

Ref: MC/ES/2023/85

Geneva, 8 August 2023

Subject: Progress of the intersessional work for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-5)

Dear Madam/Sir,

As we approach the 6th anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Minamata Convention, now with 144 Parties joining forces to make mercury history, I wanted to give you a few updates.

The **Seventh GEF Assembly** will take place later this month in Vancouver, Canada. This will be my first opportunity to engage in person with GEF Council members and GEF Focal Points since the start of the GEF-8 replenishment period, and I am looking forward to participating in a number of Assembly events. The Assembly also provides an excellent opportunity for bilateral discussions. If your heads of delegation to the Assembly or your GEF Focal Points would like to meet with me, I would be happy to arrange for that. Kindly contact Marianne Bailey of my staff (marianne.bailey@un.org) should you wish to request such a meeting.

Speaking of the Convention financial mechanism, I am happy to announce our **new projects database and dashboard**. We saw the need for a platform that allows users to quickly and easily learn about the projects funded by the financial mechanism, that is fully interoperable with source data such as the GEF projects database, and that can interlink with Party profiles on the website of the Convention. In the coming days we will also go live with the Specific International Programme (SIP) projects dashboard, thereby providing you with up-to-date and accurate information on the 166 projects funded by the GEF Minamata Convention allocation since GEF-5 and the 24 projects funded in three rounds of the SIP, currently involving 128 countries worldwide, with expectations for further expansion as more resources are deployed to combat mercury pollution. The dashboard is available at <https://mercuryconvention.org/en/projects/overview>. Your feedback on this new initiative and any ideas for its further development would be welcome.

The **SIP Governing Board** will meet on 30 August 2023 to discuss a number of Issues, including the results of the Mid-term evaluation of the SIP. The evaluation provides a very positive assessment of the work we are doing together towards full implementation of the Convention, while noting the urgent need for more resources to enable additional rounds of applications to the programme. I greatly appreciate both the work of the Governing Board as it continues to steer this critically important programme, and the contributions received to date to the [Specific Trust Fund](#).

On another note, I am pleased to inform you that **the refined list of proposed indicators** has been posted on the [Convention website](#). The list is a result of intersessional work as mandated by decision MC-4/11, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to support an intersessional process to refine the list of indicators to be used in the effectiveness evaluation, with a view to providing a final list of indicators for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (COP-5), to be held from 30 October to 3 November 2023, in Geneva.

Another key document of relevance to the upcoming COP-5 that is available on the website is **the report of the fifth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee**, which took place on 7-9 March 2023, in Geneva. The report includes, among others, recommendations by the Committee to COP-5.



Finally, as we prepare for COP-5, the Secretariat is preparing a number of **briefings and information sessions** for you. The schedule is as follows:

- 30 and 31 August – overall briefings on documents to COP-5;
- 8 and 14 September – deep dive information sessions on selected COP-5 agenda items;
- 11 October – deep dive information session on the proposed programme of work and budget (for Parties only).

The Secretariat has also put together a very interesting set of online side events during the week of 9 October. Stay tuned to our [COP-5 webpage](#) for more information.

I very much look forward to seeing you at COP-5, if not sooner.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz

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Executive Secretary

To: Minamata Convention National Focal Points
Observers admitted to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Cc: Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme