



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021*
Item 6 of the provisional agenda**
Programme of work and budget

**Progress in the implementation of the programme of work for
the biennium 2020–2021****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. In decision MC-3/12, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury took note of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Minamata Convention, and approved the budget for the general trust fund for the biennium 2020–2021 of \$7,579,959. The details of the programme of work were provided in budget activity fact sheets submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/9) and subsequently updated to reflect the decisions taken at that meeting.¹
2. The present note sets out an overview of progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021 for the information of the Conference of the Parties.

A. Conferences and meetings**1. Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

3. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its fourth meeting would be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 1 to 5 November 2021; however, the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related travel restrictions prevented the organization of the meeting in the usual format. The Bureau of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties considered various options and, in consultation with national focal points from all regions, agreed to hold an online segment of the fourth meeting from 1 to 5 November 2021 and an in-person segment of the meeting in the first quarter of 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. The final dates of the in-person segment are subject to confirmation by decision of the Conference of the Parties during the online segment of the meeting. The Government of Indonesia has reiterated its willingness to host an in-person meeting in the first quarter of 2022. Information on the format of the fourth meeting was communicated to parties in a letter from the President of the Bureau and the Executive Secretary dated 30 April 2021.

* The resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury is to convene in person in Bali, Indonesia, and is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

** UNEP/MC/COP.4/1.

¹ The updated activity sheets are available at http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/News/Programme_of_work%20_activity_fact_sheets.pdf.

4. The secretariat organized an online briefing on the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 3 November 2020, in collaboration with Geneva Environment Network, as part of the Minamata Online series of digital events. In addition to the briefing on the fourth meeting, the event included a panel discussion to mark the third anniversary of the Convention.

5. The secretariat has undertaken preparations for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which to date have focused on preparing and submitting working and information documents for the meeting; arranging briefings and consultations prior to the online segment of the meeting; mapping, planning and implementing digital ecosystem and related workflows to ensure effective conduct of the online segment; addressing internet connectivity problems; organizing side events for the online segment; and preparing a host country agreement.

6. In consultation with the respective Bureau members, the secretariat has undertaken preparations for online regional preparatory meetings to be held in September and October 2021. The meetings will be provided with interpretation services as needed. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for parties in the regions to hear briefings, exchange views and consult each other on the agenda items to be considered during the online segment. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat has also undertaken initial planning for online and in-person regional preparatory meetings to be held prior to the in-person segment of the fourth meeting.

2. Bureau of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

7. To date, the officers elected to the Bureau for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties have met six times, under the presidency of Ms. Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia), to provide guidance and advice to the secretariat on the preparation of the fourth meeting. The meetings were held on 3 February, 4 June and 13 October 2020 and on 3 March, 14 April and 16 June 2021. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were held online. At its first meeting, the Bureau designated Ms. Angela Rivera (Colombia) as Rapporteur for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For the second meeting of the Bureau, the secretariat prepared a note on the mandate and functions of the Bureau to support the newly elected Bureau members in assuming their role. The regular and frequent Bureau meetings have been useful for guiding the preparation of the fourth meeting, in particular the online segment. The seventh meeting of the Bureau is scheduled for September 2021.

3. Implementation and Compliance Committee

8. The Implementation and Compliance Committee was established to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all the provisions of the Convention. The third meeting of the Committee was held on 7 and 8 June 2021, online instead of in person because of the pandemic. Ms. Claudia Sorina Dumitru (Romania) chaired the meeting and Mr. Mohamed Abdulai Kamara (Sierra Leone) acted as vice-chair. The meeting focused on the first national short reports submitted by parties pursuant to article 21 of the Convention. Ms. Paulina Riquelme (Chile) and Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) were elected chair and vice-chair of the Committee, respectively, to begin their term of office at the closure of the third meeting of the Committee and remain in office until the closure of the next in-person meeting. The report on the work of the Committee, prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/15.

9. The secretariat supported the Committee's intersessional work by identifying issues relating to implementation and compliance for the Committee's consideration, facilitating communication among the Committee members, and preparing the Committee's draft programme of work and report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

B. Capacity-building and technical assistance

10. Article 14 of the Convention provides for parties to cooperate to provide, within their respective capabilities, timely and appropriate capacity-building and technical assistance to developing-country parties, in particular parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States, and to parties with economies in transition, to assist them in implementing their obligations. Article 24 provides for the secretariat, as part of its functions, to facilitate assistance to parties, particularly developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of the Convention. Activities under article 14 are funded by contributions to the special trust fund.

11. The secretariat is implementing a number of targeted capacity-building and technical assistance efforts funded by the European Union. One project deals with support for parties in relation to the trade provisions of the Convention (article 3) and the provisions on emissions (article 8). Another project relates to supporting parties with regard to the 2020 deadline for the phase-out of mercury-added products.

12. Document UNEP/MC/COP.4/14 provides more detailed information about the capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention.

C. Scientific and technical activities

1. Scientific support for the parties

13. The secretariat has provided support to three intersessional time-based expert groups mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting in carrying out their work, namely the ad hoc group of experts working on the review of annexes A and B to the Convention in line with decision MC-3/1, the group of technical experts working on guidance in relation to mercury releases in line with decision MC-3/4, and the group of technical experts working on mercury waste thresholds in line with decision MC-3/5. Because of the ongoing pandemic, these groups have not met in person. Instead, they have been meeting online to advance the work. All three groups have succeeded in addressing their respective mandates with the leadership of co-chairs elected from among their members and the active engagement of the members and observers at online meetings. The ad hoc group of experts working on the review of annexes A and B held 11 online meetings, co-chaired by Mr. Darren Byrne (Ireland) and Ms. Gwenetta Fordyce (Guyana). The details of the group's work are set out in documents UNEP/MC/COP.4/4 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/3. The group of technical experts on mercury releases held 13 meetings, co-chaired by Ms. Bianca Dlamini (Eswatini) and Mr. Greg Helms (United States of America). The details of the group's work are set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/7. The group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds held 11 meetings, co-chaired by Mr. Andreas Gössnitzer (Switzerland) and Ms. Oluwatoyin Olabanji (Nigeria). The details of the group's work are set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/8.

14. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision MC-3/2, the secretariat has compiled information submitted by parties and others on measures taken to phase down the use of dental amalgam and on non-mercury alternatives to dental amalgam. The compilation is set out in documents UNEP/MC/COP.4/5 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/4.

15. Furthermore, as requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision MC-3/3, the secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership, has developed a report on the use of customs codes for identifying mercury-added products, including a draft guidance document, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. The report is set out in documents UNEP/MC/COP.4/27 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/5.

16. Lastly, as requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision MC-3/5, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership, worked on improving the guidance on the preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining regarding management of tailings from such mining. The information prepared on the management of tailings from such mining is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/6.

17. The secretariat has also provided scientific and technical support to parties, including by publishing a booklet containing guidance on the management of contaminated sites pursuant to article 12, and has disseminated good practices, case studies and scientific knowledge through Minamata Online sessions as well as through workshops conducted by partner organizations.

18. The secretariat participated in the Workshop Committee for the fifteenth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, planned for July 2022, and cooperated in the planning of a workshop for the conference.

2. Effectiveness evaluation

19. In decision MC-3/10, the Conference of the Parties agreed on intersessional work to set up the arrangements for the Conference of the Parties to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention. Progress in this regard is described in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/18.

20. In essence, the secretariat has provided support to parties in their consideration of indicators for the effectiveness evaluation. Parties were supported through information and exchange sessions that enabled them to share their initial views, first with each other, by November 2020, and then, by March 2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. On the basis of the many submissions

received from parties, the secretariat has compiled the views for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.4/18/Add.1 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/11).

21. The secretariat was also requested, in decision MC-3/10, to secure services to advance the work on guidance on monitoring, and it has been working intensively with parties and experts since mid-2020 in this regard (UNEP/MC/COP.4/18/Add.2 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/12). Furthermore, as requested in the same decision, the secretariat has begun work on (a) the report on trade, supply and demand, including mercury waste flows and stocks, and (b) the article 21 synthesis report.

3. National reporting

22. The biennial short national reports under article 21 of the Convention, due by 31 December 2019, were submitted by parties, made available on the Convention website, and analysed by the secretariat in its preparation of the reports for the third meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (see the report on the work of the Committee, set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/15) and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/MC/COP.4/16). Reports submitted for the reporting period of 16 August 2017 to 31 December 2019 constitute the first national reporting under the Convention; parties can be congratulated for this milestone and for achieving a reporting rate of 85 per cent. The secretariat has prepared draft guidance for the full national reporting format (UNEP/MC/COP.4/17), as requested by decision MC-3/13, and has further developed the online reporting system to host and facilitate the first full national reporting, due by 31 December 2021. The reporting system has been integrated into the new Convention website and made interoperable with the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA).

D. Knowledge and information management; outreach

1. Publications

23. Four documents were prepared for publication and made available on the Convention website: “Guidance on the management of contaminated sites”, in all six official languages of the United Nations; “Progress Report 2020: Overview of the Minamata Convention on Mercury activities”; and two reports produced jointly with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action” and “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity: key insights”. Furthermore, the Minamata Convention visual identity and branding guidelines were reviewed and updated in all six United Nations official languages, modernizing colours, fonts and templates.

2. Communication, outreach and public awareness

24. Since 2020, the work of the Convention has moved rapidly towards increased digitalization. This shift, necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is also part of a broader trend within the United Nations. The United Nations Secretary-General’s data strategy² lays out a vision for modernization and upgrading of ways of working. Further, UNEP has included “digital transformations” as a new enabling subprogramme in its medium-term strategy for 2022–2025. Digital solutions are used not only in communication, public awareness, knowledge management and capacity-building but also as a way to support the implementation and overall effectiveness of the Convention – for example, through the creation of internal capacity to organize and monitor the intersessional work of the Convention online.

25. A major achievement is the launch of a new Convention website offering an enhanced user experience and improved accessibility. The revamped, data-driven website meets the latest United Nations information technology standards and provides a much more solid knowledge management framework for housing information, reports and data related to the Convention. It is designed to fully interoperate with InforMEA for greater transparency and collaboration with other multilateral agreement secretariats and organizations. The new website was launched in time to provide a suitable platform for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, shaping a digital ecosystem of integrated tools and workflows for running a successful online meeting, which includes an intranet for secure access to in-session documents, a new registration and participant management

² See <https://www.un.org/en/content/datastrategy/index.shtml>.

system called KRONOS, developed by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and a meeting platform with interpretation for the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A dedicated online forum has been established to facilitate consideration of the budget documents in the run-up to the fourth meeting.

26. The secretariat has begun using various online meeting platforms to carry out intersessional and other work. Building on the experience and best practices of other multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and organizations, the secretariat has developed its own knowledge, skill set and material for conducting online meetings effectively, including appropriate guidance for participants, management of communication flows, logistical support, recording, connection testing and handling of internet connectivity problems.

27. A series of weekly digital briefings called Minamata Online held in 2020 in collaboration with partners focused on implementation review and support, especially aimed at developing countries, as well as on mercury and science and on intersessional work. The series was very well attended, and season 2 of Minamata Online has been launched for 2021–2022. In addition, several targeted communication campaigns were developed, including videos for the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and for International Women’s Day, periodic newsletters for the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance, and regular updates on the Convention.

28. The online visibility of the Minamata Convention has been maintained and further enhanced through social media, website updates, Convention events and participation in external events. The Convention website offers 80 to 100 news stories in English, French and Spanish and other regular updates. During the period 1 January 2020 to 19 July 2021, the website was visited by 107,600 users worldwide, with 177,000 sessions and 389,400 page views, and Twitter provided 564,100 impressions. The Convention currently has more than 3,200 Twitter followers. The secretariat has built a structured database with more than 2,500 segmented contacts engaged by the 22 outreach campaigns, with a 40 per cent open rate and 60 per cent clicks on average.

E. Overall management

1. Executive direction and management

29. The secretariat has engaged in relevant international processes and cooperated actively with partners to implement the programme of work of the Convention and attain its objectives, including through the participation of secretariat staff in various international meetings (listed in the annex to the present document).

30. In decision MC-1/15, the Conference of the Parties approved six positions in the Professional staff category and four positions in the General Service category. Two positions (one Professional and one General Service) were to be funded by programme support costs. In decision MC-3/12, the Conference of the Parties agreed to the reclassification of the two positions funded by programme support costs and approved an additional position in the Professional category for the 2020–2021 biennium. The secretariat has finalized recruitment for all the vacant positions. The last two positions filled were those of Programme Officer for science and technology (P-4), filled in March 2021, and of Programme Officer for reporting and effectiveness evaluation (P-3), filled in April 2021 for the period through April 2023.

31. With the financial support of Japan, a P-5 Senior Programme Management Officer position has been funded through the special trust fund for the entire 2020–2021 biennium, and the contract of the Junior Professional Officer has been extended for an additional year, starting on 16 April 2021, on a 50-50 funding basis. The Junior Professional Officer provides additional support for the work of the intersessional time-based expert groups, as well contributing to other substantive tasks related to the secretariat’s programme of work.

32. The secretariat participated in the development of a revised delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats. The process was initiated by the Executive Director of UNEP on 30 March 2020 with a view to updating the framework in line with the Secretary-General’s bulletin on delegation of authority in the administration of the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations of 17 December 2018 (ST/SGB/2019/2).

33. The secretariat has been teleworking since March 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariat transitioned smoothly to online meetings and collaboration and has emphasized staff well-being during the pandemic.

2. International cooperation and coordination

34. Progress achieved in the area of international cooperation and coordination as well as in information exchange is described in detail in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/23. Additional information on cooperative activities undertaken by the secretariat is available in a joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/17); a study entitled “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity” (UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/13); a study entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action” (UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/14); and a report on the implementation of decision MC-3/11 on enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/MC/COP.4/20). Relevant reports by international organizations and initiatives are also set out in documents UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/15, UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/16, UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/18, UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/19 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/20.

3. Financial resources and mechanism

35. The progress achieved with regard to financial resources and the financial mechanism is outlined in documents UNEP/MC/COP.4/9, UNEP/MC/COP.4/9/Add.1, UNEP/MC/COP.4/11 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/11/Add.1, which describe the activities of the secretariat with respect to the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the Specific International Programme, the two entities of the financial mechanism provided for in article 13 of the Convention.

36. Most notably, the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme met on 24 and 25 November 2020 to, among other things, launch the third round of applications to the programme. At the meeting, Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands) and Mr. Prasert Tapaneeyangkul (Thailand) were elected co-chairs of the Governing Board.

37. The secretariat also engaged with the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Special Programme has been a resource for eligible countries seeking support for their efforts to strengthen their institutional ability to implement the Minamata Convention, as well as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and to engage in the Strategic Approach. The secretariat participated in the meetings of a task team to support the secretariat of the Special Programme in the review and appraisal of applications to the Programme; in meetings of the Executive Board of the Programme; and in webinars held by the Programme, as part of the fifth round of applications, to orient and support applicants in their preparation of proposals to the Programme.

4. Legal and policy activities

38. Legal activities underpin a variety of the secretariat’s functions. These activities included the provision of generic and Convention-specific legal and policy advice and analysis pertaining to the implementation and development of the Convention; the drafting of legal agreements; contributions to international cooperation activities relating to legal and policy matters; and activities pertaining to Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to chemicals and waste. In the context of the implementation of and compliance with trade-related provisions of the Convention, further activities undertaken by the secretariat included the provision of advice on completing the forms required under article 3 and support for cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and partners to prevent and combat mercury trade that is not compliant with the Convention.

39. Another focus of the secretariat’s legal and policy activities has been gender. With the financial support of Sweden, the secretariat has been able to undertake several activities with the objective of mainstreaming gender into the programme of 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 information received was used to develop communication and awareness-raising material, including a Minamata insight publication on gender and mercury and a video launched by the secretariat on International Women’s Day 2020.³

³ An update on the work of the secretariat in the field of gender was sent to parties on 6 May 2021 and is available at <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/news/information-work-secretariat-minamata-convention-mercury-field-gender>.

40. As a first step in implementing the gender road map, the Executive Secretary appointed Ms. Lara Ognibene, Legal and Programme Officer, as the secretariat's gender focal point. Ms. Ognibene has been coordinating gender activities since November 2020 and is the secretariat's representative in the network of multilateral environmental agreement gender focal points established by UNEP in December 2020. Progress regarding gender is discussed in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/22.

5. Office maintenance and services and information technology service

41. As part of the roll-out of Umoja Extension 2, the secretariat has participated in the design and roll-out (including role mapping) of the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting tool, a holistic, end-to-end solution that integrates multiple Umoja modules. The solution is used to manage the life cycle of United Nations programmes and projects from beginning to end, across multiple funding sources. It enables staff and managers to plan, manage, monitor and track their projects using the results-based management methodology. The resulting increased Umoja licence costs need to be accommodated within the Convention's core budget.

Annex

International and national meetings and events at which the secretariat represented the Minamata Convention (only events with active participation are included)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Attended by</i>
2020		
8–14 February 2020	Global Environment Facility Chemicals and Waste Coordination Retreat (in person)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, M. Bailey
13 February 2020	Geneva Environment Network: Student briefing (in person)	E. Toda
24 February 2020	Minamata Initial Assessment/National Action Plan training in Myanmar organized by UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (online)	E. Toda
21 and 22 April 2020	Fifty-third meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (online)	C. ten Have, E. Toda
28 May 2020	Geneva Environment Dialogue: Minamata Convention and COVID-19 (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, E. Toda
17 June 2020	Women and Mercury: New ideas on how to reduce the risk for women (webinar)	M. Bailey
9 July 2020	The Journey of the Global Environment Facility: Delivering Transformational Change (webinar)	M. Stankiewicz
30 July 2020	Small intersessional working group on technical guidelines on mercury waste (under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal) (informal online meeting)	E. Toda
1–3 September 2020	Twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (online)	M. Stankiewicz, E. Toda
24 September 2020	Dialogue with multilateral environmental agreements with international trade control regimes as part of the fourteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (online)	M. Stankiewicz, L. Ognibene
30 September and 1 October 2020	The Artisanal Mining Grand Challenge (online)	M. Bailey
1 and 2 October 2020	Atelier de Lancement, Cote d'Ivoire, Elaboration d'un Plan d'Action National (kick-off online workshop)	M. Bailey
7 and 8 October 2020	Global Observation System for Mercury (kick-off online workshop)	M. Stankiewicz, E. Toda
20 October 2020	Chemicals and Waste: From Science to Policy, Global Issues of Concern, Challenges and Opportunities (online briefing prior to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly)	M. Stankiewicz
28 October 2020	Mercury Group meeting, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (online)	M. Bailey
26–30 October 2020	First Inter-American Symposium on Mercury "SIN Mercurio" (online)	M. Bailey
9–10 November 2020	East Africa Stakeholders' Workshop on Mercury Governance in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (organized by the Centre for Environment Justice and Development) (online)	E. Toda
17–19 November 2020	Nineteenth chemical safety seminar "Integrated Policies for Chemical Safety and Waste Management to Collective Health Protection" (online)	T. Anan
26 November 2020	Eleventh meeting of the InforMEA Steering Committee (online)	M. Stankiewicz, A. Garcia
30 November 2020	Mercury in skin-lightening products: towards the 2020 deadline (webinar by the Global Mercury Partnership)	M. Bailey

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Attended by</i>
30 November and 1 December 2020	International Atomic Energy Agency Virtual Technical Meeting on the Use of Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques to Strengthen Member State Seafood Safety Programmes (online)	E. Toda
1–3 December 2020	Green Customs Initiative twelfth annual partners' meeting (online)	T. Anan
2–4 December 2020	Role of monitoring laboratory for national mercury management (online training session organized by UNEP/Regional Office for Asia-Pacific)	M. Stankiewicz, E. Toda
10 December 2020	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Mercury Group meeting (online)	E. Toda, M. Bailey
7–11 December 2020	Fifty-ninth meeting of the GEF Council (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, M. Bailey
8–11 December 2020	Small intersessional working group on mercury waste (under the Basel Convention) (online)	E. Toda
15 and 16 December 2020	Eleventh meeting of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, E. Toda,
15 and 16 December 2020	Special virtual session for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have
16 December 2020	Chemicals and Waste Briefing: Year in Review and Priorities for 2021 (Geneva Environment Network) (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have
16–18 December 2020	Eighth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (online)	E. Toda
2021		
8–12 February 2021	GEF Technical Advisory Group meeting (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, E. Toda, M. Bailey, L. Ognibene
18 February 2021	Youth Environment Assembly, fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly: Chemicals and Waste Platform Launch (online)	C. ten Have
22 February 2021	Leadership Dialogue, fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (online)	M. Stankiewicz
8 March 2021	GEF-8 replenishment retreat (GEF, Minamata Convention secretariat, secretariat of the Basil, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, E. Toda, M. Bailey, L. Ognibene
15 March 2021	Second Global Mercury Observation System Training Webinar (virtual training)	E. Toda
25 March 2021	Sixth Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals Management (online)	C. ten Have
30 March 2021	PlanetGOLD in Review: Making a World of Difference in Small-scale Gold Mining (virtual meeting)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have
13 April 2021	Workshop on Hg Trends and Source Attribution, Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (online)	E. Toda
22 and 23 April 2021	First meeting, GEF-8 replenishment (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, M. Bailey
10–12 May 2021	International seminar on human biomonitoring of chemical substances, Brazil (organized by the Ministry of Health, Brazil) (online)	E. Toda
11 and 12 May 2021	Fifty-fifth meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (online)	C. ten Have

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Attended by</i>
21 May 2021	Industrial use and handling of mercury: Strengthening implementation of the Minamata Convention (online consultative workshop organized by the Centre for Environmental Law, Education, Research and Advocacy, India))	C. ten Have
27 May 2021	Chemicals and Waste Briefing (Geneva Environment Network) (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have
2–4 June 2021	First Global Meeting of National Focal Points under the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) (online)	L. Ognibene
8–10 June 2021	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee meeting (online)	E. Toda
14–18 June 2021	Sixtieth meeting of the GEF Council (marking the thirtieth anniversary of GEF) (online)	M. Stankiewicz, C. ten Have, M. Bailey
17 June 2021	Integrating Gender Dimensions into National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (Global Mercury Partnership webinar)	L. Ognibene
18 June 2021	Combating mercury illegal trade, organized by the Government of Indonesia, (international webinar)	C. ten Have
29 June 2021	Seventh Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals Management (online)	C. ten Have