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MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Implementation and Compliance Committee
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 18–20 February 2025

Report on the seventh meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 18 to 20 February 2025, Geneva

Item 1
Opening of the meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") was held in Geneva from 18 to 20 February 2025.

2. Anik Beaudoin (Canada), Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting at 9 a.m. (Geneva time) on Tuesday 18 February 2025. She greeted Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for the meeting, and welcomed Committee members thanking them for their commitment to the protection of human health and the environment from mercury emissions and releases through the work of the Committee. The Chair noted the importance of the meeting as an opportunity to review progress made by Parties to implement the Convention and that she looked forward to productive discussions.

3. Brenda Koekkoek, Senior Coordination Officer of the Minamata Convention, welcomed members of the Committee to the seventh meeting of the Committee on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Monika Stankiewicz. The Executive Secretary conveyed her regards from Washington, where she was attending the Technical Advisory Group meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in preparation for the negotiations of the GEF ninth replenishment cycle. Brenda Koekkoek highlighted that the Committee plays a vital role in supporting the Convention's implementation and provided an overview of the focus of the meeting. In closing, she noted that the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6) would take place from 3 to 7 November in Geneva, expressed appreciation for the Committee's expertise and extended special thanks to the Chair, Anik Beaudoin, and Vice-Chair, Musa Kuzumila Ngunila.

4. Following the opening statement and introductory remarks by Committee members, the Chair noted that three members of the Committee were unable to attend the meeting: Amit Raj (India), Oluwatoyin Olabanji (Nigeria), and Meredith Henry-Cumberbatch (Suriname). The Chair explained that, since the last meeting of the Committee, India had nominated Amit Raj to replace its previous member, Satyendra Kumar.

5. The following members were present at the seventh meeting:

From the African States:
Mve Beh Jean Hervé (Gabon)
Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (Tanzania)

From the Asia-Pacific States:
Hossein Rahdar (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
Hu Yunfang (China)

From the Eastern European States:
Jelena Kovačević (Montenegro)
Atanas Stoyanov Dishkelov (Bulgaria)
Eva Salplachtova (Czechia)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:
María del Mar Solano Trejos (Costa Rica)
Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia)

From the Western European and other States:
Anik Beaudoin (Canada)
Helga Schrott (Austria)
Gene Smilansky (United States of America)

6. The following observer was present at the seventh meeting: Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti, Legal Officer (Legal and Policy Unit), Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Item 2
Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

7. The Committee adopted the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/MC/ICC.7/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Election of Officers
   (c) Organization of work
3. Written submission from a Party with respect of its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15.
4. National reporting pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention
5. Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2026-2027
6. Venue and date of the eight meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report
9. Closure of the meeting.

(b) Election of Officers

8. The Committee elected Hu Yunfang (China) as Chair, and Eva Salplachtova (Czechia), as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur to serve for the period commencing at the closure of the seventh meeting until the closure of the following in-person meeting of the Committee.

(c) Organization of work

9. The Committee agreed to meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 18, 19 and 20 February 2025, subject to adjustments as necessary.

10. The Chair of the Committee recalled that deliberations to prepare conclusions and possible recommendations to the Conference of the Parties shall be closed to observers, pursuant to rule 15 of the Committee's rules of procedure.

Item 3
Written submission from a Party with respect of its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15

11. The Committee turned to the consideration of documents UNEP/MC/ICC.7/2 and UNEP/MC/ICC.7/3 prepared by the Secretariat.

12. The Chair pointed out that on 2 January 2025, in response to the request contained in paragraph 2 of decision ICC6/1, Mexico shared with the Secretariat a strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention. Mexico's strategy is reproduced in the annex to the proposed draft decision contained in part III of document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/2. The text of the original submission from Mexico is resubmitted to this meeting in document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/3.

13. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, Mexico participated in the consideration of its written submission by the Committee. Representatives from the Mexican government gave a presentation on their strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention and responded to questions of Committee members on the matter. They were accompanied by representatives of IQUISA company, who runs the only remaining chlorine and caustic soda production plant with mercury cell technology identified in the written submission.

14. The Committee then considered in closed session a draft decision on the matter and adopted decision ICC-7/1, set out in annex I to the present report.

Item 4
National reporting pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention

15. Under this agenda item the Committee considered issues of implementation and compliance on the basis of the second short national reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention for the reporting period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present on its report on national reporting pursuant to Article 21 contained in document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/4. [1]

16. The Secretariat recalled that, according to paragraph 1 of Article 21, Parties report to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat on measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention. According to paragraph 2 of Article 15 the Committee shall promote implementation of, and review compliance with, all provisions of the Convention, and shall examine both individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties. The Committee may consider issues based on national reports pursuant to paragraph 4(b) of Article 15 of the Convention. The Secretariat recalled that in Decision MC-1/8, the Conference agreed on the timing and format of national reporting by Parties, and that the full format covered 43 questions to be reported by all Parties every four years, while the short report covered four questions (questions 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 11.2 marked by * in the full format) to be reported on every two years. Furthermore, the Secretariat pointed out that, in addition to the questions, the reporting format also included Part C which gave Parties the opportunity to comment on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The Secretariat noted that, according to the same decision, the second full national reports, covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024, were due by 31 December 2025.

17. The Secretariat explained that it completed its review of the submitted national reports and prepared a report, in accordance with paragraph 25(b) of the Terms of Reference of the Committee, to inform the

[1] The Secretariat report on the second short national reports will be updated to reflect the reporting performance as at 31 May 2025, and reproduced in its entirety in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/19 to be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Committee of the following: (a) Parties' reporting performance; (b) particular issues that emerged from the national reports and might be of interest to the Committee.

18. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat explained the steps taken to review the completeness of the second national reports and presented the national reporting dashboard[2], which compiles information on reporting performance and all quantitative responses of the reporting format. Furthermore, the Secretariat pointed out that its report, contained in document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/4, had been informed by the Secretariat's detailed review of the responses submitted by Parties to the four recurrent questions, as well as responses to part C of the reporting format. The report was further supplemented by three documents: UNEP/MC/ICC/7/5, which provided an overview of the results of the second short national reports and findings of the Secretariat; UNEP/MC/ICC.7/INF/1 providing an update on the status of submissions by Parties on ratifications, notifications, national reports, Minamata Convention initial assessments, national action plans, and national implementation plans, and; UNEP/MC/ICC.7/INF/2 setting out the responses received for the second short national reports in summary tabular form. The Secretariat explained that those documents were updated to reflect information from national reports submitted by Parties since the sixth meeting of the Committee.

19. The Secretariat also explained it had collected new information in response to particular requests issued by the Committee at previous meetings and that the information was contained in the following documents: UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/3 on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives from other multilateral environmental agreements regarding the functioning of their trade procedure, which was prepared by the Secretariat in response to a Committee's request at its sixth meeting;[3] and UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/4, which provided an overview of the status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks requested by the Committee at its fifth meeting.

20. The Secretariat was invited by the Chair to present its findings related to reporting performance as well as responses to questions 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 and 11.2 as identified in the Secretariat's report on the second short national reports.

Reporting Performance

21. The Secretariat observed that reporting performance for the latest reporting cycle was lower than the previous reporting cycles. The representative further pointed out that the reporting performance alone did not tell the full story of how Parties were performing. The Secretariat explained that the number of Parties required to report for the latest reporting cycle needed to be considered in evaluating the reporting performance as there were substantially more Parties required to report for the second short national report as compared to first short national report.

22. The Committee expressed appreciation for the 82% reporting rate and recognized the increase in the number of Parties required to submit their national reports compared to the previous reporting rounds. It also acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts to reach out and support the submission of the remaining 24 reports.

23. A Committee member inquired how the Secretariat determined which questions were mandatory. The Secretariat explained that of the 43 questions laid out in the Annex to decision MC-1/8, only 10 were marked as supplementary. The unmarked 33 questions were mandatory. Another Committee member inquired about the nature of the follow-up questions the Secretariat conducted when a report was classified as incomplete or needing clarification. The Secretariat confirmed that all follow-up questions were limited to information required under decision MC-1/8, applicable COP decisions that clarified or amended the reporting format, or the respective obligation subject to the reporting format question.

24. A member of the Committee also expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts in improving data management and visualization of the results of the responses to the reports and making the latter accessible to the Parties on the Convention's website.

25. On the question of the deadline by which the Parties who had not yet submitted their second short national reports should be requested to do so, the Secretariat suggested 31 May 2025, as this date would allow newly submitted reports to be taken into account in the reporting performance in the Secretariat's report to the COP.

[2] Available at https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/reporting

[3] See para. 26 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Committee.

26. Based on the findings on reporting performance presented by the Secretariat and its deliberations, the Committee reached the conclusions set out in Annex II to this report.

Primary mercury mining (question 3.1 of the reporting format)

27. With respect to question 3.1 on having any primary mercury mines that were operating within the territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention, One Party reported the presence of illegal primary mercury mining in its territory by responding "yes" to the questions, following paragraph 1 of Decision MC-5/2. The same Party previously described the issue of illegal primary mercury mining also in its full national report (2021) and its previous short national report (2019) under Part C: Opportunity to comment on possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention. It also provided information in its response to the Secretariat's inquiry, pursuant to the Committee's request for further clarification on the issue of informal primary mercury mining at its fourth meeting in 2022.

28. The Secretariat also noted that another Party responded "Yes" to question 3.1 but the reported data was unclear on the quantity reported and whether the report covered both formal and informal primary mercury mining production. The same Party had mentioned in its full report (2021) the persistence of mercury production through its environmental monitoring efforts that might be additional to its known closed mines.

29. The Secretariat concluded that Parties with important mercury deposits raised the presence of informal or illegal primary mining in their territories since the first reporting cycle, and invited the Committee to consider if there was a systemic issue of implementation or compliance of the obligation "not to allow primary mercury mining" under paragraph 3 of Article 3 when illegal or informal primary mercury mining was being conducted in a Party's territory without the proper government license, and any other aspect that it might see related to this information.

30. A Committee member noted that there was no evidence of a Party issuing a government license allowing primary mercury mining in its territory and that therefore there was no issue of compliance with the above-mentioned obligation under Article 3. The same Committee member further suggested that more information was needed on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 3.

31. Based on the findings on responses to question 3.1 as presented by the Secretariat and its deliberations, the Committee did not conclude that there was a systemic issue and reached the conclusions and recommendation set out in Annex II to this report.

Stocks and sources (question 3.3 of the reporting format)

32. With respect to question 3.3 on having endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that were located within its territory, the Secretariat explained that the responses to the question provided a good overview of the outcome of Parties' individual endeavours to identify stocks and sources of mercury. Compared to previous reporting cycles, there was also an improvement in the quality of the information shared by Parties in response to question 3.3, with clearer distinctions in the reports between identified stocks and sources, quantities of mercury identified and reported, and additional descriptions of the endeavours taken. However, while there was improvement in the description of the endeavours undertaken, the totality of information was still providing an incomplete status of the stocks and sources globally. The Secretariat further pointed out that the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 5(a) of decision MC-5/2, had requested the Secretariat to update the existing guidance on stocks adopted in decision MC-1/2 to include types of action that could be taken to fulfil the continuing obligation to endeavour to identify stocks and sources. The Secretariat also highlighted the amounts reported and that certain reports might have outdated data, particularly those reports that cited the Minamata Initial Assessments as their sole reference.

33. A Committee member also inquired if there was value in knowing the amounts below the threshold, and whether the Secretariat included amounts reported below the threshold when considering the amounts reported. The same Committee member noted that it was helpful to include amounts even if below the thresholds. The Secretariat explained that the Convention required Parties to identify amounts exceeding the specific thresholds provided under paragraph 5 of Article 3. However, some Parties reported specific quantities below the thresholds, while others only provided a general description of what was identified as "below the threshold". Due to the variance in reporting inventories below the threshold, it was difficult to consider these values in the overall assessment of the inventories reported under question 3.1,

The Secretariat gave more consideration on the amounts reported above the thresholds and noted that it would be useful information to have and understand inventory levels, especially if it is very close to the thresholds under paragraph 5 of Article 3.

34. One Committee member raised the need to signal to the Conference of Parties that the Committee was looking into the issue that Parties solely relying on the information in their Minamata Initial Assessments might need to update their inventories. Another Committee member supported the proposal and added that Parties needed to continue their ongoing efforts to endeavour to identify individual stocks and sources of mercury in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Convention and look at additional sources aside from their Minamata Initial Assessments.

35. A member of the Committee inquired if there were examples of other sources of information from which Parties could derive their inventories. The Secretariat cited several examples mentioned in the guidance for completing the national reporting format.

36. A Committee member noted that clarity on the information on inventories might improve with the upcoming updates to the above-mentioned guidance on stocks adopted in decision MC-1/2.

37. Based on the findings on responses to question 3.3 as presented by the Secretariat and its deliberations, the Committee reached the conclusions set out in the annex II to this document.

Mercury trade (question 3.5 of the reporting format)

38. With respect to question 3.5 on having received consent for all exports of mercury from the Party's territory, the Secretariat observed that the quality of information submitted by the Parties in their second short national reports had not improved from the previous reporting cycle. The Secretariat noted that other information submitted in lieu of the trade consent form did not show that all requirements of Article 3 had been met. The Secretariat also noted that many Parties either reported on illegal trade or trade not conforming to the Convention or raised it as a challenge in implementing the Convention in the past three reporting cycles.

39. The Secretariat presented document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/3 prepared in response to the request, issued by the Committee at its sixth meeting, to collect information on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives from other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) regarding the functioning of their trade procedure. The Secretariat collected information related to the trade procedures of the following trade-related MEAs: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Montreal protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

40. The Secretariat and the Chair informed the Committee of their participation in a dialogue on illegal traffic convened by the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee during the second part of its sixteenth meeting (14-18 October 2024), which brought together international organizations and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements. The Secretariat explained that the dialogue served to exchange on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic and assisted the Committee in developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The Chair also provided a debrief of the dialogue. Upon invitation by the Chair, the representative of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, who was attending the meeting as an observer, described the continuing work on illegal traffic under the Basel Convention.

41. The Secretariat concluded that there was a limited number of trade forms or suitable information received during the past three reporting cycles as well as reported concerns of trade not conforming to Article 3 requirements and invited the Committee to consider if there was a systemic issue of implementation or compliance of the trade procedure described under paragraph 6 of Article, and any other aspect that it may see related to this information.

42. A Committee member asked the Secretariat what was considered as "suitable information" in lieu of the information to be provided in the trade forms. The Secretariat explained that paragraph 11 of Article 3 required Parties to include in their national reports information showing that the requirements of Article 3 had been met and that the requirements of consent and allowed use, required in paragraph 6 of Article 3,

were not included in the information provided by the two Parties who did not submit trade forms in their second short national reports.

43. The Committee did not conclude that there was a systemic issue. A Committee member raised the question of how many Parties would need to raise an issue for it to be considered systemic. The Secretariat explained that there was no definition of what might constitute a "systemic issue", and it was therefore something the Committee would have to think about. The Secretariat also noted that the Committee identified issues in the past without qualifying them as systemic.

44. A Committee member noted that "illegal trade" is not defined in the Convention and could either mean illegal trade sanctioned by a Party (thus acting in contravention of the trade obligations in the Convention) or trade occurring without the consent of the Parties and that the review of trade forms did not show any evidence of a Party allowing the export of mercury in contravention of the trade procedure. The same Committee member also inquired if the Secretariat had compared the information submitted in the second short reporting cycle to what Parties submitted in the past reporting cycles in lieu of the trade consent forms. The Secretariat explained that it did not cross-reference the other information submitted in the past reporting cycles. Another Committee member suggested not to consider the issue until an analysis of relevant information submitted by Parties in their past reporting cycles was conducted.

45. A Committee member remarked that there was a need to recognize that non-conforming trade undermined the effectiveness of the Convention noting that it is was big challenge to Parties especially in the African region because of the expanse of the border between countries where the illegal trade was occurring. Another member of the Committee recognized the point raised but suggested not to conclude on what was "effective" as it was not within the mandate of the Committee to look into what impacted the effectiveness of the Convention. The same member pointed out that only illegal activities were reported by Parties in the context of Article 3 implementation and that there was no issue of compliance with paragraph 6 of Article 3.

46. Based on the findings on responses to question 3.5 as presented by the Secretariat and its deliberations, the Committee reached the conclusions set out in Annex II to this report.

Mercury wastes (question 11.2 of the reporting format)

47. With respect to question 11.2 on facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, the Secretariat pointed out that there was an improvement in the information reported on the final disposal methodologies being employed since the previous reporting but that some Parties mentioned landfilling but did not provide details on physico-chemical treatment, while other Parties did not provide any information on the disposal methods. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it sought clarification from a number of Parties, several of which provided additional information to clarify their responses including final disposal methods.

48. Some Committee members expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's follow-up communication with Parties on the specific methods for the final disposal of waste consisting of mercury and mercury compounds. One Committee member asked if there were any criteria to establish whether the reported information on final disposal methods was sufficient or not. The Secretariat noted that no annex on requirements for the environmentally sound management of mercury waste had been adopted pursuant to paragraph 3(a) of Article 11 by the Conference of the Parties and that the same paragraph required Parties to take into account guidelines under the Basel Convention and responded that there were no decisive criteria on the information on final disposal methods. The Secretariat mentioned paragraph 3 of the annex to decision MC-4/8 that referred to physico-chemical treatment using stabilization and solidification processes to meet the acceptance criteria of disposal facilities and explained that it had invited additional information on disposal methods including such treatment in its follow-up communication with Parties.

49. Another Committee member asked about the use of information from the reporting under the Basel Convention and other cooperation with the Basel Convention secretariat. The Secretariat responded that, although the information on the amount of the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and other information transmitted under the Basel Convention was not used in the documents for this meeting of the Committee, such information was used in the report[4] on mercury trade, supply and demand for the effectiveness evaluation under Article 22. The Secretariat also responded that it cooperated with the Basel

[4] UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/22.

Convention secretariat in developing capacity-building materials on mercury waste covering requirements under both conventions.

50. Based on the findings on responses to question 11.2 as presented by the Secretariat and its deliberations, the Committee reached the conclusions set out in Annex II to this report.

51. Upon request by the Chair, the Secretariat presented its findings and issues for consideration related to responses to Parts C of the reporting format, as identified in the report of the Secretariat on the second short national reports (UNEP/MC/ICC.7/4).

Status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks

52. The Secretariat thereafter presented the overview of the status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks requested by the Committee at its fifth meeting, contained in document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/4. The Committee members appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in completing the requested tasks and for the updates on the results of completed tasks and progress on the one pending task.

53. A Committee member expressed appreciation for the report and its format and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to follow the form and improve on it in light of additional new matters under review of the Committee, which will be taken up in its next meeting.

Item 5
Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2026-2027

54. The Committee estimated in view of the anticipated workload, especially the review of the second full national reports, that it would require a 3-day face-to-face meeting during the intersessional period. In addition, the Committee also agreed that it would be appropriate to organize a meeting by electronic means before the face-to-face meeting of the Committee, divided in two parts of two four-hour sessions each.

55. The Committee agreed to include the following elements in its work programme for 2026-2027, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 15 of the Convention:

- Consideration of issues on the basis of written submissions from any Party with respect to its own compliance, including a report on the implementation of the strategy presented by Mexico under agenda item 3 of this meeting;

- Consideration of issues on the basis of the second full national reports in accordance with Article 21, which were due to be submitted by Parties by 31 December 2025;

- Consideration of any requests from the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

56. One Committee member invited the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed work programme for the 2028-2029, providing a list of expected activities to be carried out by the Committee in a tabular form, for consideration by the Committee at its next in-person meeting.

Item 6
Venue and date of the eight meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

57. The Committee decided that its eighth meeting would be held online in the first half of 2026, and its ninth meeting would be held face-to-face in the second half of 2026, with the exact timing to be determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair. The ninth meeting would be held in Geneva unless an offer was received from one of the members to host the meeting.

Item 7
Other matters

58. The Chair informed the Committee that she had participated as an observer in the online meeting of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group of the Minamata Convention held on 5 December 2024where she provided an update on the sixth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, which was held online on 24 and 25 September 2024. She noted that at its sixth meeting the Committee adopted for

the first time a decision on a written submission from a Party on its own compliance and started consideration of responses to the second short national reports. She further informed the Effectiveness Evaluation Group that the next meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee would take place from 18 to 20 February 2025 in Geneva.

59. No other matters were raised by the Committee.

Item 8
Adoption of the report

60. The Committee agreed to adopt by silent procedure the report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 15 of the Convention and section V of the terms of reference for the Committee. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare such draft report, in consultation with the Rapporteur and the Chair, and to circulate it to Committee members by electronic means for final clearance.

Item 9
Closure of the meeting

61. Following closing remarks by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat, the Chair thanked the members of the Committee and the Secretariat for their work and declared the meeting closed at 12:54 p.m. (Geneva time) on Thursday 20 February 2025.

Annex I

Decision ICC-7/1: Strategy for achieving compliance with Mexico's obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention

The Committee,

Recalling the written submission by Mexico with respect to its own compliance submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, considered by the Committee at its sixth meeting,

Noting that paragraph 2 of Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention requires each Party to not allow, by taking appropriate measures, the use of mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production by 2025, except where the Party has a registered exemption in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention,

Also noting that Mexico has not registered any such exemption,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation for the cooperation and participation of Mexico during the seventh meeting of the Committee;

2. *Welcomes* the transmission by Mexico of the strategy set out in the annex to the present decision, in response to paragraph 2 of decision ICC-6/1;

3. *Recommends* that Mexico implements the strategy referred to in paragraph 2 of this decision;

4. *Welcomes* assurances provided by Mexico that mercury recovered from the relevant facility would be either disposed of in accordance with the Convention or put to other uses allowable under the Convention;

5. *Notes* the importance in this regard of Article 3.5(b) among other provisions of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to communicate this decision to the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility;

7. *Decides* to keep the matter relevant to the submission from Mexico contained in document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/3 under review.

Annex to decision ICC-7/1*

Medio Ambiente
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales



MEXICO SUBMISSION OF SCHEDULE ON CHLOR - ALKALI PROCESSES SUBSTITUTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

GENERAL DIRECTION OF INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF MATERIALS AND RISK ACTIVITIES (DGGIMAR) UNDERMINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION (SRA) MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (SEMARNAT) GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

January 2nd, 2025

* This annex to decision ICC-7/1 is reproduced as received, without formal editing.

BACKGROUND

The sixth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held online on 24 and 25 September 2024 (UNEP/MC/ICC.6/6).

In the Meeting, Decision ICC-6/1, regarding the written submission from Mexico was adopted as follows:

The Committee,

Noting that paragraph 2 of Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention requires each Party to not allow, by taking appropriate measures, the use of mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production after 2025 except where the Party has a registered exemption pursuant to Article 6,

Also noting that Mexico has not registered any such exemption in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of Article 6,

Having considered the information provided by Mexico in the written submission with respect to its own compliance submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the progress made by Mexico in meeting its obligations under Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention,

Also noting the ongoing work being carried out in Mexico with the support of the Global Environment Facility to eliminate mercury use in the chlor-alkali sector,

Considering the submission by Mexico to the Committee in which it concludes that, despite its best efforts, it is unable to meet the phase-out deadline for the use of mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production as provided in paragraph 2 of Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention,

Noting the importance of continued compliance with paragraph 5 (a) of Article 5,

Recognizing the facilitative nature of the Committee,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation for the cooperation of Mexico with the Committee during the sixth meeting of the Committee, noting that the written submission by Mexico with respect to its own compliance is the first of such kind ever submitted to the Committee for consideration,

2. *Invites* Mexico to elaborate, with the support of the Secretariat, for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting a strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention, associated with a proposed time schedule, indicators of achievement, risk management, and responsible authority, and report periodically on the implementation of that strategy to the Committee,

3. *Invites* periodic updates from the Party with respect to any financial or technical challenges being faced in project implementation,

4. *Decides* to keep the matter relevant to the submission from Mexico contained in document UNEP/MC/ICC.6/3 under review.

ANNEX TO DECISION ICC-6/1: WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM MEXICO

Strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention

Objective:

- Restore Mexico's compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Minamata Convention.

Specific objectives:

- Take the appropriate measures to implement the provisions of the Minamata Convention with respect to its own compliance submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 and Article 5 and Part I of Annex B to the Convention to eliminate mercury use in the chlor-alkali sector.

Table 1. Strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
Authorizations					
INCREASE IN AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCHARGE VOLUME OF WASTE WATER	Celulosa y Derivados, S.A. (CYDSA)/Industria Quimica del Itsmo, S.A. (IQUISA)	General Direction of Integral Management of Materials and Risk Activities (DGGIMAR), Underministry of Environmental Regulation (SRA), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)	Nov 2023 – Nov 2025	Official authorization is obtained	Increase of timing in governmental offices for authorization. In order to avoid this, SEMARNAT would support following of paperwork.
MODIFICATIONS TO AUTHORIZED PROJECTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AREAS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Apr 2023 – Jun 2025	Official authorization is obtained	Increase of timing in governmental offices for authorization. In order to avoid this, SEMARNAT would support following of paperwork.
MODIFICATION/INCREASE OF EXECUTION TIMING FOR AUTHORIZED PROJECTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Aug 2024 - Nov 2025	Official authorization is obtained	Increase of timing in governmental offices for authorization. In order to avoid this, SEMARNAT would support following of paperwork.
CONSTRUCTION OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND RECYCLING OF WATER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Mar 2023 – Apr 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
WITH BASIS ON THE AUTHORIZED PROGRAM FOR ACCOMPLISHING OF NOM-001-SEMARNAT-2021					supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Modifications of process					
CHLORINE PLANT					
LINE FOR IQUALIZATION OF PRESSURE IN LIQUID CHLORINE STORAGE AREA	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Aug 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
LIQUID CHLORINE TANK TRUCK RELEASE LINE AND CHLORINE ANALYZER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Aug 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
MAKE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF CHLORINE DRYING TOWERS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Aug 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
ALKALI PLANT					
CONDITIONING CONTROL LEVEL III EFFECT	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Nov 2024 – Jun 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
REPLACE INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL IN SODA EVAPORATOR	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Nov 2024 – Jun 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
					constructors.
PLANT FOR AUXILIAR SERVICES					
MAKE COLD WATER MACHINES EFFICIENT DAIKIN	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Nov 2024 – Jun 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Construction					
SALT STORAGE	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Jul 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
32 % SODA STORAGE	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Jul 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
FINISH WATER TREATMENT AND CONDITIONING PROJECTS FOR PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Nov 2024 – Ago 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
WATER BOILER II	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Sep 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
CHARACTERIZE BOILERS OPERATION WITH HYDROGEN	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Oct 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
					constructors.
CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Aug 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
FINISH III PIT SATURATION BRINE	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Apr 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
FILLING OF TANKS OF SODA 50 %	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – May 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Equipment					
COMPLETE LIQUID CHLORINE COMPRESSOR	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Jan 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
COMPLETE LIQUID CHLORINE TANK CAR FLEET	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2024 – Jan 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
COMPLETE LIQUID CHLORINE TANK CAR FLEET	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Oct 2024 – Dec 2025	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
RESTORE CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Sep 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
ACQUIRE ELECTROLIZERS CELLS	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Sep 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
TRANSFORMER FOR RECTIFIER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Nov 2024 – Mar 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
BRINE FILTER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Aug 2026	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
MAIN SUBSTATION TRANSFORMER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Mar 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Project					
PUMPING AND STORAGE OF RAW WATER	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2025 – Sep 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION TURBINE SUPPLY	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA,	Jan 2025 – Apr 2027	Construction stage is	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
MEMBRANE PLANT		SEMARNAT		completed	avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Mechanical completion					
Mechanical completion	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Apr 2027	Construction stage is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Precommissioning					
Precommissioning	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	May 2027 – Aug 2027	Activity is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Commissioning					
Commissioning	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Sep 2027 – Dec 2027	Activity is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Test					
Test	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jan 2028 – May 2028	Activity is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.

Actions	Responsible	Supervision	Indicative timeline for implementation of the actions	Indicator of achievement	Risk management
Start up					
Start up	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Jun 2028 – Nov 2028	Activity is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.
Performance test					
Performance test	CYDSA/IQUISA	DGGIMAR, SRA, SEMARNAT	Dec 2028	Activity is completed	Increase of costs and delivery time from suppliers. In order to avoid this, increase in supervision of suppliers and constructors.

Annex II

Conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting

Reporting performance

1. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the high rate of reporting performance by Parties for the second short national reports;

(b) Noted the importance of timely submission of national reports and acknowledged that there was room for further improvement in the reporting rate;

(c) Requested the Secretariat to follow up and to reach out to Parties who had not yet submitted their second short national reports;

(d) Acknowledged the ongoing assistance by the Secretariat;

(e) Requested Parties who had not yet submitted their second short national reports to do so by 31 May 2025.

Primary mercury mining

2. The Committee:

(a) Took note that Parties with important mercury deposits raised the presence of informal or illegal primary mining in their territories since the first reporting cycle;

(b) Recommended that the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties consider inviting Parties to submit information on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 3, specifically taking into account any information already provided in response to paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/2.

(c) Decided to re-examine this issue at its next meeting in light of available information and consider any appropriate conclusion or recommendation to provide to the Conference of the Parties.

Stocks and sources

3. The Committee:

(a) Considering that decision MC-4/8 requests Parties to continue their ongoing efforts to endeavour to identify individual stocks and sources of mercury in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Convention, noted that Parties who solely rely on their MIA results may need to consider more up-to-date sources of information.

(b) Decided to reconsider this matter after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in light of the revised guidance on stocks requested in paragraph 5(a) of decision MC-5/2.

Mercury trade

4. The Committee:

(a) Expressed concern regarding the issue of illicit trafficking, illegal trade or smuggling of mercury raised by some Parties in their national reports,

(b) Emphasized the importance of implementation of and compliance with the trade provisions contained in Article 3 of the Convention,

(c) Decided to re-examine this issue at its next meeting in light of the information compiled by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/2.

Mercury wastes

5. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the information provided by Parties on their mercury waste disposal practices and acknowledged the improvement in the information reported as compared to previous reporting cycles

(b) Expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for ongoing follow-up communication with certain Parties to seek additional elaboration on the sound disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds

(c) Encouraged Parties to further elaborate, as appropriate, on their final disposal methods in their upcoming second full national report, taking into account paragraph 3 of the annex to decision MC-4/8.