Proceedings of the Africa regional preparatory meeting for the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Online, 4 October 2021

Similar to the segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) which will be held online from 1 to 5 November 2021 in view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the COP-4 bureau agreed that the regional preparatory meetings for the online segment of COP-4 would be held online. The objective of the meetings was to give Parties in the regions the possibility to hear briefings, exchange views and consult each other on the items of the provisional agenda to be considered during the online segment of COP-4. The programmes of the online regional preparatory meetings were prepared in close cooperation with the bureau members of the concerned regions.

The Africa regional preparatory meeting for the online segment of COP-4 was held online on 4 October 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ms. Oarabile Serumola (Botswana), and Mr. Roger Baro, members of the COP-4 Bureau. Opening remarks were delivered by COP-4 President, Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia), and Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of Minamata Convention.

Participants were informed of Bureau’s decision that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on travel and gatherings, COP-4, originally planned to be held from 1 to 5 November 2021 in Bali, Indonesia, would be held in two segments: an online segment scheduled for 1 to 5 November 2021 and an in-person segment to be held during the first quarter of 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Detailed information was provided to participants on the upcoming online segment of COP-4, including the tentative organization of work, practical arrangements, submission of credentials, and other technical arrangements. Participants also received a briefing from the Secretariat on the items of the COP-4 agenda to be considered during its online segment, namely programme of work and budget, dates of the resumed meeting, financial resources and mechanism: GEF, national reporting, and effectiveness evaluation.

Participants also received a briefing from Canada and Norway on their effectiveness evaluation initiative, a presentation on the proposal to amend Annex A of the Convention and a statement by Madagascar on the amendment proposal. Finally, Indonesia presented the proposed Bali Declaration on Combating Global Illegal Trade of Mercury.

Meeting documents and presentations for the online segment along with relevant information about the meeting can be found on the meeting website at: https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/events/regional-preparatory-meeting-online-segment-cop-4-africa

The programme of the meeting is set out in annex I to the present proceedings.

The meeting was attended by a total of 62 participants, including 44 representatives from 18 Parties and one observer from the African region. The list of participants is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.
**Annex I: Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.15</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>Opening remarks from the co-chairs and the secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Overview of the programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 – 12.00</td>
<td>Organization of work, practical arrangements, credentials, and other</td>
<td>Presentation by the secretariat, followed by Q&amp;A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>technical matters related to the participation in the online segment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Programme of work and budget</td>
<td>Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Date of the resumed meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Financial resources and mechanism: Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- National reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30 – 14.00</td>
<td>Effectiveness evaluation</td>
<td>Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion on each item</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 14.45</td>
<td>Effectiveness evaluation</td>
<td>Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion</td>
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<td>Presentation by Canada and Norway on their initiative on effectiveness</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>evaluation</td>
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<td>Presentation by Indonesia on the Bali Declaration on Combating Global</td>
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<td>Illegal Trade of Mercury.</td>
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<td>14:45 – 15:15</td>
<td>Continuation of the discussions on the items of the online segment of</td>
<td>Presentation on proposal to amend Annex A of the Convention</td>
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<td></td>
<td>COP-4</td>
<td>Statement by Madagascar on amendment proposal</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15 – 15:30</td>
<td>Conclusions and closure of the meeting</td>
<td>Closing remarks from the co-chairs</td>
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</table>

*The Africa regional preparatory meeting for the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury was organized thanks to the generous support of the Government of Switzerland.*
Annex II: List of Participants

List of Participants
I. GOVERNMENTS

**Benin**

Ms. Sandra Gonou  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable  
Email: sandragonou@gmail.com

Ms. Maurille Elegbede  
Coordonnatrice du Projet de Gestion des produits chimiques et de leurs déchets  
Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable  
Email: melegbede@yahoo.fr

**Botswana**

Ms. Oarabile Serumola (Co-Chair)  
Director  
Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism  
Email: oserumola@gov.bw

**Burkina Faso**

Mr. Roger Baro (Co-Chair)  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Économie Verte et du Changement Climatique  
Email: baro.roger@gmail.com

Mr. Serge Alain Nebie  
Assistant technique du Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Économie Verte et du Changement Climatique  
Email: sergalain.nebie@gmail.com

Ms. Fanta Pime Boudo  
Attachée d'Ambassade  
Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to UNO in Geneva  
Email: fanta.pime@missionburkinafaso-ch.org

**Chad**

Mr. Mahamat Abderaman Abderaman  
Directeur général technique des Services de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable  
Email: abder_mht@yahoo.fr

Mr. Younous Adoum Abdallah  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Email: abou_idjab08@live.fr

**Côte d'Ivoire**

Mr. Venance Martial Say  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable  
Email: martialvs@gmail.com

**Ghana**

Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi  
Minamata Convention Focal Point  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: adukumisam@yahoo.com

Mr. Lovelace Sarpong  
Principal Programme Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: lasarpong@gmail.com

Mr. Michael Onwona-Kwakye  
Deputy Director  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: mokatyk@gmail.com

Ms. Abena Ayensu  
Principal Legal Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: abenaayensu@gmail.com

Ms. Kafui Boni  
Senior Programme Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: kcamuzu@gmail.com

Ms. Felisa Owusu-Darko  
Senior Programme Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: felisaandoh@gmail.com

**Cameroon**

Ms. Saky Lucie AFANA  
Representant du Ministère des Relations Extérieures  
Ministère des Relations Extérieures  
Email: afkylu@yahoo.fr
Ms. Salamatu Yakubu  
Counsellor  
Permanent Mission of Ghana in Geneva  
Email: yakubus@ghanamission.ch

Guinee-Bissau  
Mr. Per Infali Cassama  
Email: cassamaper@gmail.com

Madagascar  
Ms. Rodelys Elza Razafimanantsoa  
Conseiller aux Affaires environnementales  
Permanent Mission of Madagascar to UNO in Geneva  
Email: elzarepermad@gmail.com
Ms. Hanitriniaina Liliane Randrianomenjanahary  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable  
Email: randrialiliane@gmail.com

Mali  
Mr. Oumar Diaoure Cisse  
Point Focal National de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  
Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement durable  
Email: oumar.cisse@graduateinstitute.ch

Mauritius  
Mr. Rajiv Beedassy  
Divisional Environment Officer  
Department of Environment  
Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change  
Email: rbeedassy@govmu.org
Mr. Devindranath Dindyal  
Divisional Environment Officer  
National Environment Laboratory  
Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change  
Email: ddindyal@govmu.org

Namibia  
Mr. Nicco Masule  
Senior Conservation Scientist

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism  
Email: nicco.masule@meft.gov.na

Nigeria  
Ms. Oluwatoyin Olabanji  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health  
Federal Ministry of Environment  
Email: oluwatoyinaolabanji@gmail.com
Mr. Ahmed Bah  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health  
Federal Ministry of Environment  
Email: ahmedbah934@gmail.com
Ms. Itoro Williams  
Scientific Officer  
Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health  
Federal Ministry of Environment  
Email: williamsitoro@gmail.com
Mr. Victor Nwaoba Itumo  
Focal Point on Environment  
Permanent Mission of Nigeria in Geneva  
Email: victorlivinglong@gmail.com

Senegal  
Mr. Baba Drame  
Directeur de l'Environnement et des Etablissements classes (DEEC)  
Direction de l'Environnement et des Etablissements Classés  
Email: directeur.deec@environnement.gouv.sn
Mr. Pathe Dieye  
Conseiller technique a la DEEC  
Direction de l'Environnement et des Etablissements Classés  
Email: pathe.dieye@environnement.gouv.sn
Mr. Assane Diop  
Chef de la Division de la Prevention et du Controle des Pollutions et Nuisances a la DEEC  
Direction de l'Environnement et des Etablissements Classés  
Email: assane.diop1@environnement.gouv.sn

Sierra Leone  
Mr. Sheikh Ahmed Tunis
Deputy Director, Policy, Planning and Research
Environment Protection Agency
Ministry of the Environment
Email: shykht@gmail.com

Mr. Mohamed Abdulai Kamara
Senior Environment Officer, Chemicals Control and Management
Environment Protection Agency
Ministry of the Environment
Email: kamaramohamedabdulai@gmail.com

Uganda

Ms. Anne Lillian Nakafeero
Senior District Support Officer (Minamata National Focal Point)
National Environment Management Authority
Email: ann.nakafeero@nema.go.ug

Mr. Morris Tabaaro Muheirwe
Inspector of Mines
Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
Email: tabaaronmorris@gmail.com

Zimbabwe

Ms. Pauline Nhunzvi
Chief Ecologist
Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry
Email: paulkamah@gmail.com

Mr. Alpha Chikurira
Manager Environmental Quality
Environmental Management Agency
Email: alpha.chikurira@ema.co.zw

Uganda

Ms. Anne Lillian Nakafeero
Senior District Support Officer (Minamata National Focal Point)
National Environment Management Authority
Email: ann.nakafeero@nema.go.ug

Mr. Morris Tabaaro Muheirwe
Inspector of Mines
Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
Email: tabaaronmorris@gmail.com

Zambia

Mr. Christopher Kanema
Principal Inspector - Pesticides and Toxic Substance
Zambia Environmental Management Agency
Email: ckanema@zema.org.zm

Mr. Richard Mutika
Inspector - Northern Regional Office
Zambia Environmental Management Agency
Email: rmutika@zema.org.zm

Mr. Diamond Njowa
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe in Geneva
Email: dnjowa@yahoo.com

Ms. Shingai Mwale
Principal Research Officer
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement
Email: shingaimwale@gmail.com

Ms. Silibaziso Manyonga
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe in Geneva
Email: silimanyo@gmail.com

Mr. Arnold Mukombachoto
Director Non Energy Minerals
Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development
Email: amukombachoto@gmail.com

Mr. Claid Mujaju
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement
Email: mujajuclaid@gmail.com
II. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Clean Lighting Coalition

Ms. Rachel Kamande  
Africa Country Engagement Lead  
Clean Lighting Coalition  
Email: rkamande@cleanlightingcoalition.org
III. SECRETARIAT

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Ms. Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: monika.stankiewicz@un.org

Ms. Claudia ten Have
Senior Policy Coordination Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: claudia.tenhave@un.org

Mr. Eisaku Toda
Senior Programme Management Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: eisaku.toda@un.org

Ms. Marianne Bailey
Programme Officer for Capacity-building and Technical Assistance
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: marianne.bailey@un.org

Ms. Manoela Pessoa De Miranda
Programme Management Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: manoela.miranda@un.org

Ms. Sandra Ruecker
Administrative Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: sandra.ruecker@un.org

Ms. Anna Garcia Sans
Communication and Knowledge Management Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: anna.garcia@un.org

Mr. Richard Gutierrez
Programme Management Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: richard.gutierrez@un.org

Ms. Lara Ognibene
Legal/Programme Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: lara.ognibene@un.org

Ms. Reena Agrawal
Finance and Budget Assistant
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: reena.agrawal@un.org

Mr. Pablo Garmon
Public Information Assistant
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: pablo.garmonfidalgo@un.org

Mr. Alexandru Sofroni
Programme Management Assistant
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: alexandru.sofroni@un.org

Ms. My Linh Doan
Programme Management Assistant
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: linh.doan@un.org

Ms. Joyce Saad
Programme Management Assistant
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: saadj@un.org

Ms. Ruvimbo Kamba
Consultant : SIP Programme Review
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: ruvimbo.kamba@un.org

Mr. Shariful Islam
Associate on Programme Management
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: shariful.islam1@un.org

Mr. Alfred Muge
Intern
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
Email: alfred.muge@un.org