

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING

BUREAU OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Monday 3 February 2020, by teleconference

Participants

Present: Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia, for Asia Pacific, and President), W.T.B Dissanayake (Sri Lanka, for Asia Pacific), Oarabile Serumola (Botswana, for Africa), Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia, for Central and Eastern Europe), Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia, for Central and Eastern Europe), Angela Patricia Rivera Galvis (Colombia, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Bethune Morgan (Jamaica, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Marie-Claire Lhenry (France, for the Western European and Others), Alison Dickson (Canada, for the Western European and Others), Monika Stankiewicz (Executive Secretary) and members of the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Apologies received from: Roger Baro (Burkina Faso, for Africa) and Claudia Dimitriu (Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, Ex officio member).

Note: For technical reasons Ms. Oarabile Serumola was only able to attend a part of the meeting. The Secretariat will share this report and follow-up with her.

1. Opening of the Bureau meeting

- Ms. Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, the President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-4), welcomed the members of the Bureau to the meeting, and expressed her expectation of the Bureau to facilitate the preparations towards COP-4.
- Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, added her warm welcome to the members of the Bureau, underlining that the members of the Bureau fulfill the important function to provide process-oriented leadership in the preparation of and during COP-4.
- The agenda of the meeting was adopted without change.

2. Election of the Rapporteur

- The President proposed to elect a Bureau member from the Latin America and the Caribbean region (GRULAC) as Rapporteur, based on an alphabetical rotation of the regional groups and noting that the previous term was served by representation from Central and Eastern European States.
- The Bureau agreed to the proposal and unanimously elected Ms. Angela Rivera from Latin America and the Caribbean region as Rapporteur for COP-4.

3. Updates from the Secretariat

a. Article 21 reporting

- Upon invitation from the President, the Executive Secretary recalled that the deadline for the first biennial short report was 31 December 2019, and noted that as of 30 January 2020, 78 reports have been received, reflecting a reporting rate of nearly 70% for the reporting period. The Secretariat will continue to reach out to the remaining 38 Parties to submit their reports.
- The Executive Secretary also informed the Bureau that full reporting is due by 31 December 2021, and according to the mandate given by COP-3 the Secretariat will prepare draft guidance for completing the national reporting formats to assist Parties in this preparation of the reports.
- A member of the Bureau asked for clarification on how to edit or add new information to an already submitted report. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that in such cases the reporting officer can contact the Secretariat and ask for necessary support.
- The President called upon all Bureau members to reach out to their region and encourage submissions of the remaining reports.

4. Follow-up on the outcomes of COP-3

a. Nominations for technical expert groups

- Upon invitation from the President, the Executive Secretary recalled that COP-3 invited Parties to nominate or confirm members for three groups of experts (annexes A and B, releases of mercury and mercury waste thresholds) by 31 March 2020, and that those groups will start their work during the course of April 2020.
- A number of members asked for clarifications, including on the number of experts to be nominated per group, the timing of planned meetings of specific groups, and the timing of the call for information on technical issues. The Secretariat will provide the requested information in writing for dissemination.
- The President called upon all Bureau members to actively reach out to their regions for nominations and inform the Secretariat of the names of the nominated experts.

b. COP-4 date

- The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that COP-4 dates decided at COP-3 (31 October to 5 November 2021) coincide with the 33rd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1 to 5 November 2021). The overlapping dates may pose a challenge for Parties whose delegations intend to attend both meetings in the fall of 2021. The Secretariat further explained that the dates for the Montreal Protocol were agreed before COP-3.
- The Bureau discussed the rationale to amend the decision of the COP and the possibility of changing the dates for COP-4, while noting that the calendar of international meetings already scheduled for the fall of 2021 is very busy.
- Upon request, the Executive Secretary clarified the existing rules of procedure for deciding on COP dates.

- While confirming the agreed dates for COP-4, the President requested the Secretariat to further communicate with the Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol to seek any possibility for them to change the dates for the 33rd Meeting of the Parties.

c. Adjustment of the 2020-2021 budget

- Upon the invitation from the President, the Executive Secretary outlined the budget for the biennium 2020-2021 with the adjustment in line with the decision taken on the arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation taken by COP-3.
- The Executive Secretary clarified that the USD 250,000 originally allocated to the development of emission and release report is removed, USD 200,000 originally allocated to the development of trade, supply and demand report for 2021 is retained, and USD 170,000 originally allocated to the development of monitoring and modelling reports for 2020 and 2021 is retained for the purpose of expert support for developing monitoring guidance.
- A Bureau member asked for clarification on the budget for preparing the synthesis report of Article 21 reporting. The Secretariat responded that the contact group on programme of work and budget of COP-3 did not include any budgetary provision in this regard, and that the report would be developed by the Secretariat.
- The Bureau noted the information on the adjusted biennial budget and that it will be communicated to the Parties shortly. The Secretariat further informed that the invoice for the 2020 contributions to the General Trust Fund will be sent to each Party in due course, taking note that some Bureau members highlighted that it is urgent for the Parties to receive the invoice in a timely manner to avoid loss of budgeted allocations should the invoice be received after the end of the financial year.

5. Status of Contributions to the Minamata Convention

- The Executive Secretary presented the three documents that reflected the status of contributions to the General Trust Fund, Special Trust Fund and the Specific Trust Fund as updated monthly on the Minamata website. She further noted that the Secretariat is pleased to note the high level of contributions paid in 2018 and 2019 to the General Trust Fund. The Information Note circulated to the meeting sets out the amounts to be raised for the activities under the Special Trust Fund.
- Referring to the Information Note a Bureau member asked whether the amount to be received in 2020 as part of the Host Country contribution would be allocated for the travel costs of delegates from the developing countries to COP-4 and the preceding regional preparatory meetings. The Secretariat responded that an amended Note with more clear presentation will be issued after the meeting.
- The President asked the Bureau members to encourage Parties to pay the contributions for the General Trust Fund as early as possible. She also made a call for those in a position to do so to contribute to the Special Trust Fund and the Specific Trust Fund.

6. Any other business

- A Bureau member forwarded a question from a Party if the “existing information on the calculation of releases and on other methodologies for the estimation of releases from the source categories identified in UNEP/MC/COP.3/6” mentioned in the call-for-



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information letter should be identified by referring to the methodology that is used in the UNEP Toolkit, or by referring to any other source of information. The Secretariat will check on the details and get back to the Bureau.

- A number of members sought clarification on the nomination for technical expert groups, which is accounted for in section 4.a of this report.
- The President shared her proposal to consider adopting a political document or declaration at COP-4, such as the “Bali Declaration” or “Bali Platform”, as a non-legally-binding expression of political commitment. She asked the Bureau to discuss this idea in each region and to share feedback at the next Bureau meeting.
- The Bureau agreed to hold the next meeting through video conference. The Secretariat will consult with the President and the Bureau members about the date of the next Bureau meeting.