

Ref: MC/COP5/2024/13

Geneva, 05 March 2024

**Subject:** Invitation to submit information regarding mercury-added cosmetics pursuant to COP decision MC-5/5

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-5/5, invited Parties and relevant stakeholders to submit information to the Secretariat by 30 June 2024 on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A to the Convention, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by Parties and others, including the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The Conference further requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft report, by 31 March 2025, compiling and synthesizing the information described above, addressing topics such as, but not limited to, the following:

- phasing out sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics
- strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics
- advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics
- licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities
- developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms
- raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members.

Pursuant to this decision, I invite you to submit information to the Secretariat at [meaminamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:meaminamatasecretariat@un.org), using the attached form, **by 30 June 2024**. For Parties, it is expected that the national focal points would coordinate the submission, in cooperation with other ministries (e.g. health ministries, since cosmetics are often regulated or controlled by public health authorities including under food and drug legislation).

The Secretariat plans to work as follows:

- March 2024: hire a consultant to draft the report (to be advertised on Inspira)
- April 2024: Convene a Minamata Online session on COP-5 Decisions 5/4 and 5/5
- 30 June 2024: Information submission deadline
- July-August 2024: Consultant to develop a draft report
- Sep-Dec 2024: Internal review of the draft report and consultation with UNEP, WHO and Global Mercury Partnership
- Jan 2025: Make the draft report available to Parties and relevant stakeholders on the website for comments; A webinar will be convened to present the draft report
- April 2025: Commenting deadline
- June 2025: Final report for submission to COP-6.



I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the European Union that has made it possible to hire a consultant for the initial work to develop a draft report this year, and I would welcome further voluntary contribution from Parties and others to further advance the work.

Yours sincerely,

*Monika Stankiewicz*

Monika Stankiewicz

Executive Secretary

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

Cc: Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva  
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme  
Members of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Enc: Information submission form