

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

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<i>General comments</i>	
1. The scientific report currently published on the Minamata Convention website contains incorrect English references to Taiwan Province of China and Xizang Autonomous Region. The report drafting team is requested to correct these errors promptly and re-publish the corrected report; 2. Strictly adherence to the One-China Principle is required, together with full respect for China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. All relevant geographical references must follow the official terminology of the United Nations without deviation; 3. The regional groupings shall be based on those used in the Global Mercury Assessment, not on the IPCC regions, with primary consideration in the distinct characteristics and actual circumstances of mercury and climate change; 4. The report shall clearly identify the sources of all data and literature. Where the data and literature obtained solely from one or a limited number of countries, regional or even global conclusions shall not be drawn without an adequate assessment of their representativeness; 5. The report shall focus its analysis and assessment on global and regional situations and shall refrain from singling out specific countries; 6. The report shall improve the clarity of its figures and tables, standardize the use of units, ensure internal consistency in the presentation of data and conclusions, strengthen the rigor of its statistical data, and articulate its conclusions clearly; 7. Given the length of the report, the specific comments provided below are not exhaustive. The report drafting team is requested to rigorously review and check the report against the general comments set out above. The Parties reserve the right to make final revisions.	
<i>Specific comments</i>	
Line	Comment
L98-100	It is recommended that the data claim "Sixty eight percent" be verified, as no supporting data or source could be identified. "Eastern Asia" on Line 99 should be replaced with "South-East Asia". Rationale: to ensure consistency with the content on Lines 724-726 and 742-743 of the report.
L151-157	It is recommended to replace the text reading "However, given what...eastern China, Indonesia)." on Lines 151-157 with "The concentration of mercury in precipitation is influenced not only by the intensity of surrounding emission sources and the amount of precipitation but also by atmospheric oxidation capacity, regional scale long-range transport, and local meteorological factors. These factors affect the concentration of reactive mercury in the atmosphere and consequently influence the concentration and deposition rate of mercury. More monitoring activities are required to fully assess the

	combined effects of the above variables on mercury concentration and deposition rates, to obtain regional and global distribution patterns and to analyze their differences.” Rationale: This text on L151-157 is a summary of the information on Lines 1630-1638 and should be revised in parallel with those lines. The rationale is provided in the comment on Lines 1630-1638.
L283	It is recommended that the data claim “6 times higher” be verified. Rationale: This text serves as a summary of the information on Lines 4502-4511 (including Table 1. Hg exposure data... the literature review). No data within Lines 4502-4511 supports the conclusion of “6 times higher”.
L284	It is recommended that “and thermometer” be deleted. Rationale: This text is a summary of the information on Lines 4502-4511 (including Table 1. Hg exposure data... the literature review). A correction to the data source at Lines 4502-4511 has been recommended (see the comment on Lines 4502-4511), and the corresponding summary should be revised accordingly.
L330, L5558, L5636,etc.	It is recommended that “the Tibetan Plateau” be replaced with “the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau”.
L403	It is recommended to add “Model simulations suggested that” before “Global mercury (Hg) cycling...”. Rationale: The descriptions on Lines 403-408 constitute attribution analysis results derived from models, not from monitoring data. Given that monitoring data for the Southern Hemisphere and oceans remain notably insufficient, model uncertainties are considerable, model results should therefore be described with caution.
L442	It is recommended that “declines in China, rising emissions in India (non-power sectors), and” be deleted. Rationale: This section addresses projections of regional trends, to which country-specific conclusions are not applicable.
L1630-1638	It is suggested that the sentence on Lines 1630–1638, “GOM and PHg...Indonesia, etc.)”, be revised as follows: “The concentration of mercury in precipitation is influenced not only by the intensity of surrounding emission sources and the amount of precipitation but also by atmospheric oxidation capacity, regional scale long-range transport, and local meteorological factors. These factors affect the concentration of reactive mercury in the atmosphere and consequently influence the concentration and deposition rate of mercury. More monitoring activities are required to fully assess the combined effects of the above variables on mercury concentration and deposition rates, to obtain regional and global distribution patterns and to analyze their differences.” Rationale: 1. There is insufficient evidence to suggest that GOM and PHg can be transported through being re-emitted. When they are re-emitted to the air, GEM is generally produced. Deposited GOM and PHg are also transformed into GEM before being re-emitted, rather than remaining in the forms of GOM or PHg present at the time of deposition. 2. The mercury wet deposition rates in drier and moister regions are not globally consistent. The study reported in https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2022.119525 showed that the mean mercury concentration in wet deposition across nine sites in western China was similar to the

	mean values reported for the South African sites cited here (Gichuki & Mason, 2013). However, the mercury wet deposition rate in western China was $2.4 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$, which was much lower than the deposition rates reported for the two South African sites (the two sites recorded $8.84 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ and $20.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ respectively). 3. Mercury in wet deposition is mainly derived from atmospheric GOM and PHg. Although GOM and PHg have shorter atmospheric residence times than GEM, they can be produced through the oxidation of GEM. Therefore the concentrations of GOM and PHg are closely related to atmospheric oxidation capacity. Furthermore, atmospheric oxidation capacity is not influenced solely by climate conditions, such as arid or humid climates. Therefore, it is not appropriate to conclude that mercury concentrations and deposition rates in wet deposition are consistent across drier and moister regions.
L2335 (Fig 7)	It is recommended that factors such as the body length and weight of fish samples be taken into account when comparing mercury levels in fish. The reason for this is to enhance the comparability of the data.
L2705	It is recommended to revise “Hong Kong’s Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphins” to “the <i>Sousa chinensis</i> of Hong Kong, China”.
L3192-3194	It is recommended to delete the statement: “Continuation of the current dependence on coal in Russia, China, and India for power generation, together with increasing risks of forest fires, could imply a risk of increasing atmospheric deposition of mercury in the future”. Rationale: 1. This assertion lacks supporting evidence. 2. Lines 3185-3187 state that “Analysis of mercury inputs, however (see: Inputs of Mercury, Cadmium and Lead via Water and Air to the OSPAR Maritime Area), shows that those from air and rivers are decreasing, which is also reflected in the decreasing mercury concentrations found in sediment.” This indicates that atmospheric deposition is not the cause of the elevated pollution levels in fish and shellfish. Therefore, the potential risk of increased atmospheric mercury deposition due to coal dependence should not be used as a primary argument to explain the rising contamination levels in the region.
L4367	The Taiwan, China and the Chinese mainland should be depicted in the same color on the map.
L4421-4430	It is recommended that the data pertaining to China be excluded from the IO dataset. Rationale: The specific source for this data has not been provided.
L4502-4511	It is recommended to delete the data related to China in Table 1, as well as the sentences in lines 4504-4508: “Very high exposures ... were observed).” Rationale: The quality and representativeness of the China-related data in Table 1 are insufficient.
L4511-4515	It is recommended to delete Table 2 and revise lines 4511-4512 from “Of these, only one ... urine (Table 3).” to “Of these, one study (conducted more than 20 years ago) that reported mercury concentrations in whole blood and urine targeted users of one counterfeit product and therefore did not meet the definition of users of skin-whitening cosmetic products for the purpose of effectiveness evaluation.” Rationale: Table 2 lists only a single study on cosmetic mercury exposure in China from 2002, with data sourced from Sin et al., 2003 (Hong Kong Med J, Vol 9 No 5, October 2003). This study focused on a health incident triggered by a counterfeit cream product in 2001. Since the samples are exclusively from users of this specific

	counterfeit product, it does not align with scope of the general population using skin lightening creams in OESG report. Therefore, it should not be included as a data source for effectiveness evaluation.
L8420-8432	It is recommended to remove any mentions of China in the text as well as the charts related to China. The rationale is that this section focuses on regional analysis, so this part should not include data or content pertaining to a single country.
Figure Annex Air3	The expression regarding the Taiwan region in Chart H should be revised to “Mt Lulin, Taiwan, China”.