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MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

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Implementation and Compliance Committee
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 18–20 February 2025
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: organization of work

Annotations to the provisional agenda[1]

Introduction

1. Article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury establishes an Implementation and Compliance Committee as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

2. Pursuant to the Committee's rules of procedure, the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-5) elected for two terms six new members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee to replace those members whose period of office was about to expire. The current members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee are:

From Africa:

Mve Beh Jean Hervé (Gabon)

Oluwatoyin Olabanji (Nigeria)

Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (United Republic of Tanzania)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

Hu Yunfang (China)

Satyendra Kumar (India)

Hossein Rahdar (Islamic Republic of Iran)

From Eastern European States:

Atanas Stoyanov Dishkelov (Bulgaria)

Eva Salplachtova (Czechia)

Jelena Kovačević (Montenegro)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia)

María del Mar Solano Trejos (Costa Rica)

Meredith Henry-Cumberbatch (Suriname)

* UNEP/MC/ICC.7/1.

[1] This document has not been formally edited.

From the Western European and other States:

Helga Schrott (Austria)

Anik Beaudoin (Canada)

Gene Smilansky (United States of America)

3. The present document sets out annotations to the provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of the Committee (document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/1).

4. At its sixth meeting in September 2024, the Committee considered a written submission from Mexico with respect to its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 and adopted decision ICC6/1 on the matter. At the same meeting, the Committee also opened agenda item 4 on national reporting, and considered information presented by the Secretariat on reporting performance and responses to question 3.5 of the reporting format on mercury trade. The Committee is expected to consider the status of implementation of decision ICC6/1 as well as resume consideration of issues on the basis of the second short national reports that were due by Parties by the end of 2023 under agenda item 4. The meeting report of the sixth meeting of the Committee is set out in document UNEP/MC/ICC.6/6.[2]

5. The provisional agenda also includes items on work programme of the Committee for 2026-2027, venue and date of the next meeting of the Committee, adoption of the report as well as any other matters.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting will be chaired by Anik Beaudoin (Canada), Chair of the Committee, while Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (Tanzania) will serve as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for the meeting. Both officers were elected at the fifth meeting of the Committee, held from 7 to 9 March 2023 in Geneva, and will remain in office until the closure of the seventh in-person meeting of the Committee.

7. Pursuant to its rules of procedure (rule 9), meetings of the Committee shall be held in person at least once during each intersessional period between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Committee. At its sixth meeting the Committee decided that its seventh meeting would be held in Geneva from 18 to 20 February 2025. The meeting will be formally opened at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 by the Chair of the Committee, Anik Beaudoin.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

8. The Committee may wish to consider and adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/1).

(b) Election of officers

9. Pursuant to its rules of procedure (rule 9), unless otherwise decided by the Committee, meetings of the Committee shall be held in person at least once during each intersessional period between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, rule 4 of the rules of procedure states that the Committee shall elect, during each in-person meeting, a Chair and a Vice-Chair who shall act as Rapporteur, from among the members present at the meeting, with due consideration to equitable geographical representation based on the five United Nations regional groups. These officers shall commence their term of office at the closure of the in-person meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the following in-person meeting of the Committee. These are to maintain coherence across two terms. The offices of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall normally be subject to rotation among the United Nations regional groups.

10. Considering the above, the Committee is expected to elect the officers who will serve for the period commencing at the end of the meeting until the closure of the following in-person meeting. For continuity's sake, the Committee may wish to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair amongst the members that

[2] The report of the sixth meeting of the Committee is available at https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/report-sixth-meeting-implementation-and-compliance-committee-minamata-convention-mercury

were elected for two terms by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and whose terms will therefore continue after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These members are from: China, Costa Rica, Czechia, India, Nigeria and United States of America.

(c) Organization of work

11. It is suggested that the Committee meets 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. A list of documents prepared for the meeting is available in the annex to the present note.

Item 3

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

12. At its sixth meeting in September 2024, the Committee considered a written submission from Mexico with respect to its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 and adopted decision ICC6/1 on the matter. In response to the request contained in paragraph 2 of decision ICC6/1, Mexico shared with the Secretariat on 2 January 2025 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 form Mexico is resubmitted to this meeting in document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/3.

13. In the light of the strategy submitted by Mexico as well as its consideration of the matter during the meeting, the Committee may wish to consider and adopt a decision as proposed in document UNEP/MC/ICC.7/2, in accordance with section V of its terms of reference.

Item 4

National reporting pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention

14. In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Article 15 of the Convention, at its sixth meeting the Committee started considering information provided by Parties in their second short national reports and previous reports with respect to reporting performance and responses to question 3.5 of the reporting format on mercury trade.

15. The Committee may wish to resume its consideration of this matter based on the updated information provided by the Secretariat in the following documents: UNEP/MC/ICC/7/4 on national reporting; UNEP/MC/ICC/7/5 on the overview of the results of the second short national reports and findings of the Secretariat; UNEP/MC/ICC.7/INF/1 on information provided by Parties; and UNEP/MC/ICC.7/INF/2 containing a summary tables of the responses received for the second short reporting period. These documents were updated to reflect the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Committee as well as information from national reports submitted by Parties since the sixth meeting of the Committee.

16. The Secretariat also collected new information in response to particular requests issued by the Committee at previous meetings. This information is contained in: (i) document 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 (ii) document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/4, which provides 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.[4]

Item 5

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

17. The Committee may wish to discuss its future work programme. The Committee may also wish to consider the financial implications of its planned work. To support discussions on this item, the

[3] See para. 26 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Committee.
[4] The report of fifth meeting of the Committee is available at https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/report-fifth-meeting-implementation-and-compliance-committee-minamata-convention-mercury

Secretariat prepared a document containing possible elements of a draft work programme (document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/6).

Item 6

Venue and date of the in-person meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee in 2025

18. The Committee may wish to consider the date and venue of its next in-person meeting. In accordance with its rules of procedure, unless it decides otherwise, the Committee shall meet in person at least once between each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (rule 9). The Committee may wish to consider whether to hold an online meeting, in addition to a 3-day in-person one, between the sixth and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee may hence wish to note that the Conference of the Parties will hold its sixth meeting from 3 to 7 November 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties is scheduled to be held in 2027.

Item 7

Other matters

19. The Committee may wish to invite the Chair to report on her participation in a dialogue on illegal traffic or trade with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention, held online on 15 October 2024.[5]

20. The Committee may wish to consider any other matter.

Item 8

Adoption of the report

21. The Committee will be invited to consider requesting the rapporteur of the meeting to prepare, with the support of the secretariat, the draft report of the meeting and to circulate it to the Committee for its adoption by electronic means following closure of the meeting.

22. The final report will be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for information.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

23. It is expected that the Committee will conclude its work by 5 p.m. on 20 February 2025.

[5] More information on the dialogue is available under item 6 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Committee.

Annex

List of documents prepared for the seventh meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/1 - Provisional agenda
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/1/Add.1 - Annotations to the provisional agenda
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/2 - Written submission from Mexico with respect of its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15: strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Article 5, and Part I of Annex B to the Convention
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/3 – Text of the written submission from Mexico (resubmission from ICC6)
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/4 - Report on national reporting pursuant to Article 21
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/5 - Overview of the results of the second short national reports and findings of the Secretariat
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/6 - Possible elements of a draft work programme for the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/1 - Information provided by the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/2 - Summary tables of the responses received for the second short reporting period (1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022) by 31 December 2023
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/3 - Information on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives from other multilateral environmental agreements regarding the functioning of their trade procedure
- UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/4 –Status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks requested by the Committee at its fifth meeting