key issues amongst countries, led by the co-chairs. The meeting may choose to work in smaller groups to discuss issues in depth. Participation of observers (including the secretariat, representatives of IGOs and NGOs) will be at the discretion of the meeting.

6) Logistic preparations for COP-3

Registration, events and exhibitions, admission of observers.

7) Issues not covered in COP-3 agenda

- Reporting – First short report by 31 December 2019
- Supply and trade – Obligation of Parties to identify stocks and supply sources, import consent
- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining – updates on national notifications and national action plans
- Emissions – Use of guidance document on best available techniques, best environmental practices and emissions inventory

8) Updates from the Chemicals and Waste Cluster

- (a) Update from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat
- (b) Update from United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, including SAICM
- (c) Updates from Intergovernmental Organizations

9) Other matters

Any other matters that may be raised.

10) Closure of the meeting

The meeting will close with final remarks.

Annex II – List of Participants

**African Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Accra, Ghana
*15 and 16 October 2019***

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Total participants : 72 participants

Governments : 25 countries / 33 participants

Government Organizations as Observers : 2 organizations / 7 participants

UN Bodies : 2 UN bodies/ 3 participants

Regional Centres : 2 Regional Centres / 6 participants

NGOs : 19 NGOs/ 21 participants

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention : 2 participants

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