

SPEECH

Remarks by Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, at the opening ceremony of the online segment of the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4)

01 November 2021

- *Your Excellency Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia*
- *Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme*
- *Ms. Rosa Ratnawati of Indonesia, President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties*
- *Excellencies, ladies and gentleman*

It is my privilege to welcome you to the first, online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of this remarkable Convention that has already 135 Parties.

This week's meeting is a celebration of the global commitment to putting mercury pollution to an end, built on the tragic history of people whose health has been affected by mercury and on the recognition that people throughout the world continue to be put at grave risk due to mercury exposure.

Importantly, it is also opportunity for you, the Parties, to advance the work under the Convention, and when doing so, to embrace the strong voices from civil society and indigenous peoples.

For our collective implementation efforts to be effective, it is imperative that the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed parties, are considered as expressed in article 13 on financial resources and mechanism.

The Convention instructs us that multilateral, regional and bilateral sources of financial and technical assistance are encouraged on an urgent basis. These sources of support are needed to unlock larger investments and co-benefits as the world tackles the triple planetary crisis that both the Minister and UNEP Executive Director has been alerting us to.

In this context, I am grateful to Norway, Germany, Austria, the United States, Sweden, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Denmark for your contributions to the Third Round of the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (SIP).

The Secretariat remains committed to bring party needs, including as expressed under the upcoming full national reporting, to the attention of potential donors so that we will be able to launch a Fourth Round and future rounds of applications to the SIP successfully.

Likewise, it is essential that the 8th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund is robust and ensures the continued strong support that the GEF has provided for Convention implementation, consistent with the COP's guidance. I am looking forward to your discussion on GEF-8 at this segment of the COP.

As the Convention is still in its early stages of implementation, there are many tasks ahead of you nationally and I would like to applaud the parties for all the efforts you have been undertaking, especially in an extremely challenging situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for addressing matters of utmost importance, such as phasing out manufacturing, import and export of listed mercury-added products by the 2020 deadline, developing and implementing national actions plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining, reducing emissions and releases, and regulating mercury supply and trade.

To this end, contributions from Switzerland, Japan, EU, Sweden and Norway to the Special Trust Fund of the Convention have enabled the secretariat to undertake some important support activities in the intersessional period.

Before I conclude, let me express that it has been a great honor for me to work with you all and to be part of the secretariat team.

I thank over 1000 participants for coming together to this COP, and I look forward to its successful outcome.

Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
Minamata Convention on Mercury