

**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

Programme for 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 4 October 2021 11:00 a.m. – 15:30 p.m. (Geneva time)		
11.00 – 11.15	- Opening - Overview of the programme	Opening remarks from the co-chairs and the secretariat
Item 1. Introduction to the online segment of COP-4		
11.15 - 12.00	Organization of work, practical arrangements, credentials, and other technical matters related to the participation in the online segment	Presentation by the secretariat, followed by Q&A
Item 2. Items of the agenda of COP-4 to be considered during its online segment		
12.00 – 13.00	Programme of work and budget	Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion
<i>Break</i>		
13.30 – 14.00	- Date of the resumed meeting - Financial resources and mechanism: Global Environment Facility - National reporting	Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion on each item
14.00 – 14.45	Effectiveness evaluation	Presentation by the secretariat, followed by a discussion Presentation by Canada and Norway on their initiative on effectiveness evaluation Presentation by Indonesia on the Bali Declaration on Combating Global Illegal Trade of Mercury.
14:45 – 15:15	Continuation of the discussions on the items of the online segment of COP-4	Presentation on proposal to amend Annex A of the Convention Statement by Madagascar on amendment proposal Q&A
15:15 – 15:30	Conclusions and closure of the meeting	Closing remarks from the co-chairs

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

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