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**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Third meeting**
Geneva, 25–29 November 2019

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its third meeting

Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held at the Geneva International Conference Centre from 25 to 29 November 2019.

I. Opening of the meeting

2. The Director of the Europe Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Bruno Pozzi, welcomed participants at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 25 November.

A. Opening remarks

3. Following a performance of Swiss traditional music and a video presentation about the Minamata Convention, opening remarks were delivered by Marc Chardonnes, State Secretary, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Rossana Silva Repetto, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; and David Kapindula (Zambia), President of the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chardonnes welcomed participants to Geneva, noting that the current gathering was the third successive meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Geneva since the Convention's entry into force in 2017. Reviewing the history of the Convention's creation and the significant progress already made in its implementation, he drew attention to challenges facing the parties at the current stage, in particular in the areas of waste thresholds, contaminated sites and inventories. To confront those and other challenges, concerted collective action and collaboration were needed by and between all parties and stakeholders and, to that end, considerable advantages flowed from the location of the Convention secretariat in Geneva, the host city of a number of international instruments and organizations active in the field of global chemicals and waste governance. Resolute implementation of the Convention and assuring the capacities required to that end were crucial to making mercury history, as was the efficient use of resources, which was exemplified by the cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In closing, he wished participants fruitful deliberations, thanking them for taking up the global chemicals and waste challenge for a detoxified future.

5. In her statement, Ms. Andersen said that, as the youngest member of the family of environmental conventions, the Minamata Convention had immense potential to deliver beneficial results to people and the environment, in the campaign to make mercury history. Among the achievements of the Convention to date, she drew attention to the establishment of a fully funded financial mechanism with a \$206 million indicative allocation under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Outlining tasks before the parties at the current meeting, she

highlighted the operative proposal on a stable framework for the sharing of services among the Geneva-based chemical conventions, and called for concerted action by all parties and stakeholders in key areas, such as artisanal and small-scale gold mining; the need to stem the trade in mercury; the impact of coal burning and the attendant mercury emissions on climate change; and the significant share of mercury in waste. Noting the transboundary nature of mercury pollution, she called for strengthened collaboration across countries, constituencies and conventions and stressed that the Convention must therefore have a defined role in the post-2020 collaborative frameworks for international chemicals management and biodiversity. Determined action across the board was needed in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and that included concerted, united action to stop toxic heavy metals, such as mercury, endangering human health and the environment.

6. In her statement, Ms. Silva Repetto looked back over the two years during which she had been privileged to serve the cause of the Convention by leading its secretariat and commended the staff with whom she had worked on their dedication to that cause. She reviewed achievements under the Convention to date, including the establishment of the three trust funds; the creation of a sound administrative basis for the secretariat, which was fully staffed; and the successful support furnished by the two components of the Convention's financial mechanism, GEF and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance, to countries in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. She highlighted the importance of the forthcoming first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention, in 2023, and noted the need, at the current meeting, to define a mechanism for that purpose. Recalling her recent and inspiring visit to Minamata, Japan, she stressed that, despite the progress made over the years between the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in 1972, and the adoption of the Convention, in 2013, much remained to be done. The adoption of the Convention, she reiterated, was not the end but the beginning of a process which would only end when the world was free of human-caused mercury emissions and releases, a world where human beings and the environment no longer lived under the threats posed by mercury, a world without the Minamata disease; in short, a world where mercury was history.

7. In his statement, Mr. Kapindula said that the ambitions that had engendered the Convention were reflected in its prompt ratification by as many as 114 parties. Moving on from ambition, the Convention was now at the more challenging stage of implementation, with some key issues still eluding consensus. He urged parties to strive for consensus on those issues and not to defer them to future meetings, thus building a legacy of unresolved issues that would impede their ability to achieve the aims set out in article 1 of the Convention, in particular since the periodicity of the Conference of the Parties' meetings would thenceforth be increased to two years. Noting the copious agenda before participants, he called for their support and cooperation in ensuring the success of the current meeting.

8. Following those remarks, the President declared the meeting officially open.

B. Individual and regional statements

9. The Minister for Environment and Forests of Indonesia, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, described some of her country's mercury-related policies and actions, noting that environmentally sound development was enshrined in its constitution. The country had established a national action plan to eliminate the use of mercury in certain sectors by 2025. A ban on certain mercury-containing medical equipment was planned as of 2020 in all health and other public facilities, and a capacity-building project was under way to improve the collection and sorting of mercury-containing waste. In addition, a socioeconomic and environmental transformation programme was in progress to offer alternative employment to people working in artisanal and small-scale gold mining to provide them with safer techniques for extracting gold. Furthermore, attorneys, the police and local government were working together to prevent and reduce the illegal use of mercury, for example, by stopping mercury production through the closure of cinnabar mining facilities. She assured the meeting of her country's continued commitment to pursuing its plan and meeting its national targets and to working constructively with other countries on mercury issues. Partnerships, she said, were essential as no developing or developed country was immune to the impact of mercury mismanagement.

10. The representative speaking on behalf of the African States thanked the Executive Secretary for her work and highlighted issues that the region was particularly keen to address. Those included dental amalgam, through a proposal to amend annex A by transferring dental amalgam from part II to part I; customs codes, to aid efforts to control trade in mercury-added products; mercury releases and the identification of releases that were not covered by the Minamata Convention; the open burning of mercury-containing waste; the establishment of mercury emission or release thresholds, including to support policy decisions; the management of contaminated sites, by keeping the guidelines on that issue up to date and launching pilot projects to test their use; the effectiveness evaluation of the

Convention; and the need to ensure adequate, predictable, sustainable and timely resources, along with technical assistance and technology transfer. He thanked all the countries that had contributed to the Specific International Programme for the support that had benefited projects in Africa.

11. The representative speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States said that his region had taken many actions at the national, regional and international levels. Nevertheless, challenges remained, including owing to countries' lack of technical and financial resources and capacity. In considering the effectiveness evaluation, therefore, it was imperative to take into account countries' differing levels of economic and industrial development and capacity. Similarly, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities of States, recalled in the preamble to the Convention, should be central to any obligations stemming from the review of annexes A and B. Any financial mechanism should ensure that sustainable, dedicated, adequate, transparent and predictable funding was available to developing countries for implementation; current funding was inadequate and the mechanism needed to be updated. Lastly, he said that his region considered decision-making by consensus to be an asset and that it should be reflected in the rules of procedure.

12. The representative speaking on behalf of the Eastern European States, taking the example of activities under way in one country in her region, stressed the importance of legislation in combating mercury. That country had enacted all-encompassing legislation on chemicals and, in that regard, was seeking to ban mercury in thermometers as of 2024 and cut down on the use of mercury in certain products. She encouraged all countries that had ratified the Convention to move to its implementation and urged all countries that had not yet ratified it to do so as soon as possible. She also stressed the need to redouble efforts to cooperate with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements as part of a holistic approach to the management of chemicals.

13. The representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States expressed her gratitude to the Executive Secretary for her work and commitment to the Minamata Convention. She said that, in her region, countries required technical and financial resources for implementation. The Convention's financial mechanism therefore need to be robust. She also highlighted the importance of monitoring and the verification of compliance and effectiveness; the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with a view to making the best use of resources; and the importance of the Basel and Stockholm conventions' regional centres, in particular their support and expertise in terms of capacity-building and technology transfer. She thanked donors to the Specific International Programme, urged more to contribute and underlined the need to strengthen the programme. Of particular concern to the region were the issues related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, which had to be dealt with in the framework of a public policy on sustainable development, transborder trade in mercury and the management of contaminated sites. Emissions from open burning of mercury-containing waste also constituted an important issue and further information thereon should be solicited from parties. In closing, she highlighted the offer by a country in her region to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14. The representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, thanking the Executive Secretary for her excellent work, said that the Minamata Convention constituted a solid legal framework that supported efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Noting the success of the first two meetings of the Conference of the Parties, she cautioned parties not to become complacent. The countries in her region remained fully committed to working with other parties and stakeholders to ensure the full functionality of the Convention. She underscored the importance of agreeing on the guidelines for contaminated sites; the relevant thresholds for mercury waste; a suitable process for conducting the review of annexes A and B; and a functional framework for effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. The countries in the region also looked forward to engaging with other parties on developing a stable and long-term framework to enhance cooperation between the Minamata Convention and 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 and between their secretariats. Welcoming the offers received by two countries to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, she encouraged them to discuss the matter bilaterally and propose a way forward.

15. Speaking on behalf of victims of Minamata disease, Koichiro Matsunaga, representing the Collaboration Centre for Minamata Disease Victims, told his personal story. Exposed to mercury in the womb through his mother's contact with factory wastewater and confined to a wheelchair, he said that his motor skills and speech were in fact much better than those of many of his contemporaries. Expressing disappointment at the facts that had led to his fate, he urged parties not to repeat the mistakes of Minamata and not to allow children in the future to suffer as he had.

II. Organizational matters

A. Officers

16. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties had elected the following officers to serve at its third meeting, and also during the intersessional period:

President:	David Kapindula (Zambia)
Vice-Presidents:	Alison Dickson (Canada)
	María del Mar Solano Trejos (Costa Rica)
	Karel Bláha (Czechia)
	Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o (Gabon)
	Mariscia Charles (Guyana)
	Adel Jahankhah (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)
	Svetlana Bolocan (Republic of Moldova)
	Nina Cromnier (Sweden)

17. Karel Bláha (Czechia) had been elected to serve as Rapporteur.

18. During the intersessional period, Mohsen Naziri Asl (Islamic Republic of Iran) had replaced Adel Jahankhah, who had been unable to complete his assigned term.

B. Election of officers for the intersessional period and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

19. Introducing the item, the President recalled that, pursuant to the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties would need to elect a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom would act as Rapporteur, from among the representatives of the parties present at the meeting, to serve from the closure of the meeting until the closure of the fourth meeting, including the intersessional period.

20. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties elected the following officers to the Bureau for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia)
Vice-Presidents:	Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)
	Oarabile Serumola (Botswana)
	Roger Baro (Burkina Faso)
	Alison Dickson (Canada)
	Angela Rivera (Colombia)
	Marie-Claire Lhenry (France)
	Bethune Morgan (Jamaica)
	Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia)
	W. T. B. Dissanayake (Sri Lanka)

21. It was agreed that the Rapporteur for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be designated by the Bureau during the intersessional period.

C. Adoption of the agenda

22. The Conference of the Parties adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/MC/COP.3/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers for the intersessional period and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: consideration of rule 45.
4. Report on the credentials of representatives to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;
 - (i) Review of annexes A and B;
 - (ii) Proposal to amend annex A;
 - (iii) Harmonized System codes;
 - (b) Releases of mercury;
 - (c) Mercury waste, in particular the consideration of relevant thresholds;
 - (d) Guidance on the management of contaminated sites;
 - (e) Financial mechanism:
 - (i) Global Environment Facility;
 - (ii) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance;
 - (iii) Review of the financial mechanism;
 - (f) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer;
 - (g) Implementation and Compliance Committee;
 - (h) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (i) Financial rules;
 - (j) Secretariat;
 - (k) Emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste.
6. International cooperation and coordination:
 - (a) World Health Organization; International Labour Organization;
 - (b) Other international organizations and bodies.
7. Programme of work and budget.
8. Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

23. The Conference of the Parties decided, in accordance with the proposals set out in a scenario note for the meeting prepared by the President (UNEP/MC/COP.3/2), that it would meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. each day and that small groups would be established as necessary.

E. Attendance

24. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 104 parties: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

25. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following observer States: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, North Macedonia, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

26. The following United Nations entities and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Global Environment Facility, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, 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, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, World Trade Organization.

27. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Group on Earth Observations, International Lead and Zinc Study Group, Regional Organization for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region, secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

28. A number of governmental bodies and agencies, regional and subregional centres, non-governmental organizations, private-sector entities and academic institutions were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/28).

III. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: consideration of rule 45

29. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, by its decision MC-1/1, the Conference of the Parties had adopted the rules of procedure, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, which related to the option to take a decision on matters of substance by means of voting, should all efforts to reach consensus fail, and paragraph 3 of rule 45, which related to the mechanism used to decide whether a matter before the Conference of the Parties, should be considered a matter of substance or a matter of procedure. As there had again been no agreement on those elements at its second meeting, the Conference had before it, at the present meeting, the bracketed text of rule 45 for reconsideration (UNEP/MC/COP.3/3).

30. In relation to paragraph 1, all the representatives who took the floor underscored the importance of consensus, which gave the greatest legitimacy to decisions. Several of them, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported an alternative approach once all

efforts to reach consensus had been exhausted. One of them pointed out that the possibility of a vote helped to make multilateral environmental agreements more effective by avoiding the will of a very small minority overriding the will of the majority.

31. In relation to the bracketed text in paragraph 3, one representative expressed support for the proposal that, if there was debate as to whether a matter was procedural or substantive, it should automatically be treated as substantive, but a few others suggested that the parties should have a say in the matter, which should therefore be put to the vote. One of them highlighted that the wording of the proposal was the same as that in the rules of procedure of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other important environmental conventions and protocols. Another representative, however, rejected the idea of a vote of any kind.

32. The Conference of the Parties therefore agreed to defer consideration of the bracketed text in rule 45 to its fourth meeting.

IV. Report on the credentials of representatives to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

33. Presenting the report of the Bureau on credentials, Mr. Niziri Asl said that the Bureau had examined the credentials submitted by parties in accordance with rules 19 and 20 of the rules of procedure and had found that, as at 26 November 2019, the representatives of 77 parties had submitted credentials issued either by a Head of State or Government or by a minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. In addition, 28 parties had communicated credentials or information concerning the appointment of representatives by facsimile or in photocopy, or in the form of letters or notes verbales from the mission concerned. Eight parties had not communicated any information on their representatives.

34. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report as approved by the Bureau.

V. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties

A. Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

1. Review of annexes A and B

35. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that articles 4 and 5 of the Convention provided for reviews of annexes A and B no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties had addressed the matter and had agreed to defer consideration thereof to its third meeting and to request the secretariat to prepare a document on the matter for consideration at that meeting. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties had before it a note by the secretariat on the review of annexes A and B (UNEP/MC/COP.3/4), the annex of which set out a draft decision to establish an ad hoc group of experts to review the provisions of annexes A and B to the Convention, taking into account the information submitted by parties, and draft terms of reference for the group.

36. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the establishment of an expert group to collect relevant technical information, including on technically and economically feasible alternatives to mercury-added products and mercury-reliant processes listed in annexes A and B, to enable the parties to review and consider possible future amendments to the annexes to the Convention. Two representatives suggested that it was important to ensure that the review process was open, transparent and inclusive. One representative said that the expert group should have sufficient representation from the regions to enable consensus to be built, and should be given a clear mandate focused on answering technical issues, including the sensitive issues of economic and technical feasibility of mercury-free alternatives to mercury-added products or mercury-reliant processes. Another representative said that it was critical that, before adding new products or processes to annexes A and B to the Convention, consideration be given to the different capacities of the parties to phase out the products and processes currently listed in those annexes and to implement their existing obligations under the Convention with respect to such products and processes.

37. One representative proposed that expertise on mercury-free alternatives to mercury-added products or mercury-reliant processes should be added to the list of qualifications of members of the proposed ad hoc expert group. She also urged careful consideration of whether the use and harmonization of customs codes to identify mercury-added products should be added to the mandate of the proposed expert group, stressing that the issue of customs codes required a high degree of specialization and was not directly related to the review of the annexes to the Convention and that work on the harmonization of customs codes was already under way under the Convention and should be allowed to continue separately. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the issue of customs codes was critical for countries that did not manufacture, but did import, mercury-added products, to be able to identify them.

38. One representative announced that a group of countries from the Latin American and Caribbean region would present a conference room paper on the review of annexes A and B that was fully in line with articles 4 and 5 of the Convention. She said that, pursuant to those two articles, which delineated the responsibilities of the parties, the secretariat and the Conference of the Parties in the review process, it was not appropriate for an expert group to be given a mandate to compile or analyse the information provided pursuant to articles 4 and 5 of the Convention. Another representative expressed support for the statement.

39. One representative, noting that the review process under the Convention was not intended to be time-consuming or resource-intensive, suggested that the proposed process was unnecessarily burdensome.

40. The representative of an observer said that new uses of mercury had emerged since the adoption of annexes A and B, including in gold plating and as a rocket fuel in satellite propulsion, and that the annex review process should consider information provided by the parties and other stakeholders and provide for meaningful input from non-governmental organizations.

41. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on technical issues, co-chaired by Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia) and Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), requesting the contact group to develop a draft decision on the review of annexes A and B, taking into account the draft decision set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/4, the conference room paper to be submitted by a group of parties and the discussion held in plenary.

42. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/1 on the review of annexes A and B, as submitted by the contact group on technical issues, as set out in the annex to the present report.

2. Proposal to amend annex A to the Convention

43. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said that articles 26 and 27 established the procedure to amend the Convention, including its annexes. In line with those procedures, a proposal submitted by Botswana, Chad, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, the Niger and Senegal to amend annex A of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/21. The proposal was to move dental amalgam from part II of annex A and place it in part I. The secretariat had received the proposal from the group of countries on 8 May 2019, and the Executive Secretary had informed the parties and signatories to the Convention of the proposed amendment in a letter dated 24 May 2019, in accordance with the stipulation in paragraph 2 of article 26 that the text of any proposed amendment should be communicated to the parties by the secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it was proposed for adoption.

44. On behalf of the proponents, the representative of Gabon introduced the proposal to amend annex A. It proposed phase-out dates for dental amalgam of 2021 for vulnerable groups and 2024 for general population.

45. Several representatives and an observer spoke in support of the amendment as proposed. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the proposal, saying that in their countries, for precautionary reasons, the use of dental amalgam was prohibited in the care of deciduous teeth, the teeth of children under 15 years and those of pregnant and breastfeeding women, regulating its use rather than manufacture, import and export.

46. Although there was widespread support among other representatives for the concept of phasing out dental amalgam, many stated that their countries would find it very difficult or impossible to follow the proposed phase-out schedule, citing numerous reasons, the main ones being the lack of alternatives with the same strength and durability for use in restorative dentistry; the cost of alternatives; and a lack of technical capacity to make the transition. All those elements could have an impact on the standard of care.

47. Their concerns accorded with those that had been expressed in a survey, conducted by the Oral Health Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO) in October 2019, of 79 policymakers in dental public health from 71 countries with varying income levels, all members of an online community of practice hosted by the organization. Introducing the results of the survey, as set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/25, the representative of WHO explained that, irrespective of agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed amendment, almost two thirds of participants reported concerns with phasing out dental amalgam. He said that WHO supported the focus of efforts on accelerating the phase-down of dental amalgam use through a comprehensive, progressive and inclusive process, following an implementation schedule that accorded with national situations. In addition, the establishment or reinforcement of collaboration between health ministries and environment ministries, and further research, both private and public, into environmentally sound alternatives, were matters of urgency.

48. An observer concurred that research needed continued investment to accelerate the development of alternatives and increase their affordability. Another called on WHO to update its 2009 report on *Future Use of Materials for Dental Restoration* with the latest scientific evidence on alternative restorative materials before any decision on the amendment could be taken. A third observer highlighted that the phase-out of dental amalgam would cut off a major source of mercury to gold mining.

49. While several representatives and observers stressed the need to phase down the use of dental amalgam owing to its threat to human health, one observer said that, on the basis of the best available evidence, his organization affirmed the safety of dental amalgam for the general population without allergies to amalgam components or severe renal disease.

50. Two representatives stressed the importance, in phasing out dental amalgam, of countries having the technical capacity to deal with waste amalgam and minimize the release of mercury to the environment.

51. One representative explained that, in his country, studies were being undertaken regarding the dental health of the population and indigenous peoples. The results were expected to be available in 2023 and he therefore said that, in order to ensure the right of vulnerable groups to health care, his country would be unable to enter into discussion on the proposed amendment until it had considered the updated information in studies about the current use, efficiency and real possibility of substitution of dental amalgam. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the proponents, however, were against deferral of the matter and held that a decision should be reached at the present meeting.

52. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the contact group on technical issues, requesting it to elaborate a proposal which reflected the discussion and the views expressed.

53. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/2 on dental amalgam, as submitted by the contact group on technical issues and orally amended, as set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Harmonized System codes

54. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat reviewed the process by which the approaches to customs codes to distinguish non-mercury-added and mercury-added products listed in annex A had been prepared, involving collaboration with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership's Mercury in Products partnership area and consultation with relevant organizations, followed by a review of comments received from parties and other stakeholders. He outlined the resulting four approaches put forward for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties – first, the development of internationally harmonized six-digit codes following the process established pursuant to the World Customs Organization (WCO) provisions; second, the development of statistical codes of more than six digits; third, a combination of those two approaches, essentially comprising interim statistical codes of more than six digits in the near term, some or all of which could ultimately be superseded by six-digit Harmonized System codes; and, fourth, not to explore new customs codes under the Convention. He drew attention to the note by the secretariat on the issue (UNEP/MC/COP.3/5), which provided an executive summary of the report on the approaches, and the full report, which was set out in the background information on the issue (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/12).

55. The representative of the Global Mercury Partnership's Mercury in Products partnership area gave further details of the preparation of the report, in which the Partnership had collaborated.

56. In the ensuing discussion, support was expressed in general for arrangements to harmonize customs codes for products listed in annex A and for international cooperation in tackling the trade in mercury products. A number of representatives welcomed the proposals on the issue prepared by the European Union and a number of Latin American and Caribbean States and set out in their conference room papers on customs codes and on Harmonized System codes, respectively. The representative of the European Union noted that there were areas both of convergence and of divergence between its proposal and that submitted by a number of Latin American and Caribbean States and called for continued intersessional work on the codes, in collaboration with the Mercury in Products partnership area of the Global Mercury Partnership, by an open-ended group of experts working electronically. A representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States concerned explained that their proposal called for continued work on the development of a flexible set of voluntary codes for annex A products and the compilation of other monitoring tools, to be undertaken by an open-ended contact group working by electronic means.

57. Representatives expressed support for various options set out in the note by the secretariat. One representative, noting that the use of customs codes offered an effective means of enforcing compliance with import and export restrictions, expressed a preference for the first option; while another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, favoured the second option because it could be implemented quickly and built on work already undertaken by national Governments.

58. Some representatives, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed a preference for the third option and stressed that work on the assignment of codes should begin as promptly as possible.

59. One representative expressed concern that voluntary codes would not be effective, given the requirement under the Convention to prohibit the export of products listed in annex A to the Convention. A number of representatives expressed a preference for options which allowed flexibility, such as that offered by non-binding six-digit customs codes, and one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to her delegation's conference room paper on the issue, outlining good practices in the use of customs codes to support import restrictions.

60. Some representatives, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, pointed out that, as their countries did not manufacture mercury products and were net mercury importers, they supported the conduct of further work on the Harmonized System codes. Given the complexity of the issue, however, it was agreed by many that further consideration was needed, including in the contact group on technical issues, on the basis of the proposals put forward by two groups of countries in their respective conference room papers. A number of representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, called for intersessional work on the issue, possibly also involving collaboration between the secretariat and WCO.

61. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the contact group on technical issues, requesting it to identify and elaborate a process for further work on customs codes in the intersessional period, taking into account the discussion and the conference room papers submitted.

62. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/3 on customs codes, as submitted by the contact group on technical issues, as set out in the annex to the present report.

B. Releases of mercury

63. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted that article 9 of the Convention provided that the Conference of the Parties was to adopt, as soon as practicable, guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, and on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases. At its second meeting, in its decision MC-2/3, the Conference of the Parties had established a group of technical experts to develop draft guidance on methodologies for preparing inventories for a list of potentially relevant point source categories. In accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the decision, the group was to prepare a report including a list of any significant anthropogenic point source of release categories not addressed in provisions of the Convention other than article 9, along with a suggested road map and structure for the development of draft guidance on methodologies for preparing its inventories. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties had before it a note by the secretariat presenting the report by the group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases (UNEP/MC/COP.3/6).

64. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives welcomed the report of the group of technical experts. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, although the report provided a sound basis for further intersessional work on the matter of mercury releases,

there was a need for the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting to give additional guidance to the expert group on the delineation of the scope of article 9 on releases, and specifically its link with article 11 on mercury wastes, for example with regard to the regulation of wastewater. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern at the release of mercury through the disposal of municipal wastewater, as highlighted in *Global Mercury Assessment 2018*.

65. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the call for the group of technical experts to continue its work intersessionally, including in such areas as the definition of key terms, listing of potentially relevant source categories, and the road map for the development of guidance on the preparation of inventories, based on available tools. Some representatives said that the group should hold at least one face-to-face meeting, given the complexity of the issues under discussion and the longer intersessional period of two years between the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. One representative said that the interpretation of article 9 should be clarified at the present meeting so that the expert group could focus on technical work and developing guidance.

66. One representative expressed support for the suggestion in the report that the road map include planning for the development of draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for releases, to be evaluated at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Another representative said that, before starting work on that matter, agreement should be reached on the methodology for the development of release inventories.

67. One representative of a non-governmental organization supported the need for further work in such areas as the development of inventories, the development of draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for releases, and how wastewater should be addressed.

68. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the contact group on technical issues, requesting it to clarify issues related to mercury releases referred to in paragraphs 8, 16, 18 and 22 of annex II to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/6; and to prepare a draft decision that included a road map for the development of draft guidance on methodologies for preparing inventories of releases, the proposed categories of point sources of releases, and a road map for the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices.

69. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/4 on releases of mercury, as submitted by the contact group on technical issues, as set out in the annex to the present report.

C. Mercury waste, in particular the consideration of relevant thresholds

70. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a note by the secretariat on the outcome of the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds (UNEP/MC/COP.3/7). He recalled that, pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 11 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties was required to define relevant thresholds for mercury wastes and that, by its decision MC-2/2, the Conference had established a group of technical experts to discuss the issue in the period between its second and third meetings and requested the secretariat to report on the outcomes of that work at its third meeting. A draft decision on mercury waste thresholds based on the work of the group of technical experts was set out in annex I to the note, while the report on the group's work was set out in annex II thereto. The secretariat had also prepared a note on lists of mercury compounds and mercury-added products (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/18).

71. Andreas Gössnitzer (Switzerland), co-chair of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds, summarized the outcome of the group's work, undertaken during two teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting held in Osaka, Japan, from 27 to 29 May 2019, hosted by the Government of Japan. He noted that the expert group had considered the three categories of mercury waste, namely, waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds ("category A" waste); waste containing mercury or mercury compounds ("category B" waste); and waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds ("category C" waste), and developed a list of category A waste and indicative lists of category B and category C wastes. Upon examination of the three waste categories, the group had concluded that thresholds were needed only for category C wastes, and had developed two possible options for consideration by the parties to set such thresholds. One option was to set the value of 25 mg/kg, expressed as total mercury, as the threshold to define mercury waste under article 11 of the Convention; the other option was that the Conference of the Parties request the expert group to conduct further work to define the threshold. Lastly, the group had developed a two-tiered approach for establishing thresholds for mining tailings from industrial-scale mines.

72. The representative of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions provided an update on the work being undertaken under the Basel Convention to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, in response to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention in its decision MC-2/2. She said that the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was actively collaborating with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to ensure that the work on mercury waste being undertaken under the Minamata Convention, including the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds, was considered by the Basel Convention small intersessional working group that was updating the Basel Convention technical guidelines.

73. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed appreciation to the expert group for its work and report. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the expert group's conclusion that thresholds were required only for category C wastes, as reflected in the draft decision (UNEP/MC/COP.3/7, annex I), and for the lists of category A, category B and category C wastes developed by the group (UNEP/MC/COP.3/7, annex II, appendix). Several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, suggested that there was a need to revise the lists.

74. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for using the proposed value of 25 mg/kg, expressed as total mercury, as the threshold to define mercury waste under article 11 of the Convention, as set out in option 1 of the draft decision. One representative said that, should circumstances change, the proposed threshold may need to be revised.

75. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper, which supported, and outlined the rationale for, using the proposed 25 mg/kg value.

76. Many other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for requesting the expert group to conduct additional work to determine a threshold or thresholds for category C wastes, in line with option 2 of the draft decision, with most of them suggesting that the threshold or thresholds developed should be based on environmental risk assessments and take into account different regional or national environmental settings and circumstances.

77. One representative voiced her concern that the report of the expert group did not address whether waste fractions contaminated with mercury listed in table 3 (indicative list of waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds) of the draft decision normally had a concentration above the proposed 25 mg/kg threshold. It was therefore unclear whether that threshold would ensure that the main waste types contaminated with mercury would be subject to the requirements of environmentally sound management set out in article 11 of the Convention.

78. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the two-tiered approach for mining waste proposed in the draft decision.

79. Another representative said that there was a need to clarify in paragraph 4 of the draft decision that the use of the 25 mg/kg threshold as the first tier of the two-tiered approach to develop thresholds for mining tailings did not apply to certain mining waste. Drawing attention to the mandate of the expert group, as set out in paragraph 2 (d) of the annex to decision MC-2/2, she said that mining overburden, waste rock and tailings, except from primary mercury mining, were a special waste category, rather than a category C waste.

80. With regard to the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury waste, two representatives emphasized the importance of good cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in particular in the context of the Basel Convention small intersessional working group that was updating the guidelines. Another representative said that his country had been engaged in such work and remained committed to working closely with the Minamata Convention on the guidelines, stressing that it was important that the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention agree on a threshold for mercury waste so that the threshold could be included in the guidelines and used by the parties to both the Basel and Minamata conventions.

81. Many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, cautioned against establishing thresholds, for the purpose of article 11 of the Convention, for tailings from artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing, which were considered a category C waste in the proposed draft decision but had specific characteristics that warranted a different approach, as reflected in article 7 of the Convention. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the management of waste resulting from artisanal small-scale

mining should be addressed in national action plans for such mining, and that appropriate guidance should therefore be developed to promote the environmentally sound management of such waste under the plans. One representative further suggested that experts on artisanal and small-scale gold mining waste should actively engage in the revision of the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury waste.

82. Several observers made comments on the proposed draft decision. One said that the draft decision should specify avenues for collaboration between the secretariats of the Minamata and Basel conventions on the mercury waste guidelines and suggested two such avenues. Another said that the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury waste did not provide sufficient guidance for the environmentally sound management of waste in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector and suggested that such guidance should be developed under the Minamata Convention. One said that it was important to consider best available technologies to properly dispose of, and not merely dilute, mercury waste, and to develop synergies with the Rotterdam Convention on issues such as obsolete pesticides. Another called for the adoption of 1 mg/kg as the threshold for defining mercury waste, stressing that the proposed 25 mg/kg threshold was too high, and called for the use of a single-tiered approach based on total concentration values to define thresholds for mining waste.

83. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the contact group on technical issues and requested the group to develop a draft decision, taking into account the draft decision in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/7 and, as appropriate, the conference room paper submitted by the European Union.

84. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/5 on mercury waste thresholds, as submitted by the contact group on technical issues and as orally amended. The decision is set out in the annex to the present report.

D. Guidance on the management of contaminated sites

85. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to notes by the secretariat on guidance on the management of contaminated sites (UNEP/MC/COP.3/8) and on technical information supplementing the guidance on the management of contaminated sites (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/13), which had been prepared in response to decision MC-2/8. He recalled that, in that decision, the Conference of the Parties had requested the secretariat to revise, in consultation with nominated experts, the earlier draft guidance on the management of contaminated sites prepared by the secretariat. Accordingly, the secretariat had revised the earlier draft guidance, making a number of changes thereto. Some technical and other information provided by parties and experts, which supplemented the guidance, had been compiled in a separate document (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/13) and would be posted and kept up to date on the Convention website. A draft decision on the draft guidance was set out in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/8, while the draft guidance was set out in annex II to the same document.

86. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the secretariat and all those who had contributed to the draft guidance, noting that it constituted a practical tool for the parties and represented a significant improvement on the earlier draft version.

87. Several representatives suggested that the draft guidance could be further improved with regard to its structure, definition of specific objectives, scope, definition of terms, and clarity around technical issues such as site identification, characterization, risk evaluation and remediation measures.

88. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was crucial that the Conference of the Parties adopt the guidance on the management of contaminated sites at the current meeting so that the parties could start to implement it, and suggested that there was a need to provide technical and other support to parties to support its implementation. Many representatives drew attention to legislation and other measures taken by their countries to identify and manage contaminated sites, and said that the guidance would contribute to such efforts.

89. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the issue of mercury-contaminated sites was of particular significance to African countries owing to the presence in such countries of mercury-using artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites; open burning sites for municipal waste, including end-of-life mercury-added products; enterprises which used mercury and had no pollution control equipment; and the close proximity of zones of atmospheric deposition of mercury to residential areas and protected areas, which created a risk of mercury exposure for humans and wildlife.

90. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that technical assistance, capacity-building and financial support should be provided to parties to support their implementation of the guidance, and that the guidance should be reviewed periodically in the light of new information and experience acquired during its implementation. Two representatives said that the guidelines should be pilot tested so that the results of such testing could feed into the review process, and proposed that a specific timeline should be set to review the guidance.

91. With regard to the draft decision, one representative proposed adding a new paragraph to the draft decision to emphasize the role of technology transfer, financial support and capacity-building to enable the parties to implement the guidance.

92. One representative urged the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to work closely with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on mercury-waste-related matters in order to avoid duplication of effort and make best use of available resources and expertise. Stressing that his country had some of the world's most contaminated sites due to irresponsible mercury waste management and storage practices by industry, he said that the implementation of the guidance to remediate contaminated sites should be the ultimate goal under the Convention.

93. Two observers called on the Conference of the Parties to adopt the guidance and request the secretariat to continue collecting technical information to supplement it. One further urged the parties to prevent the creation of new contaminated sites by ceasing trade in mercury for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, chlor-alkali production and other polluting activities, and to fund and support the remediation of existing contaminated sites under the Minamata Convention. The other drew attention to work undertaken by her organization to help countries to deal with legacy sites of artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

94. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed that informal consultations would be held among interested parties to finalize the draft guidance and the related draft decision.

95. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/6 on guidance on the management of contaminated sites, as submitted following the informal consultations and orally amended, as set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Financial mechanism

1. Global Environment Facility

96. The representative of GEF presented the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its third meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/2, annex). The report presented the work of GEF in fulfilling its mandate under the Minamata Convention between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019, and indicated how the Facility had responded to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties to date. During the reporting period, the Facility had approved three full-sized projects covering 15 countries, one single-country medium-sized project, one programme covering 27 countries, and four single-country enabling activity projects. In its seventh replenishment, GEF had significantly increased the funding allocated to projects under the Minamata Convention. Of the total pledged by donors for the seventh replenishment, the sum of \$599 million had been indicatively allocated to the chemicals and waste focal area, of which \$206 million had been indicatively allocated to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, representing a significant increase over the \$141 million allocated for that purpose in the sixth replenishment. Lastly, she said that the GEF Council, at its fifty-sixth meeting, had approved the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting and she noted that the memorandum was in effect.

97. The representative of the secretariat noted that document UNEP/MC/COP.3/9 set out an update on matters related to GEF, pursuant to article 13 of the Convention and in accordance with decision MC-1/5 of the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, which gave guidance to the Facility on activities that could receive support from the GEF Trust Fund.

98. One representative said that the criteria for funding of projects under GEF should be applied fairly and equitably to all parties and that the Conference of the Parties should urge GEF to refrain from politicization. He urged GEF to provide financial assistance to all parties in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention without any discrimination.

99. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the GEF Council and expressed its appreciation for the support of GEF in its role as one of the entities of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention.

2. Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance

100. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, in paragraph 5 of article 13, on financial resources and the financial mechanism, the Minamata Convention on Mercury defined a mechanism for the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources to support developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Convention. In paragraph 6 of that article, the Specific International Programme was identified as one of the two entities forming the financial mechanism. At its first meeting, in its decision MC-1/6, the Conference of the Parties had decided that UNEP would host that Programme and had provided guidance on the operations, duration and terms of reference of the Programme. The Conference of the Parties had also requested the Executive Director of UNEP to establish a trust fund for the Programme. Accordingly, the trust fund for the Specific International Programme had been established. She also noted that the rules of procedure of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme provided that the first members of the Governing Board were to serve until the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Thereafter, the members were to be nominated every two years by the regional groups and their membership was to be confirmed by the Conference of the Parties. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties was therefore expected to confirm the members for the next term based on the nominations received from the regions.

101. She drew attention to the relevant information provided in the overall report on the Specific International Programme (UNEP/MC/COP.3/10), the annex to which set out a draft decision on the Programme; the report of the Governing Board of the Programme (UNEP/MC/COP.3/10/Add.1); and the application guidelines for the second round of applications to the Programme (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/3). She also noted that the Conference of the Parties was to confirm the names of the members of the Governing Board for its next term at the current meeting.

102. In concluding her presentation, and in response to queries submitted by interested parties, she presented a slide illustrating the fact that the financial mechanism of the Convention comprised GEF and the Specific International Programme. That financial mechanism was to be differentiated from a related fund that also supported parties to the Minamata Convention, namely 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.

103. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands), speaking also on behalf of the other co-chair of the Governing Board of the Programme, Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), presented the report of the Board. Noting the Board's achievement in making the Programme operational, he expressed appreciation to all the members of the Board for their constructive work over the previous year. With limited staff, the secretariat had performed an admirable job in facilitating the Board's meetings. The Board had selected projects in 10 countries under the second round of applications, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka and Zambia, for funding to a total of some \$2 million. The second round of applications had run from 5 March to 14 June 2019 and projects were considered for funding in amounts of between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Lessons had been learned from the first round of applications and comments by applicants had been taken into account in the Board's guidelines and application documents.

104. He provided an overview of the Board's meetings over the previous year. In conclusion, he thanked donors that had contributed to the second round, namely Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

105. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of several of the countries which had benefited from funding under the Programme expressed appreciation for that funding and commended the donors to the Programme on their support, which would enable them to step up their efforts to implement the Convention in their countries. Representatives from some other countries expressed disappointment that their applications had not been successful. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced concern at the inadequate level of resources in the Programme and urged other countries to make contributions, while two others noted shortcomings in the criteria for selection of projects and requested the secretariat to make those criteria clearer.

106. Several representatives expressed support for the strengthening of the secretariat and the Programme, although one pointed out that strengthening measures could be effected in different ways. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed her delegation's willingness to discuss the issue of strengthening the secretariat's human resources for the performance of Programme-related functions, but stressed that the issue should not be taken up under the item on the Specific International Programme and the election of its members, but should be assigned to the contact group on the programme of work and budget, in accordance with article 13 of the Convention.

In line with that position, which was supported by two other representatives, she proposed the deletion of paragraph 2 of the draft decision set out in the annex to the overall report.

107. Reaffirming their support for the Programme, the representatives of Norway and Switzerland announced pledges of financial support in the amounts of, respectively, 5 million kroner and 100,000 Swiss francs.

108. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer issues relating to discussions on how to strengthen the Specific International Programme, including its operations, to the group of friends of the President for further consideration and the question of increasing the staffing of the secretariat to the contact group on the programme of work and budget.

109. Subsequently, following the recommendation of the group of friends of the President, the Conference of the Parties agreed to include the following text in the present report: the Conference of the Parties recognized the efforts reported by the Executive Director of UNEP to implement the reform initiatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including those relating to global consolidation of administrative services. In that context, the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Executive Director, in consultation with the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme, to assess possible options for enhancing the Programme and its operations. The aim of such options would be to ensure the capability of the Specific International Programme to deliver on its mandate and to apply sound administrative procedures and project management, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Programme in supporting eligible parties in implementing the Minamata Convention. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties invited the Executive Director to present a report on the matter for consideration at its fourth meeting.

110. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties confirmed the following members of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme:

From the African States:

Olubunmi Olusanya (Nigeria)

Aïta Seck (Senegal)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

Mohsen Naziri Asl (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Prasert Tapaneeyangkul (Thailand)

From the Central and Eastern European States:

Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)

Kaupo Heinma (Estonia)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

Pedro Piacesi de Souza (Brazil)

Gina Griffith (Suriname)

From the Western European and other States:

Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands)

Atle Fretheim (Norway)

3. Review of the financial mechanism

111. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the provisions of article 13 of the Convention and recalled that, at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties had requested the secretariat to compile the information to be provided by GEF, the Specific International Programme, parties and other relevant sources on matters identified in paragraph 11 of that article as being necessary for the review of the financial mechanism of the Convention, and to present a synthesis of such information for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.2/19, para. 120). Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties had before it a note by the secretariat on the review of the financial mechanism (UNEP/MC/COP.3/11), synthesizing the information received from GEF and the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme. No information on the matter had been provided by parties or other relevant sources.

112. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, praised the rapid operationalization of the financial mechanism. Two other representatives speaking on behalf of groups

of countries reiterated the essential role of the Specific International Programme for those countries, with one of them welcoming the improvements made in terms of the transparency and simplification of the application process over the course of the two rounds. She also called for an extension of the duration of the Programme. The other representative, however, pointed out that, as of the first round, it had been clear that the Programme was lacking sufficient resources and expressed concern that it was overwhelmed by demand so early on in its existence.

113. Given the importance of action not only at the national level but also at the regional and subregional levels in combating mercury, one representative proposed that the draft terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism, to be prepared for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, allow for special attention to be given to regional and subregional projects.

114. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/7, on the first review of the financial mechanism, as set out in the annex to the present report.

F. Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

115. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-2/11, had requested the secretariat to collect information received from the existing regional, subregional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting. In the same decision, it had emphasized the relevance of using, as appropriate, regional, subregional and national arrangements, including existing regional and subregional centres, in the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance consistent with article 14 of the Convention. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties had before it a note by the secretariat on the matter (UNEP/MC/COP.3/12) and a compilation of the information received (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/14).

116. One representative queried the omission of “technology transfer” from the heading and content of document UNEP/MC/COP.3/12, despite its inclusion under article 14. The Executive Secretary responded that the Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-2/11, had only requested the secretariat to report at the present meeting on capacity-building and technical assistance, and the secretariat had acted in accordance with its mandate from the parties.

117. During the ensuing discussion, many representatives spoke of the importance of capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer to ensure that all parties were able to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the role of the regional and subregional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, in accordance with decision MC-2/11. Supported by other parties, he said that the mandate to the secretariat to gather information on those matters and report the findings to the parties should be extended to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with information sought both from parties and from other stakeholders and experts. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries underscored a number of areas where capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer would be of benefit to developing countries, including the development of national action plans, ensuring that the technology shared was appropriate and up to date, strengthening the science-policy interface, and building partnerships at all levels, including through North–South and South–South cooperation, and the creation of synergies between the Minamata Convention, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, UNEP and other relevant partners to ensure that resources were used efficiently.

118. Two representatives referred to the role of capacity-building in combating illegal trade and transboundary movement of mercury. One representative said that improved information exchange between focal points, customs authorities and other entities would assist in that regard. A number of representatives mentioned the threat to the environment and to human health of artisanal and small-scale gold mining as an area where countries urgently required assistance, in particular in developing and applying alternative technologies, in accordance with article 7 of the Convention. One representative said that capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer should be based on country needs and clear targets.

119. The representative of the European Union welcomed the activities of the secretariat under article 14 of the Convention, and announced that the European Union had provided the secretariat with €500,000 to support capacity-building on mercury trade and emissions at the subregional level. The Executive Secretary added that a number of workshops had already been held in Latin America and Asia under the project funded by the European Union. Other workshops and follow-up activities were planned.

120. The representative of a number of parties from Latin America and the Caribbean introduced a conference room paper containing a draft decision entitled “Article 14: capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer”. The proposed draft decision emphasized the importance of regional, subregional and national arrangements, including the regional and subregional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance consistent with article 14 of the Convention, and requested the secretariat to undertake activities, including information collection and sharing, to support parties in that regard.

121. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/8 entitled “Article 14: capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer”, as submitted following informal consultations, as set out in the annex to the present report.

G. Implementation and Compliance Committee

122. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that article 15 of the Convention had established a mechanism, including an Implementation and Compliance Committee as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all its provisions. In its decision MC-1/7, the Conference of the Parties had elected the first 15 members of the Committee. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties would re-elect 10 members from among the first members of the Committee for one term and five new members for two terms. A note by the secretariat on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (UNEP/MC/COP.3/13) set out in its annex the report on the second meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, held in Geneva on 3 and 4 June 2019. Appendices to that report set out draft terms of reference for the Implementation and Compliance Committee; a draft decision for the adoption of the terms of reference and for the approval of a draft template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance; and the draft template itself.

123. Claudia Sorina Dumitru (Romania), chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, presented a summary report of its second meeting. Matters considered at that meeting included the terms of reference for the Committee; guidance in relation to written submissions from a party with regard to its own compliance; an update on national reporting pursuant to article 21; notifications submitted by parties pursuant to paragraph 9 of article 3; information and recommendations provided pursuant to article 15 that might be used for the conduct of the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to article 22; and the work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. The Committee had decided that its third meeting would be a three-day face-to-face meeting in Geneva in the first quarter of 2021.

124. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that the draft terms of reference and the draft template for written submissions from parties in respect of their own compliance represented a useful basis for the future work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. On the matter of the terms of reference, two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed changes to the text of the terms of reference. Another representative expressed opposition to the proposed changes, as they had legal connotations and had not been presented to the Conference of the Parties in a timely manner. Yet another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more time was required to review the suggested changes.

125. Several representatives viewed the adoption of the terms of reference at the present meeting as an urgent priority. Some favoured further discussions on the text with varying degrees of formality, but many others called for the adoption of the terms of reference without any further amendment. Opinions differed on the most appropriate approach for considering the proposed changes to the terms of reference. The President invited the parties interested in the matter to consult in an informal manner.

126. Following the informal consultations, the Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the matter of the terms of reference to the group of friends of the President for further consideration.

127. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee:

From the African States:

Hanitriniaina Liliane Randrianomenjanahary (Madagascar)

Mohamed Abdulai Kamara (Sierra Leone)

Christopher Kanema (Zambia)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

Haijun Chen (China)

Itsuki Kuroda (Japan)

Ahmad Al Qataneh (Jordan)

From the Central and Eastern European States:

Dubravka Marija Krekovic (Croatia)

Svetlana Bolocan (Republic of Moldova)

Claudia Sorina Dumitru (Romania)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

Paulina Riquelme (Chile)

José Antonio Piedra Montoya (Ecuador)

Arturo Gavilan García (Mexico)

From the Western European and other States:

Karoliina Anttonen (Finland)

Janine van Aalst (Netherlands)

Gene Smilansky (United States of America)

128. The Conference of the Parties also approved the template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance (article 15, paragraph 4 (a)), as set out in appendix III to the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/13.

129. In addition, the Conference of the Parties approved the terms of reference, as amended, and adopted decision MC-3/9 entitled “Implementation and Compliance Committee: terms of reference and template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance”, as submitted by the group of friends of the President, as set out in the annex to the present report.

H. Effectiveness evaluation

130. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that article 22 of the Convention provided for an evaluation of the Convention’s effectiveness. She reviewed the steps taken by the Conference of the Parties, at its first and second meetings and in the intersessional period leading up to the third meeting, to develop that process, including arrangements for the provision of comparable monitoring data on the movement of mercury in the environment, on trends in the levels of mercury compounds in biotic media and vulnerable populations and the terms of reference for an effectiveness evaluation committee. She drew attention to the information set out in the note by the secretariat on the matter (UNEP/MC/COP.3/14; UNEP/MC/COP.3/14/Add.1), which included the report by the ad hoc technical expert group on the proposed framework for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention and the technical information compiled by the group to assist it in its consideration of the matter, as well as background information on mercury monitoring (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/15).

131. Following that presentation, the co-chairs of the ad hoc technical expert group, Kateřina Šebková (Czechia) and Mohamed Khashashneh (Jordan), reported on the work of the group. They provided details of the process followed in preparing the proposal for a framework for effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring arrangements under the Convention. While almost all issues arising had been resolved or incorporated in the report, there remained areas where views differed and those were highlighted in grey in the group’s working documents. The ad hoc technical expert group report also featured the proposed monitoring arrangements. Taking into account the possibilities of current knowledge, existing monitoring and research activities and the needs of the Convention, the group had identified five key elements for the Minamata Convention monitoring arrangements. Those were, first, mercury data from human health and environmental monitoring programmes that had global coverage and included core representative data from all regions; second, tools supporting data harmonization; third, expertise to gather and consolidate harmonized information that ensured comparability and consistency in mercury monitoring data over the long term; fourth, modelling capabilities; and, fifth, a periodic global monitoring report on mercury levels and trends.

132. While conceding that there were differences in the degree of harmonization of existing activities that had been reviewed and also data gaps, they stressed that the availability of representative mercury monitoring data was vital for an assessment of global mercury levels and trends and as an element of the effectiveness evaluation called for under article 22. Thanking all those who had contributed to the preparation and review of the report, they set forward the proposed monitoring arrangements for consideration and possible adoption at the current meeting.

133. During the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives highlighted the importance of effectiveness evaluation to the proper functioning of the Minamata Convention and the implementation of its provisions by parties. One representative said that a strong effectiveness evaluation process was needed to measure how well the treaty was working, and it was vital to make progress on the matter at the present meeting. Sufficient funds needed to be set aside within the general trust fund to ensure the robustness of the process.

134. Several representatives praised the work undertaken by the ad hoc technical expert group for effectiveness evaluation in preparing the proposed framework for the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The report by the secretariat set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/14 and its addendum was generally viewed as a good basis for further discussion on the matter. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for a number of elements proposed by the ad hoc technical expert group, including the draft terms of reference for the effectiveness evaluation committee, the proposed global monitoring arrangements pursuant to article 22 of the Convention, the draft terms of reference for the monitoring group, and the proposal to entrust the monitoring group with preparing guidance for parties on the monitoring of mercury, including standard operating procedures.

135. Several representatives referred to elements of the outcomes of the ad hoc technical expert group that would merit further discussion on the indicators developed, the number of experts that each United Nations region would nominate for the effectiveness evaluation committee and the monitoring group, the timing and content of the attribution report, and the potential role of capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer pursuant to article 14. In that regard, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the evaluation of effectiveness represented the backbone of the Convention for his region, and sufficient resources were needed to ensure its completion. One representative stressed that, in order to ensure that the conclusions were accurate and authoritative, the data used in the report should be from the official data and, if they were not available, the data should be endorsed by the government. Another representative said that environmentally sound management of wastes would become increasingly important as mercury-containing products were phased out, and the waste report was therefore critical to evaluating the effectiveness of articles 9 and 11. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of monitoring mercury levels in freshwater aquatic systems, while another highlighted the relevance of biomonitoring of mercury for small island developing States.

136. Representatives of non-governmental organizations drew attention to several areas of concern, including the danger posed by high levels of mercury in fresh water and the need to align studies of mercury pollution with Sustainable Development Goal 6, on safe water; and the accumulation of long-range transported mercury in the Arctic environment, requiring further monitoring and research activities to establish exposure levels and monitor trends.

137. The representative of UNEP said that the organization, in collaboration with partners, including WHO, and with support from GEF, had developed a plan for global monitoring of human exposure to and environmental concentrations of mercury, as outlined in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/19. He also highlighted the UNEP *Global Mercury Assessment 2018*, which featured estimates of mercury emissions by sector and country.

138. Following the discussions, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on effectiveness evaluation, co-chaired by Kateřina Šebková (Czechia) and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn (Thailand), to resolve any outstanding issues in the proposed framework for effectiveness evaluation; reach agreement on the work to be undertaken intersessionally between the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and, using the draft decision in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/14 as a basis, prepare a revised draft decision on arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention, including the description of the framework, the terms of reference of the committee to be established to perform the effectiveness evaluation, the global monitoring arrangements, and a description of the reports to be prepared for the committee.

139. Following the work of the contact group on effectiveness evaluation to produce a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, and further informal consultations, the President proposed, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, a draft decision on the arrangements for

the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/10 on the arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, as set out in the annex to the present report.

I. Financial rules

140. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, at its first meeting, in its decision MC-1/10, the Conference of the Parties had adopted financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies it might establish, together with financial provisions governing the functioning of the secretariat. Bracketed text remained in paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules and in paragraphs 2 and 5 of the annex to the financial rules. At its second meeting, the Conference had agreed to defer further consideration of the issue to its third meeting. She drew attention to the relevant information set out in the note by the secretariat on the matter (UNEP/MC/COP.3/15).

141. The Conference of the Parties first considered paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5. Several representatives objected to the removal of the brackets. A similar objection was raised by another representative to the proposal to remove the brackets around the text in the annex.

142. The Conference of the Parties therefore agreed to defer consideration of the bracketed text in rule 5 and in the annex to the financial rules to its fourth meeting.

143. Recalling the similar situation under agenda item 3, on rules of procedure, the President reiterated his caution that continuing to defer consideration of such matters was creating a legacy of unresolved issues in important areas of the Convention.

J. Secretariat

144. Introducing the item on behalf of the Executive Director, Sonja Leighton-Kone, Director, Division of Corporate Services, UNEP, recalled that, at its second meeting, in its decision MC-2/7, on cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Executive Director of UNEP to submit an operative proposal on a stable framework for sharing of services between the Minamata Convention secretariat and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention and supported by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, UNEP had prepared a proposal which evaluated areas of potential synergies and the efficient delivery of mandates as decided by the conferences of parties. The proposal, set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/16, adhered to five basic principles: first, the economic use of resources; second, the autonomy of the secretariats and accountability of their respective executive heads; third, flexibility and predictability; fourth, full cost recovery; and, fifth, compliance with applicable United Nations rules and regulations. In the application of those principles, three options had been identified: first, a consolidated unit to provide services to both secretariats, with each secretariat contributing resources to the new unit; second, the redeployment of staff from the Minamata Convention secretariat to the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in order for the latter secretariat to provide services to the first; and, third, the purchase of services on a cost-recovery basis. Following a projection of financial data for the three options, the cost recovery model had proved to be the most advantageous and was therefore that recommended by UNEP.

145. Subsequently, the representative of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the representative of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention drew attention to some of the cooperative activities taking place to date described in documents UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/6 and UNEP/MC/COP.3/19, respectively.

146. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft decision on enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, submitted by Costa Rica, the Congo, the European Union and its member States, Gabon, Mali, Norway, Senegal, Switzerland and Thailand. The draft decision built on the operative proposal presented by the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP/MC/COP.3/16) and, among other things, supported the continued purchase of relevant services by the Minamata Convention secretariat from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a cost recovery basis; supported the revitalization of the task force between the two secretariats and the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch; and provided for the establishment of inter-secretariat working groups under the task force to address specific substantive or administrative matters.

147. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for her operative proposal and thanked the proponents of the conference room paper for their proposal. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision set out in the conference room paper, stressing that it provided a practical and stable framework for enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the two secretariats that went beyond the organization of meetings and the purchasing of services, while respecting the legal autonomy of each secretariat.

148. Several other representatives said that they needed more time to consider the proposed draft decision. Two representatives expressed support for a decision that was focused on the proposed purchase of services by the Minamata Convention, did not generate additional costs to the parties to the Minamata Convention and enabled the two secretariats to retain their legal autonomy, with one voicing his concern that the proposed draft decision covered services such as legal advice. A third representative expressed support for a strong and independent Minamata Convention secretariat that answered only to the parties to that Convention.

149. One of the proponents of the conference room paper said that the aim of the proposed draft decision was to create a stable framework that enabled the two secretariats to cooperate on all relevant issues and to use resources in the most efficient manner. Another of the proponents, noting that the draft decision was practical and made use of existing tools and mandates, said that, for instance, the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch and the two secretariats already had the necessary mandates from their governing bodies to enhance their mutual collaboration.

150. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a group of friends of the President, open to Parties only and facilitated by Nina Cromnier (Sweden), to discuss the issue further, taking into account the operative proposal by the UNEP Executive Director and the conference room paper that had been introduced, and to present a revised draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

151. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/11, on enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, as submitted by the group of friends of the President, as set out in the annex to the present report.

K. Emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste

152. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to notes by the secretariat on information in relation to emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste (UNEP/MC/COP.3/17) and information received in relation to emissions of mercury resulting from the open burning of waste (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/16). The documents had been prepared by the secretariat in response to the request by the Conference of the Parties, at its second meeting, that the secretariat continue to collect and make available information on mercury emissions from the open burning of waste, which it had provided to the Conference at its second meeting pursuant to its decision MC-1/14.

153. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed support for requesting the secretariat to continue to collect such information and share it with the parties. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the secretariat create a dedicated section on the Convention website to share such information. Another representative requested the secretariat to collaborate with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on the issue of open waste burning, noting that it was a waste management issue.

154. Another representative asked the secretariat to continue to collect such information in the period between the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and present a more comprehensive report on the issue to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

155. One representative drew attention to the workshop on synergies in mercury waste management held in Osaka, Japan, on 30 and 31 May 2019, which, as discussed in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/17, had covered different types of open burning of waste. He invited the parties to read the report of the workshop, which was available on the Convention's website. He said that Japan had been engaged in projects to monitor mercury in open-burning sites in three developing countries and was interested in monitoring additional sites in other countries.

156. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that waste management systems in Africa were either inadequate or lacking and called for partnerships and the provision of technical assistance to African countries to help them to address the issue of the open burning of waste. In that regard, they welcomed the offer of Japan to monitor mercury emissions from

sites of open burning of wastes in developing countries and said that African countries were willing to participate in such collaboration.

157. Another representative thanked the Government of Japan for support provided to her country in emissions monitoring and analysis using the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases, which provided practical tools but needed to be updated periodically in the light of changes in the technologies used by countries.

158. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they were experiencing considerable difficulties in dealing with the issue of the open burning of waste, which continued to be practised in their countries and regions, even in those cases where it had been banned, and which resulted in releases and emissions of mercury and other pollutants, including dioxins and furans. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the issue of mercury emissions and releases from the open burning of waste should be assessed in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.

159. Another representative said that he appreciated that in many countries state-of-the-art waste management practices were beyond reach and suggested that Minamata initial assessments could be an important tool to tackle waste management issues to reduce the exposure of large numbers of people to mercury and other pollutants. He stressed that cooperation with the Basel Convention was crucial to achieving the waste-related targets of the Minamata Convention.

160. Two representatives highlighted the importance of moving beyond the collection of information to dealing with the issue of the open burning of waste. They commended collaborative efforts to tackle that issue, including those being undertaken by Japan.

161. An observer said that the open burning of waste was taking place not only in city landfills but also in residential and other neighbourhoods in developing countries, and suggested that the measuring of emissions from open burning should include investigations into the origin of the waste, the main types of waste being burned, and the type of fuel being used to burn it. She called for political commitments to prohibit the open burning of waste, but urged careful consideration of plans to move away from open burning to other waste management methods, stressing that some methods would not be financially or economically feasible in low-income countries.

162. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the secretariat to continue to collect information on the open burning of waste and to make such information available on the Convention website, to cooperate on the issue with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting on the implementation of those activities.

VI. International cooperation and coordination

163. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted that several provisions of the Convention called for cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations. In particular, article 16 specified that the Conference of the Parties, in considering health-related issues or activities, should consult and collaborate with WHO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, and should promote cooperation and the exchange of information with those organizations, as appropriate.

A. World Health Organization; International Labour Organization

164. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the relevant information set out in the report on cooperative activities with WHO and ILO (UNEP/MC/COP.3/18, annexes I and II, respectively).

165. The representative of WHO highlighted activities of relevance to the Convention undertaken by WHO since the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Those included, in particular, the preparation and publication in the six official languages of the United Nations of guidance on strategic planning for the implementation of the health-related articles of the Convention. It had also prepared guidance on addressing health when developing national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, which had already been employed in a number of countries. WHO was also preparing detailed technical specifications for blood pressure measuring devices, which would serve as a key reference for countries phasing out mercury-containing devices. In addition, through a UNEP/GEF project, WHO had released a protocol and standard operating procedures for human biomonitoring and had also contributed to the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on effectiveness evaluation.

166. The representative of ILO said that her organization and its tripartite constituents were aligning their technical support with article 7 and annex C, covering artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and expanding initiatives to include exposure to mercury in the e-waste sector. In fulfilment of its commitment to protect workers from hazardous exposures, including to mercury, ILO had developed a number of relevant international instruments, which she enumerated. In addition, its official list of occupational diseases recognized diseases caused by occupational exposure to mercury and its compounds. She also reviewed country-level projects launched by ILO to remedy decent work deficits and improve working conditions for workers exposed to mercury, including the Caring Gold Project in Ghana and the Philippines, which actively promoted the use of mercury-free gold processing methods to safeguard the health of miners, their families and entire communities. ILO had also developed projects on mercury exposures in the automobile dismantling sector and was playing a growing role in the e-waste sector, where it was undertaking evidence-based research on decent work with a view to informing the possible development of guidelines or a code of practice in that area.

167. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who spoke, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support and appreciation for the cooperation with the two organizations. A number of representatives identified areas where cooperation with ILO and WHO was of particular importance, including institutional strengthening and technical capacity-building in the use of biomarkers on exposure to mercury; dental care; strengthening the capacity of health professionals working with vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples exposed to mercury through such pathways as their diet; and the health-related implications of illegal trade in mercury and mercury compounds. One representative stressed the need for strengthened cooperation in the area of health control and monitoring for people exposed to mercury.

168. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, reviewed national activities involving cooperation with international organizations, including ILO and WHO, and several called for the harnessing of synergies between such organizations, with a view to avoiding duplication and enhancing attainment of the chemicals- and wastes-related Sustainable Development Goals. One representative commended those organizations on their mercury-related activities in small island developing States, while another representative noted that WHO strategies were sometimes difficult to implement in the field, including in work on the pathological effects of mercury, and wondered whether those strategies could be further refined and more resources provided for such work. One representative made a specific request to WHO to convene technical training workshops in the different WHO regions on mercury management, with a view to building capacity in those regions and facilitating the transfer of technical knowledge among the members of the region.

169. The representatives of two non-governmental organizations took the floor to highlight the importance to their constituencies of international cooperation, including in dealing with high levels of mercury exposure suffered by indigenous peoples around the world; raising awareness of the health risks of mercury; providing technical assistance in such areas as hair analysis; organizing capacity-building and projects on contaminated sites; and implementing measures to combat smuggling and illegal trade in mercury.

170. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper, also on behalf of Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Thailand and Uruguay, setting out draft decision text calling on parties and other stakeholders to intensify and prioritize efforts relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste towards the achievement, by 2020, of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aiming to expand and enhance international cooperation with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and with other international organizations, including UNEP, WHO and ILO.

171. Several representatives expressed their support for the proposal. A number made additional suggestions, which related to the provision not only of technical assistance and capacity-building but also of funding for projects so that parties had the resources needed to achieve effective implementation and measurable results; and the inclusion of knowledge transfer as well as technical assistance and capacity-building. One representative reiterated her request for the formalization of cooperation and coordination among WHO, ILO and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention by means of an action plan to that effect. Another representative questioned the need to formalize the cooperation, which appeared to be working well in its present configuration. She also stressed the need to ensure that the focus of the cooperation and coordination remained on the implementation of the Convention.

172. The President invited interested parties to consult bilaterally with the proponents of the draft decision with a view to reaching agreement on the text of a draft decision.

173. Subsequently, the representative of the European Union, speaking also on behalf of the other proponents of the draft decision, namely Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Thailand and Uruguay, introduced a revised version of the conference room paper, which incorporated a number of changes proposed by other representatives during informal consultations.

174. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the adoption of the draft decision and thanked the proponents for working with other parties to review and improve the text, stressing that its implementation would contribute to strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and improve synergies in the chemicals and wastes cluster, in line with the calls made by the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP for urgent and resolute action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on matters related to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

175. One representative expressed support for international cooperation and coordination to implement the Minamata Convention, but said that she could not support the adoption of the draft decision, which represented a political statement that would politicize the Convention and that called for actions that were unnecessary and fell outside the scope of the Convention.

176. The representative of the European Union, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, expressed regret that the opposition of a single party had prevented the adoption of the draft decision. He stressed that the overwhelming majority of parties at the current meeting had sought to join the United Nations Environment Assembly in its expression of deep concern that the planet was increasingly polluted and in its encouragement to Governments and all other stakeholders to combat pollution at all levels, notably with regard to mercury. Most parties had also thought it essential to emphasize the need for urgent and resolute action to implement the 2030 Agenda with regard to matters related to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an improved international framework, and to call on all parties and stakeholders to intensify and prioritize efforts to achieve the 2020 target for the sound management of chemicals and waste set out in target 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular from the perspective of the Minamata Convention and with regard to mercury. The achievement of the target would require enhanced cooperation between all relevant organizations, Governments and other stakeholders.

B. Other international organizations and bodies

177. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the relevant information set out in the report on the activities of relevant international bodies (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/17).

1. Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group

178. The representative of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group reported on the Group's tenth meeting, held in Geneva on 23 November 2019. At the meeting, the Group had identified a number of topics as possible future priority areas of work for the Partnership, which currently numbered over 190 members, including the further refinement of emission factors from key sectors, the establishment of a framework for a centralized database on mercury assessments, the development of guidance on mercury-added products, the development of information tools on waste technologies, and the organization of information-sharing webinars. The Group had also discussed cross-cutting issues which might increase the availability of mercury on the market and its releases in the environment and had asked the Partnership secretariat to convene targeted discussions on those issues. He drew attention to the background document before the Conference at its current meeting detailing activities by the Partnership over the previous year (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/7/Rev.1).

2. United Nations Environment Programme

179. The representative of UNEP drew attention to the report by the Executive Director of UNEP to the present meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/4), noting that it comprised three parts. The first highlighted the programmatic collaboration between UNEP and the Minamata Convention, and outlined the support given by UNEP to the Global Mercury Partnership; the contribution by UNEP to intersessional work; its support to countries for the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention; the development of the Global Mercury Assessment 2018; the 2019 update of the mercury inventory toolkit; and activities carried out by UNEP in relation to mercury monitoring and mercury waste. The second part of the report referred to the administrative and financial support provided by UNEP to the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, while the third part described the contribution by UNEP to the preparations for and holding of the present meeting and cooperation among the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and

Stockholm Conventions, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

3. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

180. The representative of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management said that the Strategic Approach secretariat cooperated actively with the parties to and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. The Quick Start Programme had funded a number of projects with direct relevance to mercury, including activities related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and products containing mercury, and where possible meetings were held back to back with common stakeholders to reduce costs. Recalling that the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management would be held in October 2020, she said that critical decisions were anticipated to be taken there, stemming from the intersessional process established in 2015, at the fourth session, to consider the future of the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

4. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

181. The representative of ILO delivered a statement on behalf of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) that participated in the IOMC Mercury Group, which included ILO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and the World Bank, and also involved the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and GEF, as observers. In addition to details of the activities of certain IOMC participating organizations, she highlighted the close cooperation and coordination among the members of the Mercury Group, representing a variety of sectors, in implementing key activities to support the Convention. IOMC participating organizations had supported over 100 countries in developing and implementing GEF-funded Minamata initial assessments, including the development of mercury inventories and the review of legislative frameworks. Through IOMC, implementing agencies had agreed to adopt a common framework and template for the assessments, including use of the UNEP inventory toolkit and the UNDP guidance document on a common structure and content for Minamata initial assessment reports. IOMC was also jointly supporting over 30 countries in developing their national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining. IOMC organizations were starting to review the lessons learned from the Minamata initial assessment and national action plan processes and to analyse the issues and priorities emerging from those documents with the aim of determining how best to support parties. As the Convention moved from initial ratification and assessment activities towards implementation, it was becoming increasingly important to support the parties in their obligations to reduce the health and environmental impacts of mercury and that required multisectoral collaboration at the country level.

5. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

182. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) stressed that capacity-building and training were essential to the successful implementation of the Minamata Convention. UNITAR had provided support to 24 countries in their efforts to ratify the Convention, with 16 of them having successfully done so and another 2 getting ready to deposit their instruments. UNITAR had co-executed 20 Minamata initial assessments and assisted 15 other countries, in particular with mercury inventories. Furthermore, with UNEP, it was working to execute national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining in three countries and had developed a handbook for the development of national strategies for the formalization of that sector within those plans. UNITAR also provided support through web-based awareness-raising and learning tools, working in particular with UNEP and the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

6. International Atomic Energy Agency

183. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that the agency could play an important role in the implementation of the Minamata Convention. Its Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications had, with its environmental laboratories, infrastructure that could contribute to the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention in terms of quality assurance of the monitoring of data on mercury in fish and biota and possibly other indicators. Its marine laboratory, which was the only one in the United Nations system, had longstanding experience in the production of certified reference materials, including for mercury and methyl mercury mass fractions, and in the

organization of proficiency tests for laboratories to assess and improve the quality of analytical data on mercury. Quality assessment was essential for producing comparable data on which to base policy decisions. Furthermore, through its technical collaboration programme, the IAEA was providing assistance to countries that needed to build their capacity to analyse mercury in the environment, including through the purchase of mercury analysers and the provision of training in their use to laboratory technicians. She encouraged parties to contact their national IAEA liaison officers for further information. Lastly, she announced that the Office of the Director General of IAEA had given its approval for the agency to join the Global Mercury Partnership.

7. Group on Earth Observations

184. The representative of the Group on Earth Observations secretariat – an international partnership of more than 100 States Members of the United Nations, the European Commission and over 100 international organizations – said that the Group’s secretariat was working to improve the availability of, access to and use of Earth observation information for the benefit of society. The Group’s flagship global observation system for mercury promoted action to provide comparable and high-quality monitoring data on mercury, validated modelling frameworks and a dedicated platform as a part of its knowledge hub to support policy assessments and decisions. It aimed to support all interested parties in the implementation of the Minamata Convention, in particular in relation to capacity-building and technical assistance to developing country parties.

8. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

185. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) said that UNIDO had supported eight countries in the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention in different regions. In 2019, additional financial support had enabled UNIDO to expand the project to technical assistance to countries in complying with the Minamata and other conventions related to chemicals and waste. Technical assistance had also been provided to 25 countries for the preparation of their Minamata initial assessments. With regard to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, UNIDO had been working on mercury-free technologies for more than 20 years and was assisting nine countries in the preparation of their national action plans. In terms of industry, UNIDO was working to eliminate mercury use in the production of vinyl chloride monomer and chlor-alkali, including through a project in China. It also sought to reduce mercury emissions in sectors such as cement production, non-ferrous metal smelters and waste management and was working with the Government of Japan to promote the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

9. Zero Mercury Working Group

186. The representative of the Zero Mercury Working Group said that, to promote implementation of the Minamata Convention, the Working Group had participated in each of the intersessional expert groups and provided input and had supported the work of the Global Mercury Partnership’s Mercury in Products partnership area. The Working Group’s non-governmental-organization partners had been providing support to their respective Governments with the ratification of the Convention and with the implementation of provisions related to mercury-added products and artisanal and small-scale gold mining. With a view to building those partners’ capacities, the Working Group had organized regional meetings in 2018 and 2019 that had been attended by more than 90 representatives from more than 50 countries. As part of a global campaign on lightening creams, it had conducted tests showing that 60 per cent of the creams selected, from 12 countries, had a high mercury content. After the release of a report on the issue, two major online shopping retailers had withdrawn the creams from their sites. A related report also aimed to support parties’ efforts to restrict such toxic products, including by providing examples of successes and best practices. Given the importance of enforcement of the Convention, the Working Group had developed a poster summarizing parties’ immediate obligations and shared enforcement tools and training modules.

VII. Programme of work and budget

187. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary drew attention to a note by the secretariat on the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, which had been prepared pursuant to decision MC-2/12 and presented two funding scenarios, namely, a zero nominal growth scenario and an Executive Secretary scenario, and explained the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget was based (UNEP/MC/COP.3/20). Pursuant to decision MC-2/12, the secretariat had also prepared notes on budget activity fact sheets (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/9); information on financial matters, including on the status of contributions

to the three Convention trust funds (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/10); and proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/11, UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/11/Add.1), including a table on the indicative scale of assessment for the general trust fund for the two operational budget scenarios based on the United Nations scale of assessments (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/11, annex II).

188. Responding to a request from the floor, the representative of the secretariat provided an overview of the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds as at 18 November 2019. With regard to the general trust fund, as at 18 November 2019, \$3.4 million had been received out of the \$3.5 million approved for 2018, and \$2.9 million had been received out of the \$3.3 million approved for 2019. As for the special trust fund, as at 18 November 2019, out of the \$3.2 million approved for 2018, \$1.3 million had been received, and \$1.8 million had been pledged or received out of the \$4 million approved for 2019.

189. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives thanked the secretariat for preparing the documents presented under agenda item 7, including the two funding scenarios and the budget activity fact sheets, and expressed support for a programme of work and budget that enabled the secretariat to fulfil its tasks, while emphasizing the need to make best use of limited resources through sound and transparent management. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for an increased budget for the Convention which did not involve an increase in contributions by the Parties. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called on the private sector to contribute meaningfully to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, stressing that current levels of funding were clearly inadequate and that Governments alone could not effectively finance the Convention.

190. One representative said that the proposed Executive Secretary funding scenario entailed a significant increase in the contributions by individual parties to the general trust fund, but stressed that the budget would also be shared among a larger number of contributors, given that the total number of parties to the Convention continued to increase. Another representative suggested that the starting point for discussions in a contact group should be the zero nominal growth scenario.

191. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the programme of work should clearly specify which activities would be financed through the general trust fund and which would be financed by voluntary contributions through the special trust fund. She further suggested that a clear distinction should be drawn between the three Convention trust funds and that staff-related matters should be addressed in the decision on the programme of work and budget, rather than in a separate decision. She then asked the secretariat to provide up-to-date and more detailed information on secretariat income, expenditures and available surpluses, and secretariat staff tasks for the proposed new staff posts, for consideration by the parties in a contact group.

192. Another representative said that the work on effectiveness evaluation should be included in the programme of work and budget and be funded through the general trust fund.

193. The representative of an observer voiced his concern that the activities under the proposed programme of work and budget would not meet the education and training needs of developing country parties for fulfilling their obligations under the Convention in 2020 and 2021, stressing that the secretariat's leadership was crucial to meeting such needs.

194. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on the programme of work and budget, co-chaired by Yun Insiani (Indonesia) and Reginald Hernaes (Netherlands), requesting the contact group to review the two scenarios for the programme of work and budget and the draft decision set out in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.3/20 and to prepare a revised draft decision.

195. Following the work of the contact group on the programme of work and budget, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to adjust the allocation for effectiveness evaluation activities in accordance with decision MC-3/10, which had already been adopted, and to reflect the adjustment in the contributions to the General Trust Fund. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/12, on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, as set out in the annex to the present report.

VIII. Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

196. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the note by the secretariat on the venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/MC/COP.3/22 and its addendum). She said that, pursuant to decision MC-2/5, the secretariat had written to parties

requesting offers to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2021. Offers had subsequently been received from Colombia and Indonesia. The secretariat had accordingly prepared documents UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/20/Rev.1 and UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/22, detailing those offers, together with document UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/23/Rev.1, providing further information on cost considerations. She recalled that rules 3 and 4 of the rules of procedure set out the provisions related to the venue, dates and duration of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

197. The representative of Indonesia presented a proposal by the Government of Indonesia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties at the Nusa Dua Convention Centre, Bali, from 1 to 6 November 2021. The representative of Colombia said that, following extensive discussions with Indonesia, the Government of Colombia had agreed to withdraw its offer to host the meeting in order to allow the meeting to be held in Indonesia as, following the rotation of the presidency agreed to at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Asia-Pacific region would be nominating the President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Government of Colombia offered its assistance and support to the Government of Indonesia in the preparations for the meeting, and also offered to host the regional preparatory meeting for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The representative of Indonesia thanked the Government of Colombia for allowing Indonesia the opportunity to host the meeting, and said that the Government of Indonesia was looking forward to extending its history of collaboration with the Colombian Government in making arrangements for the meeting.

198. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 1 to 5 November 2021.

IX. Other matters

Guidance for completing the national reporting format

199. The representative of the secretariat recalled that, in its decision MC-1/8, on the timing and format of reporting by the parties, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a format for reporting and had decided that each party was to report every four years using the full format and every two years with regard to the four questions marked by an asterisk in that format. In order to assist parties in the preparation of information for the first biennial short report and in its submission, the secretariat had prepared an electronic reporting tool, together with a document setting out answers to frequently asked questions (UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/26). Reporting clinics, held in the margins of meetings, were another source of support for parties. As the reports would be submitted by national focal points, who would receive a dedicated link to the electronic tool enabling them to do so, the representative of the secretariat stressed the need for parties to verify that the secretariat held the correct contact details for each national focal point.

200. Two representatives highlighted difficulties in relation to tracking trade in mercury and the use of the forms conceived for that purpose. One of them proposed that the issue of trade in mercury be included in the agenda of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The representative of the secretariat recalled that, at its first meeting, the Conference had adopted guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury.

201. The representative of Canada introduced a conference room paper, submitted jointly with the European Union and its member States, Norway and Switzerland, setting out draft decision text requesting the secretariat to prepare draft guidance for the completion of the first full report, due on 31 December 2021. It proposed that that guidance be prepared during the intersessional period, that parties and other stakeholders contribute to the process with their comments to enable the secretariat to revise the guidance, that the draft guidance be used on a provisional basis by parties and that it be considered for possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

202. Subsequently, following further consultations with fellow sponsors of the draft and other interested parties, the representative of Canada reported that there had been wide support for the draft decision, which had been motivated by the complexity of the process of preparing national reports. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who took the floor expressed support for the initiative, which, they said, was very helpful, would diminish the burden on national focal points of identifying what needed to be included in the reports and would be beneficial to the efficiency evaluation process. One representative noted, in particular, its importance to parties that were small island developing States; while another declared her country's willingness to assist with the preparation of the guidance; and a third made a suggestion for a small improvement to the text, which was accepted by the Conference of the Parties.

203. One representative, while commending the draft decision and noting the momentum behind its preparation, observed that a delicate balance had been struck in agreeing on the elements of the decision and stressed that, in the work on the preparation of the guidance itself, that same balance should be maintained and the compromises made to that end should be preserved.

204. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision MC-3/13, on guidance for completing the national reporting format, as set out in the annex to the present report.

X. Adoption of the report

205. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization, in consultation with the secretariat.

XI. Closure of the meeting

206. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 2.30 a.m. on Saturday, 30 November 2019.

Annex**Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its third meeting**

MC-3/1:	Review of annexes A and B	32
MC-3/2:	Dental amalgam	34
MC-3/3:	Customs codes	35
MC-3/4:	Releases of mercury	36
MC-3/5:	Mercury waste thresholds	37
MC-3/6:	Guidance on the management of contaminated sites	38
MC-3/7:	First review of the financial mechanism	43
MC-3/8:	Article 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer	44
MC-3/9:	Implementation and Compliance Committee: terms of reference and template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance	45
MC-3/10:	Arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.....	51
MC-3/11:	Enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	58
MC-3/12:	Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021.....	60
MC-3/13:	Guidance for completing the national reporting format	68

MC-3/1: Review of annexes A and B

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc group of experts with terms of reference as set out in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to call for submissions from parties by 31 March 2020, including:
 - (a) Information on mercury-added products and on the availability, technical and economic feasibility, and environmental and health risks and benefits of non-mercury alternatives to mercury-added products, pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 4 of the Convention;
 - (b) Information on processes that use mercury or mercury compounds and on the availability, technical and economic feasibility and environmental and health risks and benefits of mercury-free alternatives to manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used, pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 5;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to make the submissions received publicly available and to invite non-parties and others to provide, by 30 April 2020, further information on the uses of mercury and on non-mercury alternatives referred to in the submissions;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to provide to the ad hoc group of experts a compilation of the submissions and information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision and to convene a meeting of the group, by no later than 30 June 2020. The ad hoc group of experts is to prepare a document in which it will enrich and organize the information received for each use covered by the submissions from parties, taking into account further information available to the experts, and in which it will clearly identify the sources of its information;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to make available, by 31 August 2020, to the parties that submitted information pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision, the information received pursuant to paragraph 4 of the present decision;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat to invite those parties to submit any revised information by 30 November 2020;
7. *Further requests* the secretariat to make publicly available the submissions made by parties pursuant to paragraph 6 of the present decision, by 31 December 2020, in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 4 and paragraph 4 of article 5 of the Convention;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, by 30 April 2021, a report on the work of the ad hoc group of experts reflecting its activities, including all the information gathered from the group, parties and others, for presentation at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
9. *Requests* parties that notified the secretariat at the time of their becoming a party to the Convention that they would implement various measures or strategies to address products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention to report, by 30 June 2020, on the measures or strategies they have implemented, including a quantification of the reductions achieved;
10. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions made by parties pursuant to paragraph 9 of the present decision for consideration during the effectiveness evaluation with respect to article 4 of the Convention;
11. *Also requests* the secretariat to present the compilation of final submissions pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 9 of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

Annex to decision MC-3/1

Terms of reference of the ad hoc group of experts

I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, at its third meeting, by decision MC-3/1, established an ad hoc group of experts to prepare a document in which it will enhance and organize the information for each use submitted by parties in accordance with decision

MC-3/1, taking into account further information available to the experts. The document will clearly identify the sources of the information it contains.

II. Membership

2. The ad hoc group of experts, which at its first meeting will elect two co-chairs, will comprise experts nominated by parties from the five United Nations regions as follows: four from the African States, four from the Asia-Pacific States, four from the Eastern European States, four from the Latin American and Caribbean States and four from the Western European and other States. Before its first meeting, the group will invite 10 experts from non-parties and other stakeholders, including relevant organizations, possessing specialized technical knowledge relating to the recommended qualifications described in section III of the present terms of reference, to participate as observers. The ad hoc group of experts may also invite input from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society organizations to assist it in its work, as appropriate.

III. Recommended qualifications of members and observers

3. Members and observers of the ad hoc group of experts should have expertise in at least one of the following areas:

- (a) Mercury-added products;
- (b) Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;
- (c) Availability and technical and economic feasibility of alternatives to mercury-added products or manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;
- (d) Environmental and health risks and benefits of alternatives to mercury-added products or manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;
- (e) Regulatory policy to address the human health and environmental risks of mercury.

IV. Officers

4. The ad hoc group of experts will elect two co-chairs to facilitate its meetings.

V. Secretariat

5. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury will provide support to the ad hoc group of experts.

VI. Administrative and procedural matters

6. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the group.

7. The work of the ad hoc group of experts will be organized in such a way as to allow each expert to participate in all the activities of the group.

VII. Meetings

8. The ad hoc group of experts will meet face to face once during the intersessional period preceding the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, subject to the availability of resources, and will also work by electronic means.

VIII. Language

9. The working language of the group will be English.

MC-3/2: Dental amalgam

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Encourages* Parties to take more than the two required measures in accordance with annex A, part II, of the Convention to phase down the use of dental amalgam;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to request information from parties on the implementation of any such additional measures taken by parties related to annex A, part II, of the Convention;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to request information from parties and others pursuant to paragraph 7 of article 4 of the Convention by 1 July 2020;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to compile the information received pursuant to paragraph 3, clearly identifying the sources of the information it contains, and provide that information to parties no later than 1 December 2020;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, by 30 April 2021, a document containing the information received from parties pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision and the compilation of information pursuant to paragraph 4 of the present decision, respectively, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

MC-3/3: Customs codes

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership–Mercury in Products partnership area (hereafter “Products Partnership”) and involving relevant experts, to:
 - (a) Draft a guidance document that includes:
 - (i) For the mercury-added products listed in annex A to the Convention, a list of possible customs nomenclature codes of more than six digits that could be used by parties;
 - (ii) For mercury-added products not listed in annex A to the Convention, a compilation of examples provided by national experts of customs nomenclature codes of more than six digits currently in use by parties;
 - (iii) Examples of good practice where the use of customs nomenclature codes at the national level has been supplemented by the use of other control tools for the purpose of implementing trade provisions, such as those found in article 4 to the Convention;
 - (b) Provide an assessment of whether the subsequent development of six-digit harmonized codes would be a useful complement to the outcome of the work undertaken under subparagraph 1 (a) (i) of the present decision for the mercury-added products listed in annex A or under subparagraph 1 (a) (ii) for mercury-added products not listed in annex A. The assessment shall, where possible, include several examples of the use of such codes for both listed and unlisted mercury-added products, taking into account experience concerning such codes under other international environmental conventions;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat to:
 - (a) Circulate an open call to all parties, non-parties and other stakeholders, including relevant organizations, to identify experts familiar with the use of national customs codes to participate in the open-ended process;
 - (b) Call for submissions by such experts by 31 March 2020; such submissions should include information relevant for the work related to subparagraphs 1 (a) (i)–(iii) of the present decision;
 - (c) Prepare, in collaboration with the Products Partnership, a draft report covering the three elements referred to in subparagraph 1 (a) of the present decision;
 - (d) Make the draft report available on the Convention website and invite parties and others to provide comments by 30 January 2021;
 - (e) Revise, in collaboration with the Partnership, the draft report, taking due account of the further input received from parties and others;
 - (f) Submit the final report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting for its consideration.

MC-3/4: Releases of mercury

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the report of the group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases established pursuant to decision MC-2/3,

Recognizing that the group was requested in decision MC-2/3 to develop draft guidance on standardized and known methodologies for preparing inventories for identified relevant point sources for possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,

Recognizing also that the Conference of the Parties decided in decision MC-2/3 to consider again, at its third meeting, the composition of the expert group and the need for the group to meet face to face,

1. *Invites* parties to confirm the current members of the group, nominate new members or replace members, as appropriate, through the Bureau members;
2. *Requests* the group to continue to work by electronic means, with the possibility of one face-to-face meeting, if necessary and subject to the availability of resources, in line with the road map set out in the report on the development of guidance on methodologies for inventories of mercury releases to land and water under article 9 of the Convention,¹ to produce a report including draft guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases, the proposed categories of point sources of releases and a road map for the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices;
3. *Also requests* the group to base its work on the following considerations:
 - (a) The proposed categories should not include potentially significant relevant point sources for which releases are addressed in other provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, irrespective of whether those other provisions include an inventory obligation;
 - (b) Given that article 9 of the Convention concerns relevant point sources, diffuse sources should not be included in the proposed categories. The categories identified in the guidance should also be limited to those source categories for which mercury releases have been documented;
 - (c) The obligation to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste set out under the Convention addresses significant releases to land and water;
 - (d) While wastewater is addressed under article 9, parties may additionally control wastewater under article 11 of the Convention;
 - (e) Subject to the completion of the work outlined above, and with a view to helping parties that wish to widen the scope of the inventory referred to in paragraph 6 of article 9 to additional point sources other than those covered by article 9, the guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases should also provide information on significant point sources of releases covered by other provisions of the Convention;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to support the work of the group.

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/6, annex II.

MC-3/5: Mercury waste thresholds

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the outcome of the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds,

Taking note of decision BC-14/8, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its fourteenth meeting,

1. *Decides* that no threshold needs to be established for mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (a) of article 11, and that waste listed in table 1 of the annex to the present decision shall be regarded as such mercury waste;
2. *Also decides* that no threshold needs to be established for mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (b) of article 11, and that mercury-added products that are disposed of, are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of, including those listed in table 2 of the annex to the present decision, will be regarded as such mercury waste;
3. *Requests* the group of technical experts to further substantiate its present recommendation that a total concentration threshold may be appropriate for mercury wastes falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11, including a technical analysis of options and the consideration of possible impacts;
4. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership area, to seek comments from parties and other stakeholders to improve the guidance on the preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining regarding management of tailings from such mining, with a view to presenting a revised version of the guidance for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;
5. *Decides* that, at present, there is no need to develop thresholds for overburden and waste rock from mining other than primary mercury mining, and that thresholds for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining should be established in a two-tiered approach using a total concentration threshold as an initial screen and a leaching threshold as the second tier, and requests the group of technical experts to do further work to establish the thresholds;
6. *Also decides* to extend the mandate of the group of technical experts until the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and calls upon the secretariat to cooperate with the secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions to facilitate cooperation between the members of the technical expert group and of the small intersessional working group established under the Basel Convention to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;²
7. *Further decides* to extend the mandate of the group of technical experts to:
 - (a) Conduct a technical analysis of threshold options, considering the impacts of applying the proposed options, and make recommendations;
 - (b) Develop thresholds for mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11;
 - (c) Conduct analysis of whether tailings from artisanal and small-scale gold mining should be subject to a threshold, taking into account the relationship between articles 11 and 7;
 - (d) Recommend thresholds for tailings from industrial-scale non-ferrous metal mining other than primary mercury mining;
 - (e) Subject to completion of items (a) to (d) above, review, and possibly recommend a revision of, the lists of mercury waste falling under subparagraphs 2 (a) to (c) of article 11, set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 of the annex to the present decision, as appropriate;
8. *Invites* parties to confirm the current members of the group of technical experts, nominate new members, or replace members as appropriate through the bureau members representing regions, taking into account the need for expertise in areas covered by the mandate of the group;
9. *Decides* that the group of technical experts will work by electronic means and will meet face to face once to address the matters mentioned in the previous paragraphs of the present

² UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1.

decision, will make any necessary updates to the lists in tables 1, 2 and 3 of the annex to the present decision, and will report on its work to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

10. *Requests* the following additional procedural provisions to guide the group's work:

(a) All the experts nominated by the parties and present will work on the issues subject to the mandate of the group, avoiding separate treatment of the technical issues;

(b) All decisions of the group of technical experts should be agreed on the basis of consensus. In case no consensus is reached, the secretariat should take note of this lack of consensus, register the discussion and the different positions, and note the level of support for each alternative;

(c) Prior to the meeting, the secretariat and the chair of the group of technical experts will provide to the parties a provisional agenda and a scenario note in preparation for the meeting;

11. *Encourages* the parties and other stakeholders to contribute to the process of updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds by providing comments on the draft updated guidelines when invited to do so;

12. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention to take into account the present decision in updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;

13. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to support the work of the group of technical experts.

Annex to decision MC-3/5

Lists of mercury waste falling under paragraph 2 of article 11

Table 1

List of mercury waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds^a (subparagraph 2 (a) of article 11)

<i>Type of waste</i>	<i>Waste source^b</i>
Recovered elemental mercury ^c	Mining activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailings from artisanal and small-scale gold mining Mercury captured from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-ferrous metals roasting and smelting processes • Crude oil and natural gas processing Treatment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury-added products upon becoming waste • Waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds • Contaminated environmental media Treatment of waste from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlor-alkali,^d alcoholates (e.g., sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate), dithionite and ultrapure potassium hydroxide solution production with mercury technology, including decommissioning facilities • Polyurethane, vinyl chloride monomer, acetaldehyde production using a mercury-containing catalyst
Elemental mercury	Mercury stockpile (e.g., industries, laboratories, dental offices, educational and research institutions, government institutions, landfills, dumpsites, lighthouses)
Mercury (I) chloride and mercury (II) chloride	Primary zinc, lead, copper and gold roasting and smelting processes Reagent Calomel electrode for electrochemical measurements Medicine/pharmaceuticals Vinyl chloride monomer catalyst – mercury (II) chloride Stockpiles

<i>Type of waste</i>	<i>Waste source^b</i>
Mercury (II) oxide (mercuric oxide)	Dry cell batteries, pigment in paints and glass modifiers, fungicide, cosmetics, laboratory reagent, antifouling paints Stockpiles
Mercury (II) sulfate (mercuric sulfate)	Lab reagent, catalyst used for the production of acetaldehyde Stockpiles
Mercury (II) nitrate (mercuric nitrate)	Oxidizing agent, laboratory reagent Stockpiles
Cinnabar concentrate	Primary mercury mining Stockpiles
Mercury sulfide	Pigment Stabilization of waste mercury for storage and/or disposal Stockpiles

^a The Convention defines a mercury compound as any substance consisting of atoms of mercury and one or more atoms of other chemical elements that can be separated into different components only by chemical reactions.

^b A facility or activity where waste is likely to be generated or accumulated.

^c Recovered mercury as described in subparagraph 3 (b) of article 11.

^d Recovery can sometimes occur without treatment.

Table 2

Non-exhaustive list of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds (subparagraph 2 (b) of article 11)^a

<i>Type of waste</i>	<i>Waste source^b</i>
Non-electronic measuring devices containing mercury (barometers, hygrometers, manometers, thermometers, sphygmomanometers)	Hospitals, clinics, healthcare facilities (human and animal), pharmacies, households, schools, laboratories, universities, industrial facilities, airports, meteorological stations, ship recycling facilities
Electrical and electronic switches, contacts, relays and rotating electrical connectors with mercury	Dismantling facilities of waste electrical and electronic equipment (relays, connectors and switches), industrial facilities (attached to boilers), households, offices
Fluorescent bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID) bulbs (mercury vapour bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs), neon/argon lamps	Households, industrial and commercial facilities, automobile facilities, collection points
Batteries/accumulators containing mercury	Households, industrial and commercial facilities, collection points
Biocides and pesticides containing mercury and their formulations and products	Agricultural, horticultural, industrial and commercial facilities (including stockpiles), laboratories
Paints and varnishes containing mercury	Industrial and commercial facilities, households
Pharmaceuticals containing mercury for human and veterinary uses, including vaccines	Industrial and healthcare facilities (including stockpiles), livestock industry
Cosmetics and related products containing mercury	Industrial facilities (including stockpiles)
Dental amalgam	Dental offices, dental schools, crematoria
Scientific instrument used for the calibration of medical or scientific devices containing mercury	Laboratories, institutions ^c (including stockpiles)

^a Mercury-added products listed in the “type of waste” column of this table are regarded as waste under subparagraph 2 (b) of article 11 when they are disposed of, are intended to be disposed of, or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law or the Minamata Convention.

^b A facility or activity where waste is likely to be generated or accumulated.

^c Institutions include public and private ones.

Table 3
Indicative list of waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11)^a

<i>Type of waste</i>	<i>Waste source^b</i>
Waste from industrial pollution control devices or cleaning of industrial off-gases ^c	Flue gas from sources such as: Extraction and use of fuels/energy sources Smelting and roasting processes in the production of non-ferrous metals Production processes with mercury impurities Recovery of precious metals from waste electrical and electronic equipment Coal combustion Waste incineration and co-incineration Crematoria
Bottom ash	Coal combustion Biomass fired power and heat generation Waste incineration
Wastewater treatment residues/slurries ^d	Treatment of wastewater from: Extraction and use of fuels/energy Production of mercury-added products Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used Primary non-ferrous metals production Production processes with mercury impurities Recovery of precious metals from waste electrical and electronic equipment Waste incineration, co-incineration and other thermal treatment Crematoria Healthcare facilities Controlled landfills leachate Uncontrolled dumping of wastes Agricultural facilities
Sludge	Separator tanks and sedimentary sand tanks for refining of crude oil, natural gas production and processing, drilling, ship cleaning, chemical processes, etc. Treatment of wastes contaminated with mercury (e.g., chemical precipitation and chemical oxidation)
Oil and gas refining catalyst	Refining of crude oil Processing of natural gas
Tailings and extraction process residues	Primary mercury mining Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
Rubble, debris and soil ^e	Construction/demolition Remediation of contaminated sites
Other waste from manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds ^f	Chlor-alkali production with mercury technology Production of alcoholates (e.g., sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate) Dithionite and ultrapure potassium hydroxide solution Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) production with mercuric chloride (HgCl ₂) catalyst Acetaldehyde production with mercury sulphate (HgSO ₄) catalyst, etc.
Other waste from the manufacturing of mercury-added products ^g	Manufacturing of mercury-added products
Other waste from natural gas cleaning ^h	Natural gas cleaning
Wastes from waste treatment facilities ⁱ	Waste treatment facilities

^a Wastes listed in this table are regarded as mercury waste when they exceed thresholds. Waste exceeding the established threshold but not listed here would also be considered mercury waste.

^b A facility or activity where waste is likely to be generated or accumulated.

^c Includes filters and activated carbon.

^d Include filters and resins.

^e Contaminated soil transported off-site is regarded as waste.

^f Mercury cells, mercury recovery units (retort), waste catalysts, decommissioning or demolition waste, personal protective equipment, elements used to contain mercury spills, etc.

^g Process residues, demolition waste, etc.

^h Scale removed from pipework and pipe cleaning equipment, etc.

ⁱ Waste treated to stabilize/solidify mercury in the waste, fluorescent coatings, metal and glass.

MC-3/6: Guidance on the management of contaminated sites

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the need to assist parties in the environmentally sound management of contaminated sites through the provision of guidance,

Noting the draft guidance on the management of contaminated sites prepared by the secretariat in consultation with nominated experts and set out in annex II to the note by the secretariat on the matter,³

1. *Adopts* the guidance on the management of contaminated sites set out in annex II to the revised note by the secretariat on the matter;⁴
2. *Notes* the importance of capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer, as appropriate and in accordance with articles 13 and 14 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
3. *Encourages* the parties to take the guidance into account in identifying, assessing and managing, and, as appropriate, remediating sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to collect technical information that supports the guidance, in cooperation with experts nominated by Governments, relevant networks and others, and to make such information available to parties;
5. *Notes* that the guidance may need to be revised in the future in the light of experience in its use to ensure that it continues to reflect best practice.

³ UNEP/MC/COP.3/8.

⁴ UNEP/MC/COP.3/8/Rev.1.

MC-3/7: First review of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering paragraph 11 of article 13 on the review of the financial mechanism,

1. *Welcomes* the note by the secretariat on the first review of the financial mechanism,⁵ on the basis of which the Conference of the Parties has undertaken the review in accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the second review for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

⁵ UNEP/MC/COP.3/11.

MC-3/8: Article 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision MC-1/21 and MC-2/11 on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in which it was recognized that some of the existing regional and subregional centres were already developing projects and activities regarding mercury issues,

Welcoming the submissions from the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Government of Japan set out in the compilation of information received from existing regional, subregional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention,⁶

1. *Emphasizes* the relevance of using, as appropriate, regional, subregional and national arrangements, including the existing regional and subregional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance, consistent with article 14 of the Convention;

2. *Takes into account* information collected pursuant to decision MC-2/11, looks forward to any future information received pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision, and encourages parties, within their respective capabilities, to take such information into consideration in providing capacity-building and technical assistance activities pursuant to article 14;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to compile any information received from the parties, the existing regional, subregional and national arrangements, including the existing regional and subregional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention, and also requests the secretariat to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

⁶ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/14.

MC-3/9: Implementation and Compliance Committee: terms of reference and template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 5 of article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Having considered the report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Convention,⁷

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Implementation and Compliance Committee,

Decides to adopt the terms of reference for the Implementation and Compliance Committee set out in annex I to the present decision, and to approve the template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance set out in annex II to the present decision.

Annex I to decision MC-3/9

Terms of reference for the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

I. Preamble

1. The terms of reference of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury shall be read in conjunction with the provisions of the Convention as well as the rules of procedure for the Committee. In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present terms of reference and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.
2. Any recommendation of the Committee is subject to consideration by the party concerned or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
3. The members of the Committee shall serve objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

II. Scope and objective

4. The objective of the Committee is to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all the provisions of the Convention.
5. The Committee shall be facilitative in nature and pay particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of parties.
6. The Committee shall examine both individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.

III. Functions of the Committee

A. Consider any written submission from a party with respect to its own compliance as per paragraph 4 (a) of article 15

7. The Committee shall consider any written submission from any party with respect to its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of article 15 with a view to evaluating the facts and root causes of the matter of concern and assisting in its resolution in a facilitative manner and paying particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of the said party. Written submissions by any party with respect to its own compliance shall be addressed to the Committee, through the secretariat, in one of the six official languages of the United Nations, preferably be sent by electronic means, and shall set out:

- (a) The name and contact details of the national focal point or other relevant authority of the party transmitting the submission with respect to the party's own compliance;

⁷ UNEP/MC/COP.3/13.

- (b) Background information and description of the matter of concern and the party's national capabilities and circumstances;
- (c) The relevant provision(s) of the Convention;
- (d) Information on any efforts undertaken or under way to address the matter of concern;
- (e) Any particular request pertaining to confidential or protected information.

8. Written submissions shall not exceed five pages. Supplementary information may be requested by the Committee, if necessary. The party concerned may submit, through the secretariat, any such supplementary information for the Committee's attention within two weeks following receipt of the Committee's request. In the case where supplementary information is submitted in one of the United Nations official languages other than English and cannot be translated prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered, the information can be presented at the meeting, in which case the information may be interpreted into English in accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

9. The party concerned may also submit additional relevant information at its own initiative at least five weeks prior to the opening of the meeting at which its submission is to be considered. Any such additional information should include a summary in English of a maximum of two pages in length.

10. The Committee may decide not to proceed with a submission which it considers de minimis or manifestly ill-founded.

11. The Committee may provide to the party concerned, after consultation with that party, the outcome of its consideration, recommendations and additional relevant information relating to the matter under review with respect to:

- (a) Establishing and/or strengthening its domestic or regional regulatory regimes;
- (b) Providing assistance, in particular to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition, relating to how to access financial and technical support, as well as technology transfer and capacity-building;
- (c) Elaborating, as appropriate and in consultation with the party concerned, a strategy for achieving compliance, associated with a proposed time schedule, and reporting on the implementation of that strategy to the Committee;
- (d) Any follow-up arrangements for reporting on progress to the Committee.

12. If, after undertaking the procedure above and taking into account the cause, type, degree and frequency of compliance difficulties, as well as the capacity of the party, the Committee considers it necessary, it shall make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties as per section V of the present terms of reference.

B. Consider issues on the basis of national reports in accordance with article 21 as per paragraph 4 (b) of article 15 as well as requests from the Conference of the Parties as per paragraph 4 (c) of article 15

13. In examining individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance on the basis of national reports in accordance with article 21 and paragraph 4 (b) of article 15 and of requests from the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of article 15, the Committee shall aim to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all the provisions of the Convention, in a facilitative manner and paying particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of parties.

14. The secretariat shall distribute to the Committee for its consideration the national reports submitted pursuant to article 21 in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, as well as its reports prepared in accordance with paragraphs 25 (b) and 25 (c) under section VI of the present terms of reference.

15. The secretariat shall distribute to the Committee any request made by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of article 15 within two months of the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the request was made. Any such request shall be considered by the Committee at its first meeting after the receipt of the request.

16. The Committee may provide to a party or several parties, after consultation with the party or parties concerned, the outcome of its consideration, recommendations and additional relevant information relating to the matter under its consideration, and shall make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties, as per section V of the present terms of reference.

C. Consider systemic issues of implementation and compliance

17. The Committee may identify and consider systemic issues of implementation and compliance further to its consideration of written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance or of national reports pursuant to article 21 or to a request by the Conference of the Parties.

18. In order to address any such systemic issues, the Committee may make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

D. Report to the Conference of the Parties

19. The Committee shall report to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on the work it has carried out to fulfil its functions, as set out in the Convention, the Committee's rules of procedure and the present terms of reference. Such reporting may include recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

20. The Committee shall submit its report to the secretariat no later than 12 weeks before the opening of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which it is to be considered.

IV. Additional information, expertise or consultations that the Committee may draw on

21. In carrying out its functions, the Committee may, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, inter alia:

(a) Draw on the reports, decisions and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, as well as reports and recommendations of subsidiary bodies of the Convention, including with respect to the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to article 22;

(b) Request further information, through the secretariat, from a party that has made a written submission with respect to its own compliance and from all parties on systemic issues of implementation and compliance under its consideration;

(c) Consult with other subsidiary bodies of the Convention;

(d) In the case of systemic issues of implementation and compliance, request further information in addition to that provided pursuant to subparagraphs (a) to (c), and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate, through the secretariat;

(e) In the case of individual issues of implementation and compliance considered on the basis of written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance, request further information in addition to that provided pursuant to subparagraphs (a) to (c), and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate, through the secretariat, with the prior consent of the party concerned;

(f) In the case of individual issues of implementation and compliance considered on the basis of a request by the Conference of the Parties, request further information in addition to that provided pursuant to subparagraphs (a) to (c), and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate, through the secretariat, with the prior consent of the party concerned or as directed by the Conference of the Parties;

(g) Facilitate, upon invitation by the party concerned, information gathering in the territory of that party for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Committee;

(h) Consult with the secretariat and draw upon its experience and knowledge developed pursuant to article 24 of the Convention and request information from the secretariat, where appropriate, in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration.

V. Types of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties that the Committee may consider in order to promote implementation and review compliance with all the provisions of the Convention

22. Recommendations from the Committee to the Conference of the Parties shall aim at promoting implementation and reviewing compliance with the provisions of the Convention. They shall be facilitative in nature and pay particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of parties.

23. Recommendations relating to individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance may include, but not be limited to:

(a) Steps to support the party or parties in implementing the provisions of the Convention, including with respect to legislative, procedural or institutional arrangements that may be required;

(b) The need for the concerned party or parties to develop and submit to the Committee a strategy to achieve implementation and compliance, associated with a proposed time schedule, and to report on the implementation of the said strategy;

(c) Expert assistance, including on legal, institutional or technical matters;

(d) Targeted capacity-building, financial and technical assistance as well as technology transfer.

24. When there is a need for it and as a last resort, the Committee may recommend to the Conference of the Parties that the Conference of the Parties issue a statement regarding compliance and provide advice in order to help the concerned party or parties implement the provisions of the Convention and to promote cooperation between all the parties.

VI. Functions of the secretariat

25. Consistent with the functions specified in article 24 of the Convention and in the Committee's rules of procedure, and in accordance with the programme of work and budget, the secretariat shall, in addition to the functions specified elsewhere in the present terms of reference:

(a) Collect written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of article 15, make arrangements for their translation into English and distribute them to the Committee, in accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure, as well as any additional information provided by the party. Submissions in English shall be distributed to the Committee within two weeks of receipt, and the translation into English of submissions in one of the official languages of the United Nations other than English shall be distributed to the Committee within four weeks of receipt;

(b) Collect national reports submitted in accordance with article 21, and, when issues are to be considered by the Committee on their basis in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of article 15, prepare the relevant reports for the consideration of the Committee. These reports shall include but not be limited to information about parties' reporting performances and the identification of particular issues that may emerge from the reports and may be of interest to the Committee;

(c) Make arrangements for the translation into English and distribution of national reports, or sections thereof, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure;

(d) Forward to the Committee any request made by the Conference of the Parties within two months after the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the request was made;

(e) As requested by the Committee in order to facilitate the conduct of its work, seek and collect further information from parties and other sources and prepare any report or supporting document;

(f) Perform any other functions assigned to it by the Committee or the Conference of the Parties with respect to the work of the Committee.

VII. Relationship with the settlement of disputes under article 25 of the Convention

26. The operation of the implementation and compliance mechanism and the work of the Committee shall be distinct and without prejudice to the provisions of article 25 of the Convention on settlement of disputes.

VIII. Protection of confidentiality

27. As a general rule, reports and recommendations from the Committee shall not be treated confidentially. However, information provided to the Committee in confidence, including by a party with respect to its own compliance, shall be treated confidentially.

Annex II to decision MC-3/9

Template for written submissions from parties with respect to their own compliance (article 15, paragraph 4 (a))

Notes:

Written submissions made by a party with respect to its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of article 15 of the Minamata Convention shall be addressed to the Implementation and Compliance Committee, through the secretariat at:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
Postal address: Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
E-mail: mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org

Written submissions shall be made in one of the six official languages of the United Nations, preferably by electronic means, and contain the elements set out in the annexed template.

They shall not exceed five pages.

In order to be included in the agenda of the Committee's subsequent meeting, the submission should reach the secretariat at least eight weeks before the first day of that meeting.

When the Committee is considering an issue on the basis of a specific submission relating to the compliance of an individual party, that party shall be invited to participate in the consideration of the issue by the Committee. Such sessions shall not be open to observers, unless otherwise agreed by the Committee and the party concerned. Deliberations to prepare recommendations or voting on recommendations shall be closed to all observers.

Supplementary information may be requested by the Committee, if necessary. The party concerned may submit, through the secretariat, any such relevant supplementary information for the Committee's attention within two weeks of receiving the request from the Committee.

In the case where supplementary information is submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations other than English and cannot be translated before the meeting at which it is to be considered, the information can be presented at the meeting, in which case the information may be interpreted into English in accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure.

The party concerned may also submit additional relevant information at its own initiative, at least five weeks before the opening of a meeting at which its submission is to be considered. Any such additional information should include a summary in English of a maximum of two pages in length.

For further information about the consideration by the Committee of written submissions from a party with respect to its own compliance, please refer to the rules of procedure and the terms of reference for the Committee, available at: www.mercuryconvention.org.

I. Party and contact information

[Indicate below the name of the party concerned as well as the name and contact details of the national focal point or other relevant authority of the party transmitting the submission with respect to the party's own compliance.]

PARTY:		<i>[indicate the name of the party concerned by the submission]</i>			
CONTACT DETAILS OF MINAMATA CONVENTION NATIONAL FOCAL POINT OR OTHER RELEVANT AUTHORITY OF THE PARTY TRANSMITTING THE SUBMISSION					
First name/Last name					
Functional title:					
Section/Department:					
Organization/Institution					
Address:					
Post code:		City:		Country:	
Telephone (include country and city code):		Fax (include country and city code):		E-mail address:	

II. Matter of concern

[Provide background information and describe the matter of concern, i.e., the compliance issue being presented. Indicate your party's national capabilities and circumstances as they relate to that matter]

III. Relevant provision(s) of the Convention

[Indicate the relevant provision(s) of the Convention to which the compliance issue relates. Specify corresponding article(s), paragraph(s), subparagraph(s), annex(es) as appropriate.]

IV. Efforts to address the matter of concern

[Provide information on any efforts undertaken or under way to address the matter of concern or, if none, explain why.]

V. Confidential or protected information

[Information provided to the Committee in confidence, including by a party with respect to its own compliance, will be treated confidentially. However, specify below any particular request pertaining to confidential or protected information, for instance information that should not be disclosed in the reports and recommendations of the Committee.]

VI. Signature

[The submission shall be signed by the Minamata Convention national focal point or, if transmitted by another relevant authority of the party, by a person authorized to sign on its behalf.]

MC-3/10: Arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the report on the proposed framework for the effectiveness evaluation and monitoring arrangements under the Minamata Convention,⁸ and the complementing information developed by the ad hoc technical expert group on the basis of the mandates set out in decisions MC1/9 and MC-2/10,⁹

Recognizing the efforts to advance the work on the effectiveness evaluation at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Invites* parties to submit views on the indicators set out in annex I to the present decision and requests the secretariat to compile those views in advance of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to advance the work by securing services for drafting:

(a) Guidance on monitoring to maintain harmonized, comparable information on mercury levels in the environment, taking into consideration the draft structure set out in the note on background information on mercury monitoring;¹⁰

(b) Reports set out in the framework in annex II to the present decision with the exception of the emissions and releases report, the monitoring report, and the modelling report.

Annex I to decision MC-3/10

Proposed indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention, by article

<i>A: Article 1 (objective)</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
(The indicator for article 1 is to be read with the relevant monitoring indicator set out in table 4 in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/14)			
A1. Cross-cutting monitoring indicator	Levels of mercury in the environment and in humans due to anthropogenic emissions and releases	Attributive modelling	Amount in the first evaluation (if models are available)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attribution is to be estimated using models yet to be developed; thus, information for this indicator may or may not be available for the first effectiveness evaluation cycle. ▪ Estimates from modelling are to be accompanied by relevant notes on modelling uncertainties. ▪ In case of non-availability of information from models, levels of mercury and trends in mercury levels (changes over time) could be used for attribution purposes. 		
<i>B: Supply cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
<i>Article 3 (mercury supply sources and trade); article 10 (environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury); article 11 (mercury wastes)</i>			
B1. Overall process indicator for articles 3, 10 and 11	Proportion of parties that have implemented key provisions under this cluster (encompassing all process indicators below, i.e., B5, B6, B7, B8, B9 and B13)	- Article 21 reporting	Amount in the first evaluation

⁸ UNEP/MC/COP.3/14.

⁹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/15.

¹⁰ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/15.

<i>B: Supply cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
<i>Article 3 (mercury supply sources and trade); article 10 (environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury); article 11 (mercury wastes)</i>			
B2. Additional cross-cutting outcome indicator for articles 3, 10 and 11	Estimated global supply of mercury, in tonnes per year	- Synthesized information from individual indicators for articles 3, 10 and 11	Amount in the first evaluation
Article 3			
B3. Outcome indicator for article 3	Total amount of mercury mined from primary mercury mines	- 2017 report on global mercury supply, trade and demand - Article 21 reporting - ASGM national action plan reports	Amount in the first evaluation
B4. Outcome indicator for article 3	Amount of mercury traded, broken down by specific purpose	- Article 3 forms	Amount in the first evaluation
B5. Process indicator for article 3	Number of parties that have endeavoured to identify stocks and sources of supply	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
B6. Process indicator for article 3	For those parties that have determined they have excess Hg, whether they have taken measures called for in article 3 para. 5 (b), and amount of Hg disposed of in accordance with those measure, if available	- Article 21 reporting - World Chlorine Council reports	Percentage in the first evaluation
B7. Process indicator for article 3	Number and proportion of parties trading in mercury	- Article 21 reporting - Article 3 forms	Number and percentage in the first evaluation
B8. Process indicator for article 3	Volume of mercury being traded	- Article 21 reporting	Amount in the first evaluation
Article 10			
B9. Process indicator for article 10	Number and proportion of parties that have taken measures to ensure sound interim storage	- Article 21 reporting	Number and percentage in the first evaluation
B10. Outcome indicator for article 10	Amount of mercury stored in an environmentally sound way (as identified in the inventory of stocks)	- Article 21 reporting	Amount in the first evaluation
Article 11			
B11. Outcome indicator for article 11	Amount of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds subject to final disposal	- Article 21 reporting	Amount in the first evaluation
B12. Outcome indicator for article 11	Number of parties with facilities for final disposal of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
B13. Process indicator for article 11	Number of parties that have measures in place to manage mercury waste in an environmentally sound manner	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
Notes	▪ Data from non-parties could also be important in some instances.		

<i>C: Demand cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
<i>Article 4 (mercury-added products); article 5 (manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used); article 7 (artisanal and small-scale gold mining)</i>			
C1. Cross-cutting process indicator for articles 4, 5 and 7	Proportion of parties that have implemented key provisions under this cluster	- Synthesized information from individual indicators for articles 4, 5 and 7	Percentage in the first evaluation
C2. Cross-cutting outcome indicator for articles 4, 5 and 7	Global use of mercury in the manufacturing of products or processes, in tonnes per application	- Information from industry sources	Amount in the first evaluation
Article 4			
C3. Process indicator for article 4	Number of parties having appropriate measures to prevent the manufacture, export or import of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
C4. Process indicator for article 4	Number of exemptions per product category that are still valid	- Registry of exemptions	Number in the first evaluation
C5. Process indicator for article 4	Number of parties that have taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
C6. Additional outcome indicator for article 4	Volume, in tonnes of mercury-added products (a) imported and (b) exported, in units per year, for each product category in part I of annex A.	- Trade and customs data	Amount in the first evaluation
Article 5			
C7. Process indicator for article 5	Number of parties with exemptions for annex B, part I, processes that are still valid	- Registry of exemptions	Number in the first evaluation
C8. Process indicator for article 5	Number of parties having measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in part I of annex B	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
C9. Process indicator for article 5	Proportion of parties that have processes subject to article 5, para. 3, that have taken all measures for the respective processes listed in annex B, part II	- Article 21 reporting	Percentage in the first evaluation
Article 7			
C10. Outcome indicator for article 7	Total amount of mercury used in ASGM globally, in tonnes per year	- Article 21 reporting - ASGM national action plans and reviews thereof - Notifications	Amount in the first evaluation
C11. Process indicator for article 7	Proportion of parties declaring more than insignificant ASGM that have submitted a national action plan	- Notifications	Percentage in the first evaluation
C12. Process indicator for article 7	Proportion of parties that have submitted a national action plan and have reviewed it	- Article 7 reviews	Percentage in the first evaluation
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some data on products may not be easily obtainable. 		
<i>D: Pressure cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>

Article 8 (emissions); article 9 (releases); article 12 (contaminated sites)

D1. Overall process indicator for articles 8, 9 and 12	Share of parties that have implemented key provisions under this cluster	- Article 21 reporting	Percentage in the first evaluation
D2. Crosscutting outcome indicator for articles 8, 9 and 12	Total amount of mercury emitted and released	- Global Mercury Assessment 2018 - Inventories - Minamata Convention initial assessments	Amount in the first evaluation

Article 8 (The indicators for article 8 are to be read with the relevant monitoring indicators in table 4.)

D3. Outcome indicator for article 8	Total amount of mercury emitted for each point source category in annex D	- Article 21 reporting - Inventories	Number in the first evaluation
D4. Process indicator for article 8	Number of parties that require BAT/BEP or emission limit values consistent with the application of BAT	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
D5. Process indicator for article 8	Number of parties that have put in place control measures for existing sources (per each of the measures set out in article 8, para. 5)	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
D6. Process indicator for article 8	Number of parties that have established and maintained an inventory of emissions	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation

Article 9 (The indicators for article 9 are to be read with the relevant monitoring indicators in table 4.)

D7. Outcome indicator for article 9	Total amount of mercury releases in the inventory from relevant sources	- Article 21 reporting - Inventories	Amount in the first evaluation
D8. Process indicator for article 9	Number of parties that have identified relevant sources	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
D9. Process indicator for article 9	Number of parties that have established and maintained an inventory of releases from relevant sources	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation

Article 12

D10. Process indicator for article 12	Number of parties that have developed strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
D11. Process indicator for article 12	Number of parties that have developed an inventory of contaminated sites	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There may be some data gaps, as parties are not obliged to share the information collected as part of their inventory. 		
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<i>E: Support cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
<i>Article 13 (financial resources and mechanism); article 14 (capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer)</i>			

Article 13

E1. Process indicator for article 13	Number of parties that have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contributed to the financial mechanism referred to in article 13, para. 5 ○ Received Global Environment Facility resources ○ Received SIP resources ○ Mobilized national resources for implementing the Convention within the reporting period 	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
E2. Process indicator for article 13	Amount of resources provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global Environment Facility ○ SIP ○ Bilateral support within the reporting period 	- Article 21 reporting - Other public sources	Amount in the first evaluation
E3. Additional process indicator for article 13	Number of recommendations from the financial review reflected in the Global Environment Facility/SIP policy documents	- Information from policy documents	Zero

Article 14

E4. Process indicator for article 14	Number of parties that have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperated in providing capacity-building and technical assistance to another party 2. Requested technical assistance 3. Received capacity-building or technical assistance 4. Promoted or facilitated technology transfer 	- Article 21 reporting - Other public sources	Number in the first evaluation
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Notes

- The cycle of review of the financial mechanism may well not align with the effectiveness evaluation cycle.
- As the reporting format does not request dollar values for resources provided, other public sources may need to be consulted.

<i>F: Article 15 (Implementation and Compliance Committee)</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
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F1. Process indicator	Proportion of issues that the Implementation and Compliance Committee was able to resolve, including indications of systemic issues, if any	- Implementation and Compliance Committee report, as referred to in article 21	Percentage in the first evaluation
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Notes

- The Conference of the Parties is to consider the terms of reference of the Implementation and Compliance Committee at its third meeting.

<i>G: Article 16 (Health aspects)</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
(The indicator for article 16 is to be read with the relevant monitoring indicators indicated in table 4)			
G1. Monitoring indicator	Mercury levels in selected human populations (as defined by the monitoring arrangements)	- Existing monitoring data and activities	Number in the first evaluation
G2. Process indicator	Number of parties that have taken measures, such as fish advisories, to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
G3. Process indicator	Number of parties that have taken measures to protect human health, in accordance with article 16	- Article 21 reporting - Submissions to the secretariat	Number in the first evaluation
Notes	▪ Mercury levels in biota are also to be considered.		
<i>H: Information and research cluster</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
<i>Article 17 (information exchange); article 18 (public information, awareness and education); article 19 (research, development and monitoring)</i>			
Article 17			
H1. Process indicator for article 17	Number of parties with designated national focal points	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
H2. Process indicator for article 17	Number of parties that have facilitated the exchange of information related to mercury	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
Article 18			
H3. Process indicator for article 18	Number of parties that have taken measures to implement article 18	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
H4. Process indicator for article 18	Average number of measures under paragraph 1 of article 18 that are being implemented by parties	- Derived from article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
H5. Process indicator for article 18	Number of parties that have public information on mercury levels in air, humans and biota within their territory	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
H6. Process indicator for article 18	Number of parties undertaking risk communication relating to mercury intake through food and water consumption within their territory	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
Article 19			
H7. Process indicator for article 19	Number of parties that have undertaken research, development and monitoring, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19	- Article 21 reporting	Number in the first evaluation
H8. Process indicator for article 19	Number of parties contributing data and knowledge to integrated assessments	- Existing monitoring networks, databases, scientific data and literature	Number in the first evaluation
H9. Additional process indicator for article 19	Number of regions contributing to a regional dataset	- Existing monitoring networks, databases, scientific data and literature	Number in the first evaluation
Notes	▪ Submissions to the secretariat that supplement article 21 reporting		

<i>I: Article 20 (implementation plans)</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
I1. Process indicator	Number of parties submitting implementation plans	- Secretariat report to the Conference of the Parties on implementation plan submissions	Zero
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties are not obliged to prepare an implementation plan. Some parties have nevertheless found it useful to prepare such a plan and submit it to the secretariat. 		

<i>J: Article 21 (reporting)</i>		<i>Source of information on the indicator</i>	<i>Baseline for the indicator</i>
J1. Process indicator	Proportion of parties reporting on time	- Article 21 reporting	Percentage of the first submission on time
J2. Process indicator	Proportion of reports received on time	- Article 21 reporting	Percentage not available in the first reports
J3. Process indicator	Proportion of parties indicating that information is not available for specific questions	- Article 21 reporting	Percentage not available in the first reports
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties are to report every two years. 		

Abbreviations: ASGM, artisanal and small-scale gold mining; BAT/BEP, best available techniques/best environmental practices; SIP, Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-building and Technical Assistance.

Annex II to decision MC-3/10

Framework for the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention

Figure 1
Information and analysis flow

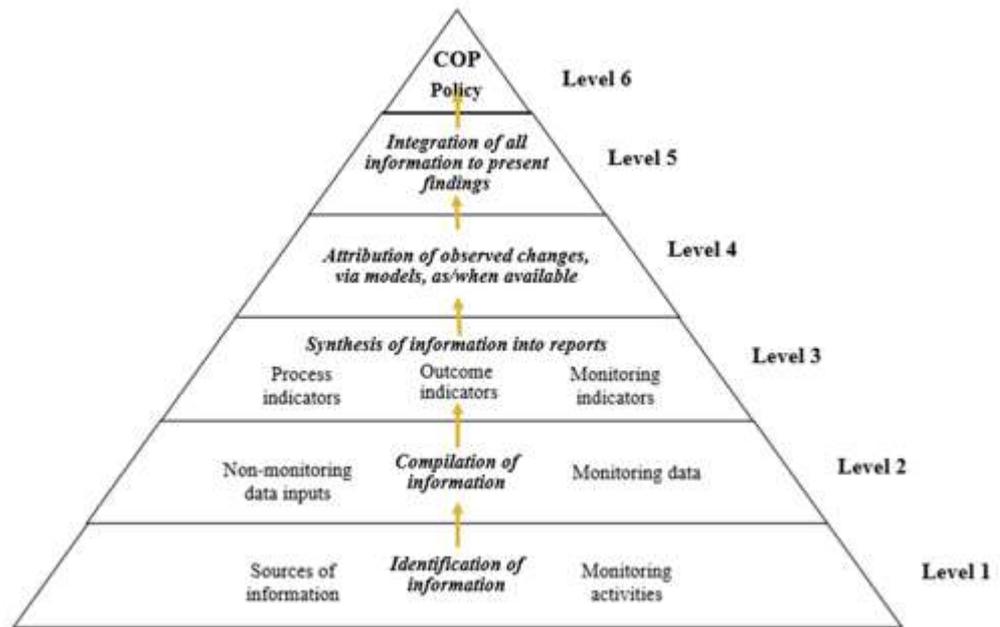


Figure 2
Framework institutional arrangements

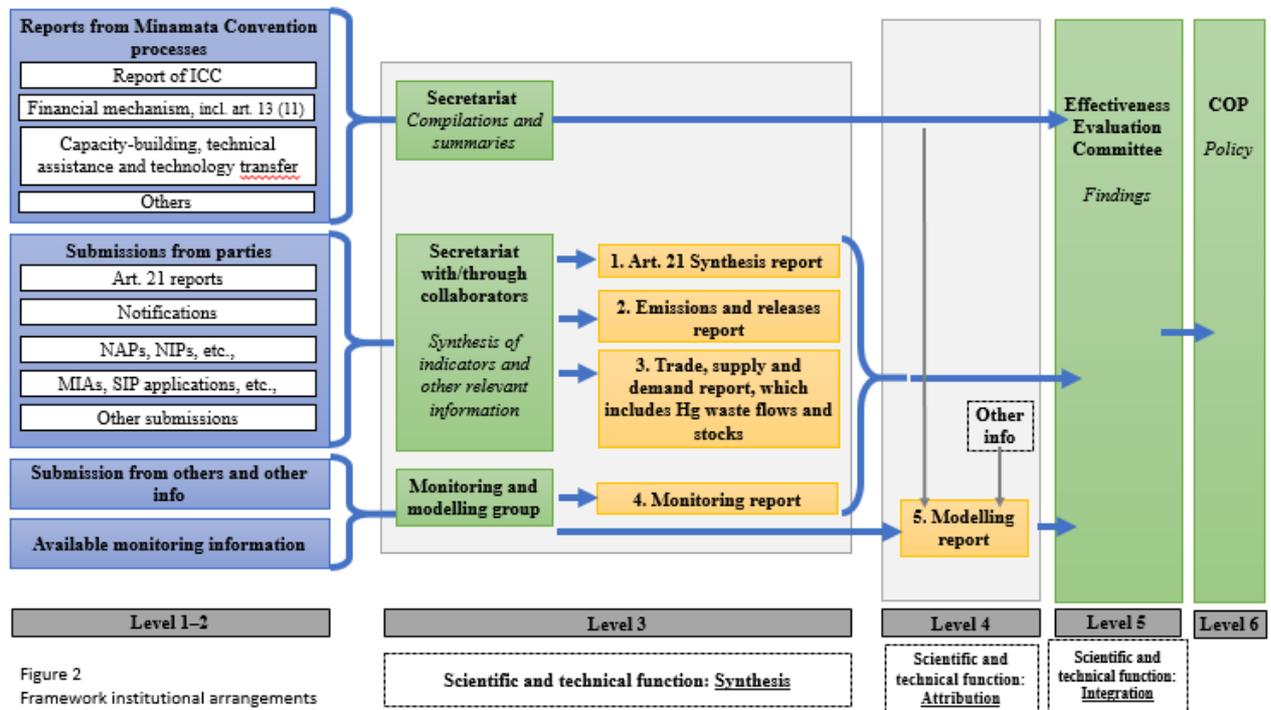


Figure 2
Framework institutional arrangements

Abbreviations: COP, Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury; ICC, Implementation and Compliance Committee; MIA, Minamata initial assessment; NAP, national action plan; NIP, national implementation plan; SIP, Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-building and Technical Assistance.

MC-3/11: Enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that paragraph 4 of article 24 of the Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties, in consultation with the appropriate international bodies, may provide for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the secretariat and the secretariats of other chemicals and waste conventions, and may provide further guidance on this matter,

Also recalling decision MC-2/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, as well as decision BC-14/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, decision RC-9/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decision SC-9/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including the requests in those decisions for a stable framework for sharing of relevant services between the secretariats of these conventions,

Recognizing that sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats and the accountability of their executive heads,

Expressing gratitude for the operative proposal of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for sharing services between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,¹¹

1. *Takes note* of the content of the Executive Director's operative proposal and of the various options provided therein;
2. *Affirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies; the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch; and the possibility for the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to purchase services from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the Minamata Convention for each biennium;
3. *Welcomes* the recommendation by the United Nations Environment Programme to establish inter-secretariat working groups to address specific aspects of relevant services;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the performance of secretariat functions for the Minamata Convention and mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to support the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in its efforts to enhance cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, including through the regular use of the task force comprising the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch as a stable framework of cooperation and sharing of relevant secretariat services, in accordance with decision MC-2/7;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To establish, with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical assistance and technical matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget;
 - (b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;
 - (c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and sharing of services, together with an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the period 2022–2023, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

¹¹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/16.

MC-3/12: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020-2021

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision MC-1/15 on the programme of work of the secretariat and proposed budget for the biennium 2018–2019,

Recalling also its decision MC-2/12 on the update on the budget for 2019,

Welcoming the effort undertaken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing an operative proposal, as requested in paragraph 1 of decision MC-2/7, to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources of the Minamata Convention,

Welcoming also the annual contribution by Switzerland, the host country of the secretariat, of 1 million Swiss francs, apportioned 60 per cent to the general trust fund and 40 per cent to the special trust fund to be prioritized for the purpose of supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the contributions paid by the parties to the general trust fund,

Noting that the Convention's full working capital reserve in the general trust fund was established in 2018, and reaffirming that the working capital reserve shall be maintained at the level of 15 per cent of the annual budget,

Recognizing with appreciation the contributions and pledges made by Austria, the European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland to the special trust fund in the biennium 2018–2019,

Recognizing also, with appreciation, the contributions and pledges made by Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the specific trust fund in the biennium 2018–2019,

Recalling its request to the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020-2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, in 2019, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for that biennium in a programmatic format and broken down by budget activities, with each activity to be supported by a budget activity fact sheet,

Recalling also its request to the Executive Secretary, in preparing the budgets and programme of work for the biennium 2020-2021, to present two scenarios:

- (a) One maintaining the operational budget at the 2019 level in nominal terms;
- (b) One reflecting required changes to the above-mentioned scenario to meet the projected needs and costs or savings related thereto,

Recalling further its request to the Executive Secretary to take into account the operative proposal on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services submitted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, including relevant options, in the preparation of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020-2021, pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision MC-2/7,

1. *Invites* parties and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide an in-kind contribution, in the form of a secondment/Junior Professional Officer, to support the operation of the Specific International Programme in the biennium 2020-2021;

I

General trust fund for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

2. *Takes note* of the report provided by the Executive Secretary on the main activities of the secretariat in the intersessional period,¹² as well as the report on expenditures for the biennium 2018–2019 provided in the information on financial matters;¹³

¹² UNEP/MC/COP.3/19.

¹³ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/10.

3. *Also takes note* of the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021,¹⁴ as well as the additional information on financial matters,¹⁵ the proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios¹⁶ and the budget activity fact sheets;¹⁷

4. *Approves* the budget for the general trust fund for the biennium 2020–2021 of 7,579,959 United States dollars;

5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessment for the apportionment of expenses for 2020–2021 as set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all parties for which the Convention is in force by 1 January 2020;

6. *Recalls* that contributions to the general trust fund are due by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted and at the latest by 31 December of that year, and requests parties to pay their contributions as soon as possible to enable the secretariat to carry out its work;

II

Special trust fund for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

7. *Takes note* of the update provided by the Executive Secretary on the activities of 2019 and the expenditures for 2018–2019 through the special trust fund as contained in the information on financial matters,¹⁸ as well as the report on the main activities of the secretariat in the intersessional period;¹⁹

8. *Also takes note* of the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021,²⁰ as well as the additional information on financial matters,²¹ the proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios²² and the budget activity fact sheets;²³

9. *Further takes note of* the estimates for the special trust fund for the biennium 2020–2021 of 4,377,620 United States dollars;

10. *Notes* that the implementation of the planned activities is subject to the availability of resources contributed to the special trust fund;

11. *Requests* parties to the Convention, and invites non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so, to contribute to the special trust fund to support the capacity-building and technical assistance activities of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in accordance with article 14 of the Convention;

12. *Invites* parties and non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so to contribute to the special trust fund to support the participation of representatives of parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

III

Specific Trust Fund for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

13. *Takes note* of the overall report on the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-building and Technical Assistance and the specific trust fund established for those activities;²⁴

¹⁴ UNEP/MC/COP.3/20.

¹⁵ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/10.

¹⁶ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/11 and INF/11/Add.1.

¹⁷ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/9.

¹⁸ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/10.

¹⁹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/19.

²⁰ UNEP/MC/COP.3/20.

²¹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/10.

²² UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/11 and INF/11/Add.1.

²³ UNEP/MC/COP.3/INF/9.

²⁴ UNEP/MC/COP.3/10.

14. *Invites* parties and non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so to contribute to the specific trust fund to support capacity-building and technical assistance activities in accordance with article 13 of the Convention;

IV

Preparations for the biennium 2022–2023

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in 2021, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for that biennium in a programmatic format and broken down by budget activities, with each activity to be supported by a budget activity fact sheet;

16. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing the budget and programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023, to present two scenarios:

(a) One maintaining the operational budget at the 2020–2021 level in nominal terms;

(b) One reflecting required changes to the above-mentioned scenario to meet the projected needs and costs or savings related thereto, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2020–2021 level in nominal terms;

17. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the budget proposals are realistic and represent the agreed priorities of all parties to help ensure a sustainable and stable fund and cash balance, including contributions received;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in keeping with paragraph 8 of rule 5 of the Financial Rules of the Minamata Convention, to acknowledge promptly the receipt of all pledges and contributions and inform the parties thereof by publishing on the Convention website up-to-date information on the status of pledges and payments of contributions, and also requests the Executive Secretary to provide detailed, up-to-date information on actual income and expenses of the three trust funds;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties.

Table 1

Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

(in United States dollars)

Activity Number	Activity	(2020)		(2021)	
		General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund	General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund
A.	Conferences and meetings				
1	Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties				
	1.1 Fourth meeting			1 055 000	425 000
	1.2 Regional preparatory meetings				420 000
	1.3 Intersessional time-based expert groups mandated by the Conference of the Parties	100 000	85 000		100 000
	Component total	100 000	85 000	1 055 000	945 000
2	Bureau of the Conference of the Parties				
	2.1 Meeting of the Bureau			26 000	
	Component total			26 000	
3	Implementation and Compliance Committee				
	3.1 Meeting of the Committee			53 000	
	Component total			53 000	

Activity Number	Activity	(2020)		(2021)	
		General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund	General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund
	Total (A)	100 000	85 000	1 134 000	945 000
B.	Capacity-building and technical assistance				
4	Capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention				
	4.1 Tools and methodologies		40,000		60 000
	4.2 Specific capacity development activities		270 000		270 000
	4.3 Capacity-building activities on request		45 000		90 000
	4.4 Cross-cutting activities		230 000		230 000
	Component total		585 000		650 000
	Total (B)		585 000		650 000
C.	Scientific and technical activities				
5	Scientific support to the States parties to the Minamata Convention				
	5.1 Information collection and analysis on customs codes/products and processes	30 000		30 000	
	5.2 Updating of guidance on ASGM national action plans		50 000		50 000
	5.3 Updating/development of guidance on mercury emissions/releases		50 000		50 000
	5.4 Information collection and analysis on mercury waste and contaminated sites	30 000	20 000	30 000	20 000
	5.5 Cross-cutting scientific and technical activities		500 000		400 000
	Component total	60 000	620 000	60 000	520 000
6	Effectiveness evaluation^a				
	6.1 Development of draft guidance on monitoring	85 000	150 000	85 000	
	6.2 Development of trade, supply and demand report			200 000	
	Component total	85 000	150 000	285 000	
7	National reporting under the Minamata Convention				
	7.1 National reporting under the Minamata Convention	40 000		76 500	
	Component total	40 000		76 500	
	Total (C)	185 000	770 000	421 500	520 000
D.	Knowledge and information management, and outreach				
8	Publications				
	8.1 Publications	25 000	30 000	20 000	30 000
	Component total	25 000	30 000	20 000	30 000
9	Communication, outreach and public awareness				
	9.1 Communication, outreach and public awareness	85 000	25 000	70 000	
	Component total	85 000	25 000	70 000	
	Total (D)	110 000	55 000	90 000	30 000

Activity Number	Activity	(2020)		(2021)	
		General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund	General Trust Fund	Special Trust Fund
E.	Overall management				
10	Executive direction and management				
	10.1 Overall management*	1 967 600		2 026 328	
	10.2 Staff travel	140 000		140 000	
	Component total	2 107 600		2 166 328	
11	International cooperation and coordination				
	11.1 Cooperation on the broader sustainable development and environment agenda				
	11.2 Cooperation within the chemicals and waste cluster				
	11.3 Other cooperation and coordination				
	Component total				
12	Financial resources and mechanism				
	12.1 Financial mechanism				
	12.2 Financial resources				
	Component total				
	Total (E)	2 107 600		2 166 328	
F.	Legal and policy activities				
13	Legal and policy activities				
	13.1 SDGs and gender		120 000		114 000
	Component total		120 000		114 000
	Total (F)		120 000		114 000
G.	Office maintenance and services				
14	Office maintenance and services				
	14.1 Office maintenance and services	145 000		145 000	
	Component total	145 000		145 000	
15	Information technology services				
	15.1 Information technology services	53 500		50 000	
	Component total	53 500		50 000	
	Total (G)	198 500		195 000	
	Resources required for all activities				
	Total direct costs (excluding programme support costs) (A to G)	2 701 100	1 615 000	4 006 828	2 259 000
	Programme support costs (13%)	351 143	209 950	520 888	293 670
	Grand total (including programme support costs)	3 052 243	1 824 950	4 527 716	2 552 670

^a Activity 6, effectiveness evaluation, was adjusted by the secretariat as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

* On an exceptional basis, and only after cost savings and efficiency efforts have been exhausted, the Executive Secretary may draw from the working capital reserve to meet any liabilities resulting from a final decision in ongoing litigation by the Geneva-based staff.

Table 2
Overview of the indicative scale of assessment and contributions to the General Trust Fund for 2020-2021

(in United States dollars)

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base (%)</i>	<i>Total contributions (2020-2021)</i>
African States (32)			
1. Benin	0.003	0.0100	646
2. Botswana	0.014	0.0172	1 109
3. Burkina Faso	0.003	0.0100	646
4. Chad	0.004	0.0100	646
5. Comoros	0.001	0.0100	646
6. Congo	0.006	0.0100	646
7. Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	0.0159	1 030
8. Djibouti	0.001	0.0100	646
9. Equatorial Guinea	0.016	0.0196	1 267
10. Eswatini	0.002	0.0100	646
11. Gabon	0.015	0.0184	1 188
12. Gambia	0.001	0.0100	646
13. Ghana	0.015	0.0184	1 188
14. Guinea	0.003	0.0100	646
15. Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.0100	646
16. Lesotho	0.001	0.0100	646
17. Madagascar	0.004	0.0100	646
18. Mali	0.004	0.0100	646
19. Mauritania	0.002	0.0100	646
20. Mauritius	0.011	0.0135	871
21. Namibia	0.009	0.0110	713
22. Niger	0.002	0.0100	646
23. Nigeria	0.25	0.3063	19 799
24. Rwanda	0.003	0.0100	646
25. Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.0100	646
26. Senegal	0.007	0.0100	646
27. Seychelles	0.002	0.0100	646
28. Sierra Leone	0.001	0.0100	646
29. South Africa	0.272	0.3333	21 541
30. Togo	0.002	0.0100	646
31. Uganda	0.008	0.0100	646
32. Zambia	0.009	0.0110	713
Asia-Pacific States (27)			
33. Afghanistan	0.007	0.0100	646
34. China	12.005	14.7103	950 747
35. India	0.834	1.0219	66 049
36. Indonesia	0.543	0.6654	43 003
37. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	0.4877	31 520
38. Japan	8.564	10.4939	678 234
39. Jordan	0.021	0.0257	1 663
40. Kiribati	0.001	0.0100	646
41. Kuwait	0.252	0.3088	19 957

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base (%)</i>	<i>Total contributions (2020-2021)</i>
42. Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.005	0.0100	646
43. Lebanon	0.047	0.0576	3 722
44. Marshall Islands	0.001	0.0100	646
45. Mongolia	0.005	0.0100	646
46. Palau	0.001	0.0100	646
47. Republic of Korea	2.267	2.7779	179 537
48. Samoa	0.001	0.0100	646
49. Saudi Arabia	1.172	1.4361	92 818
50. Singapore	0.485	0.5943	38 410
51. Sri Lanka	0.044	0.0539	3 485
52. State of Palestine	0.008	0.0100	646
53. Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	0.0135	871
54. Thailand	0.307	0.3762	24 313
55. Tonga	0.001	0.0100	646
56. Tuvalu	0.001	0.0100	646
57. United Arab Emirates	0.616	0.7548	48 785
58. Vanuatu	0.001	0.0100	646
59. Viet Nam	0.077	0.0944	6 098
Central and Eastern European States (13)			
60. Armenia	0.007	0.0100	646
61. Bulgaria	0.046	0.0564	3 643
62. Croatia	0.077	0.0944	6 098
63. Czechia	0.311	0.3811	24 630
64. Estonia	0.039	0.0478	3 089
65. Hungary	0.206	0.2524	16 314
66. Latvia	0.047	0.0576	3 722
67. Lithuania	0.071	0.0870	5 623
68. Montenegro	0.004	0.0100	646
69. Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.0100	646
70. Romania	0.198	0.2426	15 681
71. Slovakia	0.153	0.1875	12 117
72. Slovenia	0.076	0.0931	6 019
Latin America and Caribbean States (23)			
73. Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.0100	646
74. Argentina	0.915	1.1212	72 464
75. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	0.0196	1 267
76. Brazil	2.948	3.6123	233 470
77. Chile	0.407	0.4987	32 233
78. Colombia	0.288	0.3529	22 808
79. Costa Rica	0.062	0.0760	4 910
80. Cuba	0.08	0.0980	6 336
81. Dominican Republic	0.053	0.0649	4 197
82. Ecuador	0.08	0.0980	6 336
83. El Salvador	0.012	0.0147	950
84. Guyana	0.002	0.0100	646
85. Honduras	0.009	0.0110	713
86. Jamaica	0.008	0.0100	646

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base (%)</i>	<i>Total contributions (2020-2021)</i>
87. Mexico	1.292	1.5832	102 321
88. Nicaragua	0.005	0.0100	646
89. Panama	0.045	0.0551	3 564
90. Paraguay	0.016	0.0196	1 267
91. Peru	0.152	0.1863	12 038
92. Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.0100	646
93. Saint Lucia	0.001	0.0100	646
94. Suriname	0.005	0.0100	646
95. Uruguay	0.087	0.1066	6 890
Western European and other States (21)			
96. Austria	0.677	0.8296	53 616
97. Belgium	0.821	1.0060	65 020
98. Canada	2.734	3.3501	216 522
99. Denmark	0.554	0.6788	43 875
100. European Union	2.5	2.5000	161 578
101. Finland	0.421	0.5159	33 341
102. France	4.427	5.4246	350 600
103. Germany	6.09	7.4624	482 303
104. Iceland	0.028	0.0343	2 217
105. Ireland	0.371	0.4546	29 382
106. Liechtenstein	0.009	0.0110	713
107. Luxembourg	0.067	0.0821	5 306
108. Malta	0.017	0.0208	1 346
109. Monaco	0.011	0.0135	871
110. Netherlands	1.356	1.6616	107 390
111. Norway	0.754	0.9239	59 714
112. Portugal	0.35	0.4289	27 719
113. Sweden	0.906	1.1102	71 751
114. Switzerland	1.151	1.4104	91 154
115. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.567	5.5962	361 688
116. United States of America	22.000	22.0000	1 421 885
Total assessed contributions		100.00	6 463 115
Total budget (Including host country contribution*)			7 579 959

* Includes (estimated) host country contribution of Switzerland to the General Trust Fund in United States dollars.

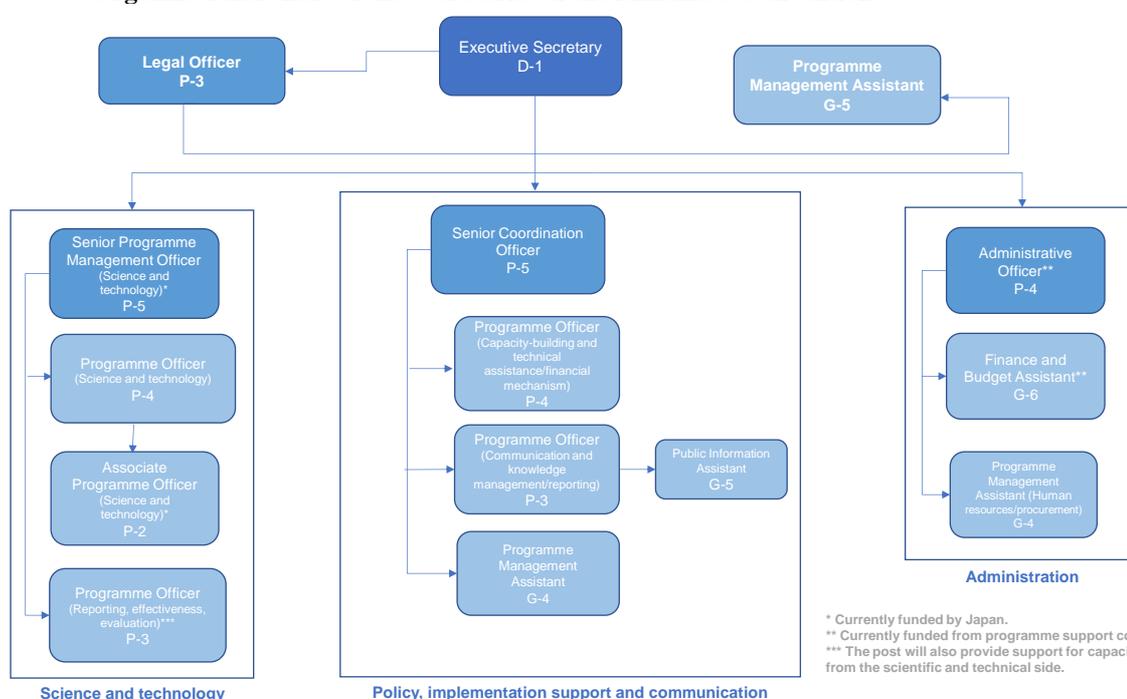
Table 3
Indicative staffing requirements

(in United States dollars)

<i>Staff positions</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Total costs for biennium 2020-2021 (Geneva standard salary costs)</i>
D-1 Executive Secretary	1	537 544
P-5 Coordination and policy	1	482 328
P-4 Science and technology	1	414 120
P-4 Capacity-building and technical assistance	1	414 120
P-3 Communication and Knowledge Management	1	341 852
P-3 Programme Officer (Reporting, effectiveness evaluation)	1	341 852
P-3 Legal Officer	1	341 852
GS Programme assistance	4	1 100 260
Total staff costs (in United States dollars)	11	3 973 928

Note: In addition to the staff indicated above, the posts of one P-4 Administrative Officer and one GS-6 Finance and Budget Assistant will be funded from programme support costs.

Table 4
Organizational chart of the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention



* Currently funded by Japan.
 ** Currently funded from programme support costs.
 *** The post will also provide support for capacity-building from the scientific and technical side.

MC-3/13: Guidance for completing the national reporting format

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the need for complete and consistent national reporting to provide information for the effectiveness evaluation and supporting compliance,

Welcoming the work of the secretariat to prepare information on the short national reporting format for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its third meeting,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare draft guidance for the full national reporting format, in order to clarify the information being sought in the national report format;
 2. *Also requests* the secretariat to seek comments from parties and other stakeholders on the draft guidance by March 2021, to take into account the comments, and to provide a revised draft of the guidance, as appropriate;
 3. *Encourages* parties to use the draft guidance on a provisional basis to assist in preparing their full national reports, which are due by 31 December 2021;
 4. *Requests* the secretariat to submit the draft guidance for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.
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